

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Scrutiny Management Team

Since my report to the last Council meeting, the Scrutiny Management Team has met once, on the 17th January, when we discussed the following -

- We received a presentation from Ian Clark, the Group Director of Strategy and Communications at **Together Housing Group** on the Group's work over the previous 12 months. He explained that although Housing Pendle was still used as a local trading name, it was now part of the Together Housing Association and no longer existed as a company.

He gave us an update on progress in meeting the objectives of their Corporate Plan which was adopted in 2015. This included ways in which income has been generated, one of which is the fitting of 334 solar PV systems.

Challenges that lie ahead include cuts to Supporting People funding; the Local Housing Allowance cap; and a 1% rent cut.

We also received information on the Right to Buy Scheme and the difficulty in replacing stock when sold at a discount. Government discussions have taken place with regard to plugging this gap and a one to one replacement scheme is currently being piloted in some areas of the country in respect of this.

- A second presentation came from the Council's Lead for Community Safety. He provided an update on the work of the **Community Safety Partnership**. This included crime figures to January 2017 and details of the priorities for Pendle as detailed in the Partnership Plan 2016 - 2019.

It was interesting to hear about a local, multi-agency GENGA group that has been established to coordinate action as part of the Organised Crime Project, and of a road safety campaign that has taken place. This included roadshows in Colne, Barnoldswick and Nelson and an event at Burnley Mechanics.

Future challenges include new CCTV arrangements in the Borough involving a new monitoring hub based in Blackburn; and the delivery of domestic abuse services following a new Police and Crime Commissioner Universal Victim Service for Lancashire.

- As you know, for the last four years, the Council has been engaged in a programme of **transfers of facilities and services to town and parish councils**. The programme has required considerable work for all concerned and will continue to do so. We therefore decided to take a look at how things are progressing.

In the first two years the programme covered community halls; public conveniences; and festive decorations and local events.

The 2015/16 programme involved play areas and Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) located outside of parks; passenger bus shelters; roadside seats; and rights of way (Countryside Access).

The current programme includes the transfer of a number of ad hoc facilities and small pieces of land, though the main features are the transfer of the Town Hall in Colne to Colne Town Council; and the transfer of parks, together with potential contributions to offset the reduction in the budget for grounds maintenance.

It is clear that the changes so far have made an impact, resulting in the significant increase in many of the town and parish council precepts. We will also see a reduced standard of upkeep in parks grounds maintenance in areas with no contribution from the local town or parish councils. However we accept that the Council can no longer afford to deliver the facilities and services itself and welcome the opportunity to keep them in local control.

- We carried out a light touch review of the effectiveness of **Section 106 (S106) Agreements**, following a suggestion by a member of the public. We were told that the system is unclear to the public and there is also concern that Councillors do not have the necessary knowledge to make appropriate decisions.

We received information on the legislation and policy on S106 Agreements and we acknowledge that planning legislation is extremely complex and subject to constant amendments.

As a thorough knowledge of the legislation is necessary when determining planning applications we have asked that a training session on S106 Agreements for Members of the Council and representatives of the town and parish councils of the borough be arranged. This is likely to take place at the start of the new municipal year.

- Councillor David Whipp provided us with an update on the work of the **Lancashire Police and Crime Panel**. The 'in year performance' statistics for the Lancashire Constabulary force area compared with the previous 12 month period indicated an increased level of crime. Worryingly, in comparison, the overall crime figures have increased at a greater level in the Pendle area. A further concern is the deterioration in response times to answer calls to 999 and 101 numbers. On a positive note, a major initiative through the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership has resulted in a decision to install average speed enforcement cameras on the A682 Gisburn Road (between Barrowford and Blacko) which will hopefully reduce the number of casualties.

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel

The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel has met twice, on 13th December, 2016 and 14th February, 2017. An update on our work is as follows -

- We welcomed back Lisa Cunliffe of the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (ELCCG) who returned to give a presentation on the results of a consultation on proposals to improve **access to GP services**. She told us that overall, of those that had responded, three in four had agreed with the proposed new model.

As many of you were unable to accept our invitation to join us for the presentation, details were circulated to all Members following our meeting. If you would like to receive another copy, please contact Lynne Rowland in Committee Services at scrutiny@pendle.gov.uk

- We have concluded our reviews on **mental health care in the community, care homes and mental health wards**; and on **drug and alcohol rehabilitation provision in East Lancashire**. Our final reports are submitted to this meeting for your consideration.
- We continue to receive updates on progress with the **recommissioning of homecare services** for older adults and people with a physical disability. Documents for the new framework have been developed and the tender has been published. Notification of the outcome is expected to take place in May 2017, with commencement of the new framework planned for August 2017. We will continue to monitor this in 2017/18.
- Following on from our review of **eye care provision** in East Lancashire we received an update from ELCCG on the integrated eye service which was launched in October, 2015. We are told that, overall the service is working well and is continually being evaluated to ensure that the service is working efficiently and effectively.
- As we all know, Lancashire and South Cumbria (LSC) has been identified as one of 44 **Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)** footprint areas and is tasked with developing a five year strategic plan for health and care. The LSC STP is underpinned by five Local Health and Care Economies, of which Pennine Lancashire is one. As required, a Local Delivery Plan has been developed with a particular focus on integration and new models of care and is being driven by the Pennine Lancashire Transformation Programme.

This is something that the Panel will keep a close eye on. I, along with other Panel members attended a STP seminar in February. Some Members also attended Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) Health Scrutiny Committee inquiry event into the issue of workforce within the STP and LDPs earlier this month.

We have been given the timetable of future public meetings of the Joint Committee of Clinical Commissioning Groups, which is responsible for making decisions about any future proposals to be developed over the next four years. The next meeting is to be held on 6th April, with the venue to be confirmed.

- Following our approval of the **Pendle Older People's Action Plan** in August last year, we received an update on progress. It is clear that a lot of work has been carried out to achieve the aims of the Plan particularly in welcoming speakers to meetings of Pendle Seniors' Group (PSG) to provide information and answer questions on various topics.
- We also received a copy of the first edition of ELCCG's newsletter 'Connected'. The newsletter will be issued quarterly and provides information on the work of the CCG, its staff and its GP members. It can be viewed at item 6 via the following link - http://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2267/health_and_social_care_scrutiny_panel

Youth Engagement

In response to a request from Council in March last year we have carried out a review of youth engagement. Our final report is elsewhere on the Council agenda for consideration.

Next Year's Work Programme

We agreed a draft 2017/18 work programme at a work planning workshop last month, with the help of members of the Executive. Potential topics include highlighting the symptoms of Sepsis;

disabled facilities grants; and council tax enforcement agent fees and charges. The final work programme will be the subject of discussion and adoption at the Annual Council meeting in May.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor Ken Hartley for his valued contribution to the work of the Scrutiny Team and in particular his chairmanship of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel, following his move to the Executive.

We are pleased to welcome Councillor Brian Newman to the Team and congratulate Councillor Wayne Blackburn on his appointment as Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel Leader for the remainder of the municipal year.

Councillor Ken Turner,
Chairman, Scrutiny Management Team
March, 2017