

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2014**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor - Councillor G. Roach - Chairman (In the Chair)

Councillors

S. Benson
K. Hartley

D. Whalley
S. Wicks

Officers in attendance

K. Haydock Scrutiny Manager
L. Rowland Committee Administrator

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Aziz, A. J. Beckett, M. Horsfield, A. M. Kerrigan and A. Mahmood.)



47. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests and that whipping declarations were also required.

48. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

49. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

50. COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS STRATEGY

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a briefing note which provided an update on the implementation of the Countryside Access Strategy 2014-18. There were four main objectives for the strategy and the performance against these objectives was detailed in the briefing note.

It was reported that work on keeping a schedule of non-definitive footpaths and bridleways which provided important links in the countryside and recording the extent to which they would be maintained, had now been completed. The work had revealed a 25km network of non-definitive paths with significant ones in Barley, Colne and Trawden.

RESOLVED

- (1) That further information be sought on the procedure for adding footpaths and bridleways to the definitive map and it be established whether there were any plans to include the 25km network of non-definitive paths recently identified.
- (2) That the report be noted and a further update be submitted in 12 months' time.

51. REVIEW MONITORING

LHA Safeguarding

A monitoring report on a light touch review of the Local Housing Allowance Safeguarding Procedure was submitted for information

RESOLVED

That no further monitoring be required.

52. PROMOTING PENDLE

A draft report following the review of promoting Pendle was submitted for approval prior to submission to the full Council in December.

RESOLVED

That the draft report be approved for submission to the full Council in December, 2014.

53. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTING – NOISE NUISANCE

Further to a request at the last meeting, the Council's Public Health Manager submitted a briefing note which provided further information on the length of time taken to deal with cases of noise nuisance. The briefing note also included information on how to access the service and how this was currently promoted. One method was the Noise Nuisance App. which could be downloaded onto a smartphone or tablet free of charge. This enabled the user to record the noise they were bothered by, rate how it affected them, log details of the location etc. and then email the information directly to the Council.

RESOLVED

That the Public Health Manager be asked to promote the Noise Nuisance App. further and submit an update report in six months' time providing details of any improvements made to the accessibility of the anti-social behaviour noise nuisance service.

54. GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SCHEME

Following a suggestion to carry out a scrutiny study of the subscribed Garden Waste Collection Scheme the Waste Services Manager submitted a briefing note for consideration. It had been suggested that the green bins be emptied every week in the summer months and the frequency reduced in the winter months.

It was reported that the Council currently provided an alternate week collection scheme throughout the year with the exception of the Christmas and New Year periods where traditionally little garden waste was produced. In providing a collection through the changing seasons, it allowed

subscribers to make full use of their garden waste bins to gather trimmings, mown grass and fallen leaves. It was acknowledged that the current service was adequate for most people's needs, however there was an option to have more than one garden waste bin if required.

The cost implications of amending the current service were estimated at £65,000 as the savings achieved during the winter months would not compensate for increased frequencies during the summer.

Information was also provided on the introduction of the subscribed garden waste service, which had been agreed at a meeting of the Council on 20th February, 2014. This included the numbers subscribed to the scheme and the income generated.

RESOLVED

That the report be accepted and the light-touch review concluded without any recommendations for change.

55. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE

In the absence of Councillor M. Foxley, the Council's representative on the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel, there was no update on the work of the Panel to date.

56. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

The draft minutes of a meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel held on 11th November, 2014 were submitted for information.

Reference was made to the update that had been provided with regard to the Colne Health Centre Pharmacy. Further to a report that the pharmacy was expected to commence operating from the new Health Centre prior to Christmas 2014 the Chairman reported that he now understood that planning permission was required for the installation of air conditioning units in the premises which would delay the opening further. The application for planning permission was currently pending.

Reference was also made to the poor emergency ambulance response rates in West Craven, details of which were provided to West Craven Committee on a regular basis. It was felt that more action was required on this issue.

RESOLVED

That the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel be asked to investigate the issue of poor emergency ambulance response rates in West Craven.

57. PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANEL

(a) Update

Councillor Hartley gave an update on the information received at the last meeting of the Performance Monitoring Panel which had been provided to the Panel via email and displayed on a screen at the meeting. The Panel had felt that the information would be clearer to understand in paper form, therefore a decision had been made to cease paperless meetings and return to the process of receiving paper copies prior to the meeting.

(b) Appointment of representatives

Further to a vacancy arising on the Performance Monitoring Panel, in addition to the existing vacancy for a Scrutiny member, the Team was asked to consider the appointment of two members to the Panel.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Councillor S. Wicks be appointed to the Performance Monitoring Panel.
- (2) That any further nominations be forwarded directly to the Scrutiny Manager.

58. WORK PROGRAMME

At the last meeting it was agreed “That subject to the agreement of the Executive at its meeting on 23rd October, 2014, a scrutiny review of dog issues be added to the Team’s work programme for 2014/15”. However, when considering this issue, the Executive had agreed to establish an Executive Member/Officer Working Group to pursue its own review.

A further topic for consideration was that of hydraulic fracturing (“Fracking”) in Pendle. The Scrutiny Manager advised that a motion on this topic was to be considered at a meeting of the full Council on 18th December, 2014. Members were to consider requesting that this Team gather evidence on the practicability, likelihood and desirability (or otherwise) of possible shale gas exploration and exploitation in this area.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the decision of the Executive to establish an Executive Member/Officer Working Group to carry out a review of dog issues be noted and it be agreed that there would be no merit in pursuing a separate review.
- (2) That, irrespective of the decision of the full Council at its meeting on 18th December, 2014, a scrutiny review of hydraulic fracturing (“Fracking”) be included in this Team’s work programme, to be commenced in this municipal year and carried forward to the next municipal year as required.

59. EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Work Programme and Forward Plan for the four month period commencing 1st November, 2014 was submitted for consideration.

60. WORK PLAN

The Team’s annual work plan was submitted for information.

CHAIRMAN _____