

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM  
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON  
ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2015**

*PRESENT –*

*Councillor K. Hartley – Vice-Chairman (In the Chair)*

**Councillors**

<i>A. Aziz</i>	<i>A. Mahmood</i>
<i>S. Benson</i>	<i>N. McEvoy</i>
<i>M. Horsfield</i>	<i>S. Wicks</i>

**Also present**

<i>Steve Molyneux</i>	<i>Environment Agency</i>
<i>Tony Almond</i>	<i>Health and Safety Executive</i>

**Officers in attendance**

<i>P. Mousdale</i>	<i>Deputy Chief Executive</i>
<i>K. Haydock</i>	<i>Scrutiny Manager</i>
<i>L. Rowland</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

*(Apologies for absence were received from His Worship the Mayor Councillor G. Roach and Councillors A. J. Beckett and D. Whalley.)*



The following persons attended and spoke on the item indicated –

<i>Susan Nike</i>	<i>Scrutiny Study of the Potential for Fracking in</i>	<i>Minute No.73</i>
<i>Gazer Tarjanyi</i>	<i>Pendle</i>	
<i>Jean King</i>		
<i>Wesley Hall</i>		

A further eight members of the public, opposed to fracking in Pendle, attended the meeting.

**70. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

**71. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**72. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **73. SCRUTINY STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL FOR FRACKING IN PENDLE**

Further to a decision at the last meeting, representatives of various organisations had been invited to this meeting to discuss the topic of shale gas exploration. Invitations had been sent to the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC); Environment Agency (EA); Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Lancashire County Council (LCC). It had also been agreed that UK Onshore Oil and Gas (UKOOG) be invited to the meeting rather than an individual operator such as the energy company Cuadrilla.

LCC and UKOOG had both been of the view that it would be premature to participate in the meeting. However, they had submitted position statements which were detailed in a briefing note submitted by the Scrutiny Manager.

The DECC had advised that they would not be present at the meeting and had provided a number of links to online information, details of which were provided to the Team.

Prior to discussing the topic, Steve Molyneux gave a presentation on the role of the Environment Agency in managing the environmental risks from shale gas exploitation. This was followed by a presentation from Tony Almond, a representative of the Health and Safety Executive. He explained that HSE's role was to ensure that operators of shale gas activities were adequately managing and controlling risks to the health and safety of people, whether workers, contractors or members of the public.

Following each presentation questions were put to the respective representatives, based around the following –

- The amount of flow-back of the used fracturing fluid and its safe disposal
- The potential for contamination of the water and air supply
- Details of the chemicals present in the perforation guns and the process for regulating and monitoring the chemicals to be used
- The level of involvement of the water industry
- The process of regulation
- The safe decommissioning of wells
- Access to compliance records

The following issues were also raised by members of the public –

- When being consulted on the draft supplementary planning document, Barrowford Parish Council had noted the information on environmental risk assessments but had been concerned over the lack of reference to climate change and the release of fossil fuels into the environment leading to global warming. This had been included in the Parish Council's response to the consultation and a request was made for Pendle Council to respond likewise.
- It was reported that a heavily redacted report entitled "Shale Gas Rural Economy Impacts" about the potential impact of a shale gas industry on the rural economy had been published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Team was asked to make a request to the Government to publish a full version of this report.
- It was believed that the implementation of renewable energy sources such as

water/wind/solar power would generate jobs and help reduce carbon emissions. The Team was asked to consider including these options in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

- The adverse effect on property prices and insurance premiums in the vicinity of a potential or active site.
- The invasion of human rights in allowing drilling to take place directly under private properties without owners' consent.
- A resident affected by an earthquake close to the shale gas exploration at Preese Hall, Lancashire had various concerns over safety issues and expressed disappointment with the Environment Agency's limited response to specific questions around fracking.

The Team was also advised of a ten page petition against fracking. The organisers would continue to gather signatures with a view to submitting the petition to a future meeting of the Executive.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the briefing note, position statements from LCC and UKOOG and information received this evening be noted.
- (2) That the draft study plan as submitted be approved.
- (3) That the review be carried forward for inclusion in the Team's 2015/16 work programme.

## **74. DISTRICT NURSING CARE IN PENDLE**

A draft report following the review of district nursing care in Pendle was submitted for approval. This included a number of conclusions and recommendations. It was agreed that, within the conclusions, further emphasis be placed on the need for increased staff resources. The Team also felt that it was important to highlight the need for the Transformation Partnership to seek out best practice such as the 'Right Care' model operated by Airedale NHS Foundation Trust.

## **RESOLVED**

That the report, as amended be approved for submission to the CCG and ELHT.

## **75. EQUALITIES UPDATE**

The Housing Needs Manager submitted an update report on the work of the Corporate Equalities Steering Group (CESG) towards meeting the Equality Objectives as set out in appendix 1 to the report. Information was also provided on the Accessible Britain Challenge which had been launched in September, 2014 and encouraged communities to be inclusive and accessible. Pendle's response to the Challenge as at December, 2014 was provided at appendix 2.

## **76. MONITORING REPORT ON SUPERFAST BROADBAND ROLL OUT**

A monitoring report on a light touch study of the roll out of superfast broadband was submitted for information. The report included an update from Superfast Lancashire on the position as at February, 2015.

## **77. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL**

The Scrutiny Manager provided an update on the work of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny

Panel since the last meeting of the Team. This included the receipt of a presentation from a representative of Airedale NHS Foundation Trust on “Right Care”, the Trust’s community outreach service; an update from Dr. Stuart Berry, the newly appointed Pendle Locality Clinical Lead on the work of the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (ELCCG); and an update from Dianne Gardner, Specialist in Public Health (East Locality) at Lancashire County Council (LCC) on recent public health activity in Lancashire.

The Team passed on their thanks to the Panel Leader, Councillor A. Kerrigan following news of her impending retirement from the Council.

## **78. PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANEL**

The minutes of the meeting of the Performance Monitoring Panel held on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 were submitted for information.

## **79. LCC HEALTH SCRUTINY CO-OPTEE'S REPORT**

Councillor A. Mahmood, the Council’s co-optee on the Lancashire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee submitted a report on that Committee’s work over the last six months. The report included an update on progress of the three programmes of work within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well. It was also reported that the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board had committed to making a number of important changes in the way that partners worked together, details of which were provided in the report.

The report concluded by providing information on Lancashire’s Better Care Fund (BCF) plan which had set out the council and its partners’ vision and intention to deliver integrated health and social care systems. Notification that the plan had been authorised without conditions had been received on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

## **80. CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**

The Principal Localities, Communities and Policy Officer submitted a briefing note which provided a summary of progress on actions in the Climate Change Action Plan. The report summarised mid-year progress for each of the following key objectives and highlighted the areas for improvement which could be carried forward into any future revised plan –

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our actions
- Encourage other partners and the public to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions
- Prepare for the change that will happen due to a changing climate

Overall, the Council was on course to achieve the majority of the milestones in the action plan.

## **81. 2015/16 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Scrutiny Manager reported that there had been insufficient attendance at the Scrutiny Work Planning Workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> March to determine the Team’s draft annual work programme for 2015/16. Therefore a summary of suggested topics for inclusion was submitted for consideration by the Team. This included a number of suggestions that had been put forward by members of the Executive at the Scrutiny/Executive workshop.

The Team was advised that, with effect from April, 2015, following the retirement of Kath Haydock, the Council's Scrutiny Manager, administration of the scrutiny function would be carried out by the Council's Committee Services.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the following new topics be approved for inclusion in the Team's 2015/16 Work Programme, for adoption at the Annual Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May –
  - (i) The process of issuing Community Protection Notices and Public Space Protection Orders under the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (light touch review).
  - (ii) The Council's policies for safeguarding vulnerable people.
- (2) That the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel be asked to consider the suggestions put forward in respect of -
  - (i) Activities on Mental Health Wards
  - (ii) Investigation of Social Care Provision
  - (iii) Social Care
- (3) That the scrutiny study of the potential for fracking in Pendle be carried forward to the 2015/16 work programme.
- (4) That Kath Haydock be thanked for her service to the Council and in particular her hard work in her role as Scrutiny Manager.

**82. EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLAN**

The Executive Work Programme and Forward Plan for the four month period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 was submitted for consideration.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_