

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 26TH MAY, 2015**

PRESENT –

His Worship the Mayor Councillor N. Ahmed

Councillor C. Wakeford – Chairman (In the Chair)

Councillors

W. Blackburn

A. Mahmood

G. Roach

S. Wicks

Officers in attendance

P. Mousdale *Corporate Director*

L. Rowland *Committee Administrator*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Adams, S. Benson, K. Hartley, N. McEvoy and J. Nixon.)



1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr G. Bird made reference to the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015 and two of the reviews that had been carried out in 2014/15. The first related to an Executive proposal to increase the fee for the reclaiming of stray dogs to £100, which had been called in by the Scrutiny Management Team. He asked for confirmation that this proposal was no longer being pursued. He also referred to the performance of the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and questioned the way in which the information had been gathered. He believed that the performance statistics provided by the NWAS could not be relied upon.

Mr Bird was advised that a review of fees and charges was carried out on an annual basis and although the fee for the reclaiming of stray dogs would not be increased this year, this could not be guaranteed in future years. With regard to the NWAS, it was explained that public feedback had been taken into account within the statistics provided by the Ambulance Service and the accuracy had to be accepted. However, it was agreed that this topic should be discussed further at the next meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th March, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Asjad Mahmood be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Team for the municipal year 2015/16.

5. APPOINTMENT OF PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANEL

The Team was asked to consider the appointment of 4 Scrutiny Members to the Performance Monitoring Panel for the municipal year 2015/16.

RESOLVED

That Councillors W. Blackburn, K. Hartley, C. Wakeford and S. Wicks be appointed to the Performance Monitoring Panel for the municipal year 2015/16.

6. APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PANEL

The Team was asked to appoint members to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2015/16.

RESOLVED

That Councillors N. Ahmed, K. Hartley, A. Mahmood, G. Roach and C. Wakeford be appointed to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel for the municipal year 2015/16 in addition to any other member of the Team who expresses an interest.

7. CYCLING STRATEGY

The Neighbourhood Services Project Co-ordinator submitted an update on the Council's Cycling Strategy Action Plan.

8. REVIEW MONITORING

(a) Monitoring reports

A monitoring report on the Scrutiny Review of Town Centres was submitted for information.

RESOLVED

That a further monitoring report be submitted to the October meeting of this Team.

(b) Anti-Social Behaviour Reporting

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted an update on improvements made to the accessibility of the anti-social behaviour noise nuisance service.

9. HIGHWAYS ISSUES – 3 TIER FORUM

At a previous meeting of the Team, Members had discussed various Lancashire County Council (LCC) highway issues. One area of concern had been the response of LCC Highways to planning applications, which had shown a lack of local knowledge and had made inappropriate comparisons. It had been agreed that these concerns be raised at a meeting of the 3 Tier Forum. However, a change in Councillor membership and the cancellation of a recent meeting meant that the issue was still outstanding.

RESOLVED

That the Corporate Director be asked to write to Lancashire County Council, expressing the concerns of this Team.

10. REVIEW PLANNING

Potential Shale Gas Exploration

In January 2015, the Team had commenced a review on the practicability, likelihood and desirability (or otherwise) of possible shale gas exploration and exploitation in this area. The Team had agreed to continue the study in this municipal year, therefore it had been included in the work programme for 2015/16.

A summary of the work that had taken place between January and March, 2015 was submitted for information. This work had established that exploration could only be carried out under licence and there were currently no licences covering Pendle. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was expected to announce licence awards later in the year.

RESOLVED

That a decision on how to progress with the Scrutiny Study of the Potential for Shale Gas Exploration in Pendle be deferred to the August meeting of this Team.

11. SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

The Overview and Scrutiny Improvement and Communications Plan was submitted for consideration. The Team discussed the issue of poor Member attendance at pre-meeting question setting sessions, panel meetings and meetings of the Scrutiny Management Team and ways in which this could be improved. It was also noted that a training programme had not been delivered due to low numbers and level of interest.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Group Leaders be asked to meet with the Corporate Director and Chairman of Scrutiny Management Team to discuss the issue of poor attendance at scrutiny meetings.
- (2) That Committee Services be asked to contact Group Leaders to assess the level of Member interest in attending a scrutiny training programme.

12. 2015/16 WORK PROGRAMME

The Team's Work Programme 2015/16, which had been adopted at the Annual Council meeting

Scrutiny Management Team (26.05.2015)

on 21st May, 2015 was submitted for information. This was the basis of the Team's annual work plan, which was also provided.

RESOLVED

- (1) That anti-social behaviour issues be considered when scoping the review on Community Protection Notices, to be carried out at the January, 2016 meeting of this Team.
- (2) That all Members be invited to submit further suggestions for topics for scrutiny, for consideration at the August meeting of this Team.

13. EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Work Programme and Forward Plan for the four month period commencing 1st June, 2015 was submitted for consideration.

CHAIRMAN _____