

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 22ND MARCH, 2016**

PRESENT –

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 His Worship the Mayor Councillor N. Ahmed, Councillors M. Adams, S. Benson, K. Hartley, N. McEvoy and D. Whipp (Council’s representative on the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel).)



55. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

56. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

57. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

58. REVIEW MONITORING

Promoting Pendle

(i) Visitor Economy Plan for Pendle

Following on from the scrutiny review of promoting Pendle, the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report which provided details on the Visitor Economy Plan for Pendle (VEPP) 2016/17. The Plan showed how Pendle would align its visitor economy activity to meet the objectives of the recently produced Lancashire Visitor Economy Strategy (LVES). The VEPP, which included targeted actions aimed at increasing visitor economy activity, had been approved at the meeting of the Executive held on 17th March, 2016.

Reference was made to the 2015 Heritage Lottery Fund investment into Pendle Hill and whether there was any scope for additional funding for walking/countryside activities.

It was explained that this was being looked into, particularly with regard to the development of the Quaker Trail, a project that would involve working with other cross-border partners.

(ii) Pendle's Cycling Legacy Strategy 2016-2021

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a copy of Pendle's Cycling Legacy Strategy 2016-2021 for information. The revised strategy had been informed by the latest national, regional and local strategies and policies as well as building on the Tour of Britain Legacy.

It was explained that Lancashire County, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Councils had been working with the 14 districts of Lancashire to produce a 10 year Lancashire Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy which would be aligned to the Government's proposed National Cycling and Walking Strategy for England. Pendle's strategy had been designed to be read in conjunction with these and had been approved at the March meeting of the Executive, subject to the inclusion of reference to the cycling manufactures in the Borough.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Pendle's Cycling Legacy Strategy 2016-2021 be noted.
- (2) That Council be recommended to appoint a Cycling Member Champion at its annual meeting.

59. PENDLE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO STORM EVA: BOXING DAY 2015

Further to a request at the last meeting of the Team, the Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report which provided information on Pendle Council's response to Storm Eva, which hit Pendle on Boxing Day 2015. The report provided details on the action taken by staff members during the event itself and also the follow up work that had been carried out.

The Team received information on the number of properties flooded; the equipment used and number of staff involved in the incident response; the number of calls logged and the reasons for the call; and the current take-up of grants/relief available. Members were also advised of the engagement that had taken place with residents, borough and town and parish councillors and relevant agencies.

Areas where engineering flood alleviation/defence works were required had been identified and Environment Agency funding had already been secured for some of these works. The Department for Transport (DfT) had also allocated £5m to Lancashire County Council (LCC) for repairs to its roads and bridges infrastructure damaged by the floods. In Pendle, this would be used to fund four schemes. A number of other schemes had also been put forward for consideration.

It was acknowledged that, going forward, some changes needed to be made, in particular with regard to the Sandbags Policy (submitted as appendix 6 to the report); the existing Emergency Plan and Flood Plan; and the Environment Agency Floodline service.

RESOLVED

That a review of the Council's Flood Policy be added to the Team's work programme for 2016/17.

60. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

A report on the activity of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel over the last year and the draft minutes of the February meeting were submitted for information.

RESOLVED

That the report on the activity of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel be amended to include a conclusion and recommendations where appropriate, for submission to the next meeting of this Team.

61. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE

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

62. LCC HEALTH SCRUTINY CO-OPTEE'S REPORT

Councillor A. Mahmood, the Council's co-optee on the LCC Health Scrutiny Committee provided an update on that Committee's work over the last six months. He reported on the Public Health and Wellbeing Service Transformation which was taking place and the significant cuts to the Public Health Grant. He explained that discussions had been held on various topics, including infant mortality (particularly smoking in pregnancy); smoking cessation; and domestic abuse services. It was reported that there were no plans to stop the smoking cessation service and domestic abuse services continued to be a priority. Mental health issues were also high on the agenda.

63. PENDLE DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE ACTION PLAN

The Strategic Director submitted an update on the Council's commitment to creating a dementia friendly community in Pendle. It was reported that significant work had been undertaken, which included supporting the establishment of Pendle's Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) in 2015. This Alliance consisted of partners across the public, private, voluntary and faith sectors and was chaired by an independent, community based Chairman.

Pendle's DAA draft action plan included a number of council led actions and was submitted for consideration and approval.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Pendle's Dementia Action Alliance Action Plan be approved subject to the following –
- that a further dementia friends training session be delivered to Members, following the Borough Council Elections in May, 2016;
 - that the Police be included in the list of organisations to receive dementia friends training;
 - that the date for mapping Pendle's dementia cafes and singing groups be brought forward;

- that the lead organisations and officers referenced by initials in the Plan be identified with a key.
- (2) That the Chairman of Pendle's Dementia Action Alliance and an appropriate officer of the Council be asked to attend a meeting of the Team in six months' time to provide an update on progress.

64. COMMUNITY TOILET SCHEME IN COLNE

Further to a request at the last meeting, Committee Services provided an update on the community toilet scheme in Colne. It was explained that the scheme had been set up two years ago following a strategic review of public conveniences and had been reliant on businesses allowing the general public to use their facilities. Only a small number of businesses had signed up to the scheme, details of which were provided in an appendix to the report. A number of these businesses had since closed/changed hands.

Although the scheme had not been officially monitored, it was understood that it had had limited success.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

65. 2016/17 WORK PROGRAMME

The Team was asked to consider a list of suggested topics and agree the Team's work programme for 2016/17. In addition to the submitted list, the following suggestions were also considered –

- Youth engagement in the democratic process
- The impact of the transfer of services to town and parish councils

It was reported that the topic of youth engagement in the democratic process was to be discussed at the Council meeting on 23rd March.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the following new topics be approved for inclusion in the Team's 2016/17 work programme, for adoption at the Annual Council meeting on 19th May –
- (i) the impact of upper tier authorities on planning matters – work to improve the quality of reports;
 - (ii) the effectiveness of Section 106 Agreements – to commence following publication of the findings of a current Government review on how Section 106 Agreements work;
 - (iii) the impact of the transfer of facilities from Pendle Council to town and parish councils (light touch review to be carried out in the latter part of the year);
 - (iv) the Council's Flood Policy (as referred to at Minute 59).

Scrutiny Management Team (22.03.2016)

- (2) That the following topics be included in the 2016/17 work programme, as agreed at the last meeting –
 - (i) the behaviour of enforcement officers (formerly known as bailiffs)
 - (ii) littering – taking into account the work of previous panels on litter and detritus
- (3) That the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel be asked to continue its work on the following reviews –
 - (i) Mental Health in the Community, Care Homes and Mental Health Wards;
 - (ii) Drug and alcohol rehabilitation provision in East Lancashire.
- (4) That the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel also be asked to continue to monitor the following –
 - (i) the work of the East Lancashire Hospitals Trust and East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group in providing their Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and Intensive Home Support Service;
 - (ii) progress on the recommissioning of homecare services being carried out by Lancashire County Council.
- (5) That, subject to the outcome of discussions at the Council meeting on 23rd March, the topic of youth engagement in the democratic process be considered further at the May meeting of this Team.

66. EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME/FORWARD PLAN

The Executive Work Programme and Forward Plan for the four month period commencing 1st April, 2016 was submitted for consideration.

CHAIRMAN_____