

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 21st November. At the meeting -

- We continued our review on monitoring the **Council's Paper Usage**. In a bid to establish if the Council can do more to reduce the amount of paper it uses and whether it does all it can to re-use and recycle the paper it does use we are investigating the amount of paper used across all service areas. We will then assess whether this is reasonable and hopefully identify areas where savings can be made.

A snapshot of the average cost of sending committee papers revealed that we spent over £9,000 in postage and printing costs in a 9 month period. This figure could be drastically reduced if Councillors received their committee agendas and reports by email and links to the Council website as an alternative to paper copies delivered by post. We appreciate that this is not suitable for all, but we were disappointed that, when asked, only three councillors said that they would be happy to receive their meeting papers in this way.

However, we have accepted that this could change once a trial of Microsoft Office 365, currently being carried out by 12 volunteer councillors, has concluded.

- We also continued our review of **Council Tax Enforcement Agent Fees and Charges**. As previously mentioned, we have been involved with revising the wording of the Council Tax Reminder Notice, in an effort to make it easier to understand. After viewing the current notice alongside the proposed version we are happy that the new document is much clearer and easier to read.
- In response to the Team's request for further information on the Council's **annual emissions report**, we received details of possible reasons why fuel consumption from building stock had increased over the reporting period. We have been told that work is taking place to reverse the pattern over 2017/18 and further action will be considered if next year's annual report indicates that energy consumption has continued to increase.
- We were happy to note all the positive work that has been carried out in the past year in promoting Pendle. This is monitored via the **Promoting Pendle Action Plan**. We are very proud of the various 'in Bloom' activities throughout the borough, and have therefore asked that this information be included in the Action Plan.
- Councillor David Whipp provided us with an update on the work of the **Lancashire Police and Crime Panel**. He also provided us with information on two upcoming reviews to be carried out by the Panel. The first is around front line policing and the second review relates to ongoing problems with 101 response times.
- We received our six monthly update on the work of the **Corporate Equalities Steering Group** towards meeting our Equality Objectives.

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel

The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel has also met once, on 12th December.

- At the meeting we began a review on publicity around **organ donation**. We agreed to carry out a review on this topic after hearing of the need for more people to join the NHS Organ Donor Register. Startling statistics reveal that across the UK there are around 6,500 people in need of an organ transplant and that on average, three people die every day across the UK in need of a transplant, due to a shortage of donors.

We also learnt that over 6,000 people are needed to give blood every day to meet the needs of patients in England. To do this, 200,000 new donors need to be attracted each year to replace those who can no longer donate for health or other reasons.

Panel members feel that a positive step would be to encourage all Councillors to join the Organ Donor Register and we therefore propose to put a motion to the next Council meeting.

- As reported to the last Council meeting, the Scrutiny Team is keen to assist in increasing awareness about the symptoms of sepsis. Our first piece of work was to promote World Sepsis Day in September this year. We have since included a front page feature in our scrutiny bulletin, highlighting the symptoms to look out for. This can be seen in the attached appendix.
- The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel's work plan includes a regular update on the Together a Healthier Future Programme. The latest news can be found via the following link - <http://togetherahealthierfuture.org.uk/category/news/>.

This link also gives you access to a draft plan for health and care services in the area, which was published on 5th December. Over an eight week period, people are being invited to comment on the proposals via an online survey.

For further information, we are happy to report that a representative of the Pennine Lancashire Transformation Programme will be attending our next meeting on Tuesday 13th February. Everybody is welcome to attend.

- We also received an update on the work of the Pendle Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Youth Engagement

The Youth Engagement Working Group held its first meeting on 21st November, 2017, where the terms of reference were agreed.

Before we continue with our plans to establish a Pendle Borough Council Youth Council we are going to write to the local high schools, college and children's homes to gauge interest.

It has also become clear that there are some issues to overcome, particularly with regard to safeguarding. We are therefore seeking advice from the Local Government Association.

Councillor Ken Turner,
Chairman, Scrutiny Management Team
13th December, 2017