

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT TEAM
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON
ON 21ST MARCH, 2018**

PRESENT –

Councillor K. Turner – Chairman (In the Chair)

Councillors

*N. Ahmed
S. Cockburn-Price
B. Newman*

Officers in attendance

*P. Mousdale Corporate Director
L. Rowland Committee Administrator*

(Apologies for absence were received from the Worship the Mayor Councillor D. Whalley and Councillors W. Blackburn, K Shore and S. Wicks.)

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59. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

60. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

61. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January, 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

62. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Geoff Whitehead, the Council's Lead for Community Safety submitted a report on the work of the Community Safety Partnership over the last six months.

The Team was particularly concerned with the findings of the Locality Review: Violence and Vulnerability. A consistent picture had emerged which suggested that Pendle had specific crime groups running local drugs markets and young people were being exploited by criminal groups. The resulting report included a number of recommendations that had been discussed at the Community Safety Partnership meeting and a number of measures agreed.

Geoff's report concluded with information on changes to the Community Safety Team following his retirement at the end of the month. He advised that the Council's Principal Policy Officer would be taking over his role.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Community Safety Partnership be made aware of the Team's concerns at the findings of the Locality Review: Violence and Vulnerability and it be requested to actively take on the recommendations outlined in the report.
- (2) That, on behalf of the Team, Geoff Whitehead be thanked for his work on community safety and he be wished all the best in his retirement.

63.

REVIEWS

(a) Monitoring the Council's paper usage

The Corporate Director reported that the voluntary pilot in the use of Microsoft Office 365 had been concluded with the participants reporting that they had found it easy and convenient to use. In the light of this and also the previously reported disappointing response from individual councillors as to their willingness to receive committee papers electronically the Team was asked to consider how it wished to proceed.

RESOLVED

That the Corporate Director be asked to organise a meeting between the Chairman and Group Spokespersons and the three Group Leaders to consider how and when the Council can move to paperless meetings with a view to a recommendation being made to the May 2018 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

(b) Disabled Facilities Grants

At the last meeting, the Team raised concern at the way in which funding for Disabled Facilities Grants had been allocated to district councils and asked that representations be made to appropriate bodies for a review of the current criteria for distribution of the funding.

The Corporate Director advised that the Government had announced an independent review of the Disabled Facilities Grant which was expected to commence shortly. The review would include consideration of the current methodology for allocating the grant and the means test. Local authorities had been invited to suggest key areas which they would like the review to consider and a submission had been made by Pendle Council.

Therefore, in consultation with the Chairman, it had been agreed to delay the Team's representations, pending the outcome of the Government review.

It was noted that, as the Team would no longer be operational with effect from 17th May, 2018 this matter would be passed to the Policy and Resources Committee for action as necessary.

64.

REVIEW MONITORING

(a) Mental Health Care in the Community, Care Homes and Mental Health Wards

A monitoring report on the scrutiny review of mental health care in the community, care homes and mental health wards was submitted for consideration.

It was reported that, unfortunately, the Local Authorities Mental Health Challenge Annual General Meeting (AGM) that had been due to take place in Pendle earlier that day had been cancelled.

Owing to the difficulty in attracting people from across the country, it had been agreed that a full AGM would no longer take place. Instead, regional meetings would be held, with the North West event to be held in Pendle. It was hoped that this would be in June this year.

(b) Youth Engagement

A monitoring report on the scrutiny review of youth engagement was submitted for consideration.

Members were disappointed in the response of the town and parish councils to a request that they consider adding a standing agenda item on 'youth issues'. Many had failed to respond and of those that had, those in rural locations felt it would not be appropriate due to the low number of youths in the area.

However, it was still felt that the town and parish councils would be the most appropriate forum to encourage youth participation.

65. CYCLING LEGACY STRATEGY

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted an update on progress with Pendle's Cycling Legacy Strategy 2016 - 2021. The report provided information on the background to the Strategy and current progress on infrastructure schemes; group and circuit development and cycling for health; and cycle promotion.

The Team noted that funding for cycling infrastructure and schemes had reduced significantly over the years and was a major hurdle to delivering the Cycling Legacy Strategy.

It was recognised that Pendle's cycling provision was a key tourist attraction and that promotion of the various events and facilities must continue. It was suggested that this also be looked at from a business development perspective with part funding being sought from local businesses.

66. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

The draft minutes of a meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel held on 13th February, 2018 were submitted for information.

CHAIRMAN_____