

REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Since my last report to Full Council, the following progress on the work of Overview and Scrutiny is reported –

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- In preparation for the new municipal year, we invited officers and Members to submit suggestions for the Committee's **2026/27 work programme**.

The list of proposed topics was considered at our first meeting of the year, where we assessed each one against the criteria on selecting a topic for inclusion in the work programme.

After rejecting some of the suggestions because they didn't fulfil the criteria, our work programme, attached as appendix A to this report, has been agreed and prioritised.

Further to this, we also considered a request from Council to undertake a **review of NHS East Lancashire Trust** in relation to the continuing poor service being provided to Pendle residents at Royal Blackburn Hospital.

We assessed this request and agreed that it did not fulfil the criteria for inclusion in the work programme as it was not an issue where something could be done and a review by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could make a difference.

We did however feel that Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) Health Scrutiny Committee, whose purpose was to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health service in the area, was better placed to carry out such a review. We have therefore asked LCC to consider undertaking a scrutiny review on this topic.

- At that same meeting, we received an update on the **outcome of the call-in of two decisions** of the Executive. Both decisions, made on 19th March 2026, had been referred back to the May 2026 meeting of the Executive for reconsideration. After taking into account the reasons for each call-in and proposed alternative courses of action, the Executive amended its decision in both cases.
- In August we began our scrutiny of the Council's **performance data**, along with that of the Pendle Council and Liberata UK Joint Partnership, to identify any areas we thought may need to be explored further.

Each report brought together performance information on the progress made with the delivery of the corporate priority actions in the Council Plan, the Council's key performance indicators (KPIs), financial plans, and risk management arrangements for the respective periods.

We learnt that a basket of 25 KPIs had been devised to provide the Council with a gauge of performance representing a range of services delivered by and on behalf of the Council. These included some Liberata and Pendle Leisure Trust (PLT) performance indicators.

Our view was that it may be beneficial to have some additional KPIs and to remove those that were consistently recorded as completed, and not a high risk to the Council.

To discuss this further, the Committee has requested a meeting with appropriate officers and the relevant Executive members.

We have also requested further information on what is being done to support digitally deprived residents/customers.

The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for 13th October, where we will be looking at information on the operation of the YES Hub, and details of what is being done in developing behaviour change campaigns to encourage responsibility and pride in local communities.

Councillor Chris Church
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
September 2026