



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr May Gandhi, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Council	28 November 2013	9

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: PERIODIC REPORT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To inform Council of the work currently being undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** That the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1** Since the last periodic report to Council in April 2013 the Committee has met on six occasions, with a seventh meeting scheduled for 18 November 2013. These have all been scheduled meetings with no additional meetings arranged for call-ins.

4. Committee meetings

- 4.1** The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14 was agreed by the Committee in May 2013.
- 4.2** At the same meeting in May a new methodology for Task Groups was agreed, which included increased portfolio holder involvement, both at the scoping stage and prior to conclusions and proposals being finalised. The Chairman made it clear that the committee would continue to be firmly committed to its role in challenging and questioning in order to play its full part in contributing to the improvement of services.
- 4.3** Much of the O&S Committee's work has been centred on the management of the annual Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. Quarterly performance reports have been received from the Head of Transformation, the most recent of these in an abbreviated format which only provided additional information about those projects with issues. The revised format was welcomed by members of the committee, who

are still able to scrutinise individual project progress in more detail if they so wish, via the council's intranet.

- 4.4** A review of the implementation of the in-house Street Cleansing Service was reported to the committee in April 2013, as previously agreed.
- 4.5** The committee had commissioned a working group to draft a response to the NHS' public consultation on 'Improving Patient Care - The future of older people's rehabilitation services on the Fylde Coast'. The response was agreed by the Council on 24 January 2013. Members of the committee sent letters expressing their concerns about the outcome of the consultation to the Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 4.6** Overview and Scrutiny training for the four newest members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was delivered by the Scrutiny Officer and the Chairman.
- 4.7** A proposal for a task group to look at the management and development of the Marine Hall was received. The committee agreed not to convene a task group for this purpose, but to request an interim report on progress from the Corporate Director of People and Places. A further review of the progress made at the Marine Hall and the Thornton Little Theatre would be submitted to the committee in March 2014, as has previously been agreed.
- 4.8** Other reports received by the committee from officers included the following:
- 'Gimme 5' Initiative
 - IT Support for Councillors
 - Water Quality
 - Wyre Health Plan 2013-14
 - Working Together With Families
 - Keogh Report – report of Gary Doherty, Chief Executive of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, regarding the implementation of Blackpool's Action Plan (July 2013).

5. Task Groups

5.1 Ferry Task Group

The Ferry Task Group reported to Cabinet on 31 July 2013. The task group's six proposals were accepted, the Leader of the Council adding that, in his opinion, this was one of the best task group reports to have been presented to Cabinet.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will review the implementation of the proposals in July 2014.

5.2 Dog Fouling Focus Group

A Focus Group was set up to look at the role of elected members in dealing with dog fouling across the borough. It was recognised that the council was already taking a number of actions to try to reduce the incidence of dog fouling. Councillors also had an important role to play.

An Action Plan for councillors was agreed and endorsed by the Cabinet on 11 September. A presentation will be made to councillors by members of the Focus Group, prior to the meeting of the Full Council on 28 November 2013.

5.3 Parks Task Group

The Parks Task Group's Final Report was presented to Cabinet on 23 October 2013. Cabinet supported all the proposals that were made in the report.

5.4 Resident Parking Permits Task Group

The Resident Parking Permits Task Group will present its report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 November and, subject to the Committee's endorsement, to Cabinet on 4 December.

5.5 Fleetwood Market Task Group

The Fleetwood Market Task Group has held three meetings to date, including a 'closed' visit to Fleetwood Market. Two other meetings are planned, including an 'open' visit to Fleetwood Market on 19 November.

The task group's Scoping Document details a wide range of work that will be carried out as part of this review, the aim of which is to identify opportunities for development and improvement.

6. Future Work

6.1 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15

The outline contents of the O&S Work Programme for 2014/15 will be developed over the next few months and presented to the committee in April 2014.

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