



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

Notes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 7 December 2015 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Committee members present:

Councillor R Amos
Councillor E Anderton
Councillor C Birch
Councillor Fail
Councillor Hodgkinson

Councillor Jones
Councillor Reeves
Councillor Matthew Vincent
Councillor Michael Vincent (Chairman)

Other councillors present:

Councillor I Amos

Officers present:

Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources
Clare James, Financial Services Manager
Maria Blundy, Head of Built Environment
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer

OS.57 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ormrod, Robinson and Smith.

OS.58 Declarations of interest

None

OS.59 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 9 November 2015 were discussed. It was agreed that some amendments to the minutes, as published, be considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2015 be deferred.
- (ii) That any proposed amendments to the minutes of the 9 November 2015 be submitted to the Scrutiny Officer by 9am on Friday 11 December 2015.
- (iii) That members' recollections of their comments made at the private discussion on 9 November 2015 be submitted to the Scrutiny Officer by 9am on Friday 11 December 2015.

OS.60 Proposed fees and charges 2016/17

Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources, submitted a report.

Ms Davies informed the committee that the report made no reference to green waste, which was the subject of a separate report to Cabinet on 2 December 2015.

Previously, fees and charges had been linked to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in September and as the CPI for September 2015 had been -0.1% most of the proposed fees and charges were unchanged.

Ms Davies referred to two points in particular.

First, new car parking machines were to be installed, which had the potential to provide much more detailed information about car park usage, including the use of residents' passes, should key fobs be deployed. Car parking charges would be reviewed once sufficient information was available from the new machines, probably towards the end of 2016.

Ms Davies also referred to dog welfare. Charges had been left unaltered for the time being although this might need to be changed once the council had put in place a new contract for kennelling.

Councillors asked a number of specific questions, the answers to which would be provided directly to members of the committee by the Corporate Director of Resources following further discussions with the relevant officers. (The questions raised by the committee are attached as an appendix to these minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that answers to a number of specific questions about the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17 be provided by the Corporate Director of Resources (see Appendix) and discussed with the relevant Portfolio Holder, and
- (ii) that unless specifically referred to in the appendix, all the remaining

Portfolio Holder recommendations be agreed.

OS.61 Capital growth bids

Maria Blundy (Head of Built Environment) submitted a report detailing the priorities for building maintenance based on a condition survey of all of the council's buildings carried out in 2014.

The committee discussed various aspects of the report, and accepted a point made by Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources, that the projects listed were simply the current priorities, which could change in response to currently unpredicted changes in circumstances. A total of £3.9m had been identified as being required for building improvements over the next three years, £427,400 of which was being submitted as a capital growth bid for 2016/17, subject to capital receipts being received.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

OS.62 Complaints

Pete Mason, Head of Contact Centre, submitted a report which included the annual report of complaints and compliments 2014/15 and details of the complaints and compliments for the first two quarters of 2015/16.

Philippa Davies reported that the formal procedure appeared to work well, with very few complaints being referred eventually to the Ombudsman.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

OS.63 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2015-16

The Corporate Director of Resources had submitted a report.

Councillors discussed a number of proposals for future task groups.

The review of engagement in parts of the borough that were not covered by Town or Parish Councils would be considered once an officer review of stakeholders had been completed.

A review of new revenue streams was proposed by the Chairman. Philippa Davies informed the committee that several approaches to generating additional income had been tried in recent years, but without real success. She suggested that a short review of those initiatives might be useful in identifying any lessons to be learned for the future.

It was proposed that consideration be given to commissioning a review on domestic violence. Councillor Reeves agreed to meet with Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer, to discuss the likely focus and methodology of such a review and to present a draft scoping document to the committee in February 2016.

Philippa Davies referred to a consultation that will be chaired by Eric Ollerenshaw, which will assess if local council tax support (LCTS) schemes are acting as a fair and effective system and whether LCTS should become part of Universal Credit payments in the future. It was noted that the deadline for Mr Ollerenshaw's consultation was 12 January 2016, which would be impossible to meet. It was agreed that it would still be valuable for the committee to undertake a scrutiny review which would contribute to developing the council's policy on the subject prior to the scheme for 2017/18 being agreed on October 2016. The scope of such a review would include:

- Making a contribution to policy development
- Understanding the proposed scheme
- Reviewing what other local authorities had done
- Considering the impact of the scheme on individuals
- Considering the implications of the scheme for the council

A review of the resident parking permit scheme would be timely if carried out towards the end of 2016, once sufficient data was available from new parking machines that were to be installed in April 2016.

School parking safety was proposed as another task group topic. Further information on work that was already underway, by encouraging children to walk to school, would be requested from the Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety.

A proposal to review the council's role in child protection was made. It was noted that child protection and safeguarding was the topic for a presentation to all councillors immediately before the meeting of the Full Council to be held on Thursday 21 January 2016.

Following a presentation to councillors on 3 December 2015 the Corporate Director of Resources suggested that a scrutiny review of the council's treasury management arrangements might be considered for inclusion in the committee's work programme.

RESOLVED

- (i) That a draft scoping document for a scrutiny review on domestic violence be submitted to the committee in February 2016
- (ii) That a draft scoping document for a scrutiny review on local council tax support be submitted to the committee in February 2016
- (iii) That a review of the resident parking permits scheme be carried out towards the end of 2016
- (iv) That further information on school parking safety be obtained by the scrutiny officer and presented to the committee in February 2016

- (v) That the other proposals for inclusion in the committee's work programme be noted.

OS.64 Draft task group report – Clinical Commissioning Groups

The task group's report had been submitted by the task group Chairman, Councillor Julie Robinson.

The committee considered the report and the three recommendations and agreed to send it to the Cabinet.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the task group's report be endorsed and
- (ii) that it be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

OS.65 Date and time of next meeting

RESOLVED that the next scheduled meeting of the committee be held at 6pm on Monday 11 January 2016 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

The meeting started at 6pm and finished at 7.51pm.

Appendix

Proposed fees and charges 2016/17 – further information requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject area	Portfolio Holder's recommendation	Comments from O&S Committee 7 December 2015
Marine Hall	The fixed fee for a wedding will be replaced by an hourly rate.	Can the relevant officer explain their logic for this change of approach and in particular how much additional income we expect it to generate?
	A 20% discount for weddings held at the Marine Hall on Monday to Thursday will be offered to attract more mid-week weddings.	Many facilities also offer a discount for Friday – have we considered this?
Wyre Estuary Countryside Park Riverside Room	The increase of £10 introduced with effect from 1 April 2015 appears to have had a negative impact on booking this year with income received to date being £160 compared to annual income in 2014/15 of £1,020.	Can we check who was booking the room during 2014/15 and if the increased charge is having a negative impact then perhaps the fee should be reviewed and the charges for a half day, full day and after 5pm should be reduced by £10.
Car parking	A review of car parking charges incorporating residents' passes is likely to commence following the new Poulton Booths store opening in November 2015.	At a recent SYN ward walk, there was a proposal to extend the on-street car parking from 1 hour to 2 hours in Cleveleys. Presumably if this was agreed by LCC, then this could impact on the use of our car parks and may cause us to review the fees and charges?
Markets	It is proposed to introduce a £5 fee for the daily hire of a gazebo at Fleetwood Market for outside traders who do not own their own.	Can the relevant officer confirm why the offer of gazebos is being introduced – is it at the request of the Market Traders and if not, how do we know that there is going to be a demand for these?
Estates	It is proposed to introduce new charges for the use of land licence agreements and call outs for commercial events, funfairs and circuses.	Members were keen to confirm that these charges would not apply to community groups.

Street cleansing	It is proposed to introduce a new fee for the recovery of collection and disposal costs of fly tipping incidents at cost plus a 10% administration fee.	<p>Members enquired whether this applied to adopted and un-adopted highways.</p> <p>Confirmation was sought that offenders who have caused the fly tipping are prosecuted.</p> <p>A query was raised as to who would be invoiced for an un-adopted back street shared by a number of residents. Would there be discretion to waive the charge where it was considered that the residents were in fact the victims of fly tipping?</p>
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