



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr May Gandhi, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Council	1 December 2011	12

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. Recommendation/s

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee was established at the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2011. The committee comprises fourteen members, and it has met on six occasions to date.

4. Committee meetings

- 4.1 The O&S Committee has focused much of its work on the management of the O&S Work Programme 2011/12. This was approved at the meeting in July, which was also attended by the Chief Executive, who informed the Committee about the Draft Business Plan. Members proposed a number of amendments to the draft, which were incorporated in the Plan finally approved.

The committee has taken the view that it will invite a member of the Cabinet to each meeting. The Leader of the Council has attended, in addition to four portfolio holders to date. The Committee has heard about the identified priorities within each portfolio and will take this scrutiny a step further once the quarterly performance information becomes regularly available. It is hoped that this will commence from December.

The Transformation Manager has attended one meeting to advise members about the Transformation Programme and the plans for performance reporting.

Two consultation reports, on the proposed Police Station Closures and the proposed Closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Garstang, respectively, have been endorsed by the committee, and subsequently agreed by Full Council.

Reports have also been received, at the committee's request, on the Marine Hall and affordable housing.

5. Task Groups Completed

5.1 Police Station Closures

The Lancashire Constabulary conducted a public consultation on its proposals, which included the closure of the police stations at Poulton and Cleveleys and the closure to the public of the police station at Garstang. The task group met on three occasions, interviewing representatives from the Lancashire Constabulary and the Lancashire Police Authority as well as the council's Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder.

The council's response, which was agreed by Full Council on 8 September, contained ten recommendations for consideration within the consultation process. The outcome of that consultation was published by the Lancashire Constabulary and the Lancashire Police Authority recently.

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) - Garstang

Members contributed to Lancashire County Council's public consultation on the proposed closure of the HWRC at Claughton, near Garstang. Arguments were submitted to try to resist closure, and the consultation response was endorsed by Full Council on 8 September.

6. Current Task Groups

6.1 Street Cleansing

This task group has met twice and has contributed to the revised service specification for street cleansing. Arrangements were also made for members to view the new street cleansing vehicles to be purchased when the service is brought in house from April 2012.

A third meeting will take place on 12 December 2011 at which members will receive more detailed costings and work schedules. Following that meeting the task group will report its findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It intends to review implementation of the new arrangements after the end of September 2012.

Transport Infrastructure

The Transport Infrastructure task group is reviewing the way in which key partners work with the Council, with the aim of identifying the obstacles that prevent effective engagement/partnership working and identifying opportunities for improvements.

Three meetings have been held so far. It is hoped that relationships with other agencies will become the focus of scrutiny at future meetings. With that in mind, a meeting with the Highways Agency has been arranged for 12 January 2012.

Budget

The Budget Task Group has completed its scrutiny of two proposed Capital Growth Bids and the proposed Fees and Charges for 2012/13. It is intended that a report will be considered by the Management Board on Wednesday 23 November.

7. Future Work

7.1 Treasury Management

The CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2009 requires that Treasury Management performance and policy setting are subjected to prior scrutiny. A task group has been established to fulfil this requirement and will carry out its review at three meetings that have been scheduled in rapid succession during the latter half of November. It is intended that the group's work will be completed on 24 November.

Tourism – Value for Money

The O&S Committee has agreed to establish a task group to review this issue, starting in January 2012. The Scoping Document was agreed at the O&S Committee meeting on Monday 21 November.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no finance implications related to this report.
Legal	There are no legal implications related to this report.
Community Safety	There are no community safety implications related to this report.
Equality and Diversity	There are no equality and diversity implications related to this report.
Sustainability	There are no sustainability implications related to this report.

Health and Safety	There are no health and safety implications related to this report.
Risk Management	There are no risk management implications related to this report.
Asset Management	There are no finance implications related to this report.
Climate Change	

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LIST OF APPENDICES

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme June 2011 – April 2012

arm/ex/cou/cr/11/0112pf2

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme June 2011 – April 2012								Updated 22 November 2011			
	20-Jun	18-Jul	22-Aug	19-Sep	24-Oct	21-Nov	12-Dec	16-Jan	13-Feb	12-Mar	16-Apr
Work Programme											
Community Safety Partnership											
Performance Review (quarterly)											
LCC Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee											
Holding the Executive to account for forthcoming decisions											
Leader											
Portfolio Holder: Street Scene											
Portfolio Holder: Neighbourhood Services											
Portfolio Holder: Economy											
Portfolio Holder: Resources											
Portfolio Holder: Leisure and Culture											
Task Groups Reporting to Committee											
Police Station Closures - consultation											
HWRC Closure - consultation											
Street Cleansing											
Budget											
Transport Infrastructure											
Treasury Management (annual scrutiny)											
Tourism - Value for Money Review											
Other Reports											
Affordable Housing											
Performance/Transformation											
Marine Hall											
Beach Management											
Leisure Commissioning - Consultant's Report											