



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 19 November 2012 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

---

### Members present:

Councillor Anderson  
Councillor Balmain  
Councillor Cocker  
Councillor Hodgkinson  
Councillor Lees  
Councillor MacNaughton

Councillor Martin  
Councillor Perkin  
Councillor Pimbley  
Councillor Walmsley  
Councillor Williams

### Other Councillors present:

Councillors Brooks and Kay

### Officers present:

Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources  
Michael Ryan, Corporate Director of People and Places  
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer

### Others Present:

Chief Inspector Ian Sewart, Lancashire Constabulary  
Inspector Steve Bell, Lancashire Constabulary  
Inspector Steve McQuillan, Lancashire Constabulary  
Inspector Gary Roberts, Lancashire Constabulary  
PCSO Gill Mason, Lancashire Constabulary  
PCSO Keith Russell, Lancashire Constabulary

### OS.46 Election of Chairman

Cllr Cocker was elected as Chairman for this meeting.

### OS.47 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Gandhi, Shewan and V Taylor.

**OS.48 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**OS.49 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 October 2012, be confirmed as a correct record.

**OS.50 Police Community Support Officers**

Michael Ryan, Corporate Director of People and Places presented the quarterly performance report for July to September 2012.

Mr Ryan went on to confirm that the council's part-funding of ten PCSOs would run out at the end of March 2013. Once the implications of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, due on 5 December, had been considered it would require the council to consider all its competing priorities in the light of the resultant Government settlement.

Chief Inspector Sewart gave a presentation about PCSOs in Wyre, supported by his officer colleagues and PCSOs. He said that there had been year on year reductions in the numbers of incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage and he referred to a public satisfaction rate of 90% regarding the way in which anti-social behaviour was dealt with. He also referred to a number of letters that had been received from members of the public in praise of work carried out by PCSOs.

Councillors asked the Chief Inspector a number of questions, to which his responses included:

- If Wyre withdrew its funding then ten PCSO posts would disappear as would all the projects on which those individuals had been working.
- Fourteen PCSO posts would remain in Wyre, funded by the police.
- The costs of warranted Officer, warranted Special Officer and unwarranted PCSOs posts would be provided to the committee
- One of the benefits of having unwarranted PCSOs was that they worked effectively in certain situations that would be more difficult for warranted officer with additional powers.
- There was a Lancashire-wide policy that used identified criteria upon which decisions about the deployment of PCSOs were made. This would be provided along with the number of PCSOs funded by the police across each of the Lancashire Districts.

Cllr Walmsley expressed concern that if the council withdrew its funding all the excellence and experience built up by the PCSOs would be lost. A number of other members expressed their support for the council continuing to fund the PCSO on the same basis as now.

Cllr Brooks and Cllr Perkin said that PCSOs were unquestionably popular, but the key question was who should pay for them. Cllr Perkin suggested that the residents of Wyre were, in effect, being asked to pay twice – once via the police precept and again through the council tax paid to Wyre Council.

Mr Ryan advised that the Home Office had agreed to make funding available for PCSOs for a further twelve months from 1 April 2013, but not beyond.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) Chief Inspector Sewart and his colleagues be thanked for attending the meeting and making their very informative presentation
- (ii) The committee support the continued part-funding of ten PCSOs by the council for a further twelve months from 1 April 2013

**OS.51 Transport Infrastructure Task Group – Supplementary Report**

The Transport Infrastructure Task Group had submitted a report to Cabinet on 25 April 2012. Cabinet had asked the task group to provide some further information and consider amending some of its recommendations.

Cllr Martin, Task Group Chairman, reported that the task group had had further contact with Lancashire County Council and the Highways Agency on the basis of which a supplementary report had been prepared.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the task group be thanked for preparing such a detailed and clear report, and
- (ii) That the Supplementary Report be endorsed by the committee

**OS.52 Exclusion of Public and Press**

The Corporate Director of Resources had determined, in accordance with Paragraph 11 of the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, that the report submitted under item 7 of this agenda was "Not for Publication" because it contained "exempt information", as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**RESOLVED**

That the public and press should be excluded from the meeting whilst agenda item 7 was considered, on the grounds that their presence would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 3 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) and category 7 (Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime) of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local

Government (Access to Information) Variation Order 2006 and, that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **OS.53 Wyre Council Treasury Management Final Report – April 2012**

Philippa Davies, Corporate Director of Resources presented the report, which had been submitted as part of the requirement to scrutinise the council's treasury management arrangements annually.

The Treasury Management Task Group had previously reported to Cabinet on 18 January 2012, making two recommendations:

Recommendation 1 That the potential to participate in the Sector Treasury Services benchmarking group be explored, and

Recommendation 2 That the findings following the Treasury Management audit be provided as supporting information in advance of the next scrutiny review

There had been little interest expressed in the proposed bench-marking group by other authorities, probably because there was an associated cost, so this had not been implemented to date.

The report submitted to the committee met the requirements of Recommendation 2 and it was not felt necessary to undertake any more detailed scrutiny of the council's treasury management arrangements at this time.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted, and
- (ii) That the council's treasury management arrangements be considered again by the committee in November 2013.

### **OS.54 Task Group Proposal - Parks**

The meeting resumed in public session from this item onwards.

The committee considered a draft Scoping Document for the forthcoming task group on Parks.

**RESOLVED** that the draft scoping document be endorsed by the committee.

### **OS.55 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012-13 – Update Report**

Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer, reported progress on various elements of the Committee's Work Programme.

Expressions of interest would be invited from councillors wishing to take part in the Parks Task Group. It was likely that the first meeting of this task group would take place in the first two weeks of January 2013.

The NHS was holding a public consultation “Improving Patient Care – Next Steps”, which was to focus on the future of older people’s rehabilitation services on the Fylde Coast. Councillors were invited to consider a number of different ways in which they might contribute to the consultation process, including individual submission, attendance at one of the NHS’ eight public presentation sessions or by convening a short-term task group of interested councillors.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted
- (ii) That a task group be set up to articulate a response to the “Improving Patient Care – Next Steps” consultation on behalf of the council.

**OS.56 Date and time of next meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be held as follows:

Monday 17 December 2012 starting at **6pm.**

The meeting started at 5.30pm and finished at 7.24pm.