

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



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Foreword from the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

I am pleased to present the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2017/18. The report outlines the work of the Overview and Scrutiny committee, Budget and Performance Panel and Task Groups over the last year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee monitors Cabinet and delegated Officer decisions, engages with, and interviews Cabinet members about their portfolios and aims for the year. The Leader and portfolio holders have also regularly attended meetings of the Budget and Performance Panel. We are grateful for their attendance. Discussions have always been interesting and productive in that they could lead to further areas of scrutiny.

The positive approach that all members have to these meetings has aided the development of the 'critical friend' relationship. However, it does not mean that where Scrutiny finds fault we will not say so.

Scrutiny of our partners continue to develop, and much of what the council does, after delivering essential services involves working with, and engaging with organisations and voluntary groups. Health issues are of particular interest, and we must make sure that the positive relationship with CCG continues. We all share aims of improving health, well-being and safety in the district.

Encouraging interesting task groups and meetings for non-executive members of scrutiny to take part has helped make recommendations for consideration. Task groups are always well attended and it is good to see that most of our recommendations are accepted. I hope members have found this rewarding and an innovative way to make recommendations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members, officers, outside agencies and in particular members of the public who have been involved in Overview and Scrutiny work this year. Without your help none of the excellent work that has gone into this report would have been possible.

Thanks must go to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their hard work and commitment to this Council's Scrutiny process. Councillor Susan Sykes, Chairman of Budget and Performance, and all members of the Panel. I find the Budget and Performance Panel to be a valuable asset to this Council's Scrutiny process.

Finally. I wish to thank Democratic Services, and in particular Jenny Kay, Sarah Moorghen, and Stephen Metcalfe for their excellent support through-out the year, and for compiling this report.

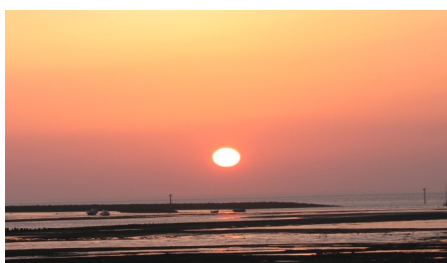
I hope members find our report on the past year both interesting and informative.

Councillor June Ashworth
Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has overall responsibility for the performance of all Scrutiny functions (under the Local Government Act 2000) on behalf of the City Council.

The Committee has the power to scrutinise all of the City Council functions and decisions that are not within the Terms of Reference of the Budget and Performance Panel. It also has the power to call-in any decisions that members feel have not been made in accordance with the City Council's decision-making principles.



Membership:

Councillors June Ashworth (Chairman), Alan Biddulph, Tracy Brown, Brett Cooper, Rob Devey, Charlie Edwards, Nigel Goodrich, Caroline Jackson and David Whitaker

Budget and Performance Panel

The Budget and Performance Panel has specific responsibility for providing overview and scrutiny to issues regarding the City Council's performance, budget and financial issues.

Membership:

Councillors Susan Sykes (Chairman), Dave Brookes (until July), Nathan Burns (from December), Sam Armstrong (until November), Tracey Brown, Kevin Frea (from December), (Andrew Gardiner (until November), Tim Hamilton-Cox, Terrie Metcalfe (until September), Jean Parr (from October), John Reynolds, Robert Redfern (from January), Peter Williamson (from December) and Phillippa Williamson (from September until November).



LONELINESS SUMMIT with ageUK

Each year the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a meeting dedicated to health scrutiny and older peoples issues. In December this year Overview and Scrutiny Members, Councillor Pattison, Cabinet Member with Responsibility and other Members of the Council attended a Loneliness Summit organised by Democratic Services in partnership with Age UK.

The aim of the Summit is to raise awareness of loneliness in local communities and show what resources are available for people who are lonely.

A number of local organisations attended the event and set up stalls in the Ashton Hall.



The school children made pledges to help people of any age who are suffering from loneliness:-

Children of different ages from schools across the district as well as Councillors were invited to the event to take part in workshops around the topic of loneliness.



The event is the first of its kind and was a great success bringing together local organisations, schools and local Councillors as well as members of the public.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Each year a Community Safety meeting is arranged.

Councillor Brendan Hughes, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety and Clean and Green, the Chief Officer (Environment) and The Community Safety and Safeguarding Officer and Sergeant Lindsey Brown attended the November meeting.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

An update was given on the work undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership within the district. The priorities of the Partnership are:

- Violence against the person.
- Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Road safety.
- Domestic abuse.
- Community Cohesion (Including Hate Crime & Hate Incident).

The Partnership has allocated funding for specific projects to tackle Hate Crime which has increased since last year's Referendum to leave Europe. Also discussed was domestic violence, and CCTV.

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS (PSPOs)

An update was given on the current PSPOs which are in force in the district. These are on Ridge Square, Lancaster and Lancaster City Centre. A third PSPO is being considered for Morecambe which will include Poulton, Westgate, the West End, Heysham Barrows and Happy Mount Park.



ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Concerns were raised over the rise in the number of casualties from road accidents, particularly child casualties. The Lancaster District is a hotspot for road accidents due to the A6 corridor into the City Centre from the South, motorbikes going to the TT's passing through the district, motorbikes heading for Kirkby Lonsdale and also the M6.

Data has been requested from the Partnership which analyses the specific locations of road accidents and those of child casualties within the district.

Also requested was an update on the Traffic Masterplan, which includes the gyratory system around Lancaster City Centre.

HATE CRIME

An update on the Hate Crime Workshop which took place in October was given. The Workshop had been very well supported by Lancashire Local Authorities and had been positively received.

UPDATE ON BETTER CARE TOGETHER

At the October meeting an update on the Better Care Together project was given. 12 Integrated Care Communities (ICCs) across the Bay Hospital's remit had been set up to bring together primary, community, social care, volunteers, third sector and community members into one single integrated team working to a common purpose. This is to improve the health and well-being of the local population.

Initiatives, such as Patient Initiated Follow Ups (PIFU) had been introduced which offered help when a condition flared up and offered the patient the choice as to whether they required a follow up appointment or not. Rheumatology was the first service to go live, Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Pain, Respiratory and Gastroenterology were also developing PIFU pathways.

Information Technology was being used to manage risk and be proactive in Integrated Care Communities (ICC) by offering online information on how to self help with integrated technology. Over 1,400 people were helped last year avoiding travel to hospital.

The Trust was one of 50 Vanguard sites in the country and consistently performs quarter on quarter, year on year, and is a high performing Vanguard.

The Trust won the 'Improving Value Through Innovative Financial Management or Procurement Award' at the prestigious Health Service Journal Value in Healthcare awards 2017.

Health and Wellbeing Update - Active Live

This has been established by the City Council, funded by Lancashire County Council and recently partnered with Integrated Care Communities.

The first group of people have been invited to take part by their GPs, as they had problems with musculoskeletal disease, followed by a group of people suffering from Diabetes. The programme received amazing feedback and the results were extremely positive, with improvements to health for all those who took part. Seven community based programmes have taken place to date in the district.

The programme will target areas of need such as obesity in schools, and inactivity in workplaces. The aim is to set up a programme, make it sustainable then move on to another group of people.

It was suggested that the City Council could promote the Active Lives programme by having a chair based exercise session before a Council meeting. This took place prior to the January Council meeting.



CATON ROAD LANCASTER - SITE VISIT

Following Storm Desmond in 2015 and the floods which effected the Sub-Station on Caton Road, and caused power outages across Lancaster, Electricity North West have taken action to deal with the effects of 100 year floods by raising all the equipment on the site.



The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny and the Pre-Scrutiny Champion attended a site visit in March to view the work done on the site and were impressed with the remedial work carried out so far.





HERE ARE SOME OF THE OTHER MAIN ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THIS YEAR

PROPERTY STRATEGY

The Chief Officer (Resources) and the Senior Property Officer attended the December meeting. An update on the Property Strategy was provided.

Property Services had recently been restructured, and a hospitality team introduced to focus on income generation within the Town Halls.

The Capitals Work Programme is now in Phase 3 and focusing on the Ashton Hall, Lancaster.

A Cabinet Liaison Group was established which would examine areas one by one, undertake site visits and oversee a review of accommodation.

Issues discussed included the importance of utilising the performance space in the district and for these not to be in direct competition with other venues.

Also discussed was the Co-op building in the West End of Morecambe, accommodation space in the Storey, Lancaster and the importance of the Property Group to work jointly with the Planning Service.



DISCUSSIONS WITH CABINET MEMBERS

Throughout the year the Leader and other Cabinet Members have been invited to discuss their portfolios with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Discussions have included updates on Salt Ayre Leisure Centre, Beyond the Castle, consultations on the introduction of selective licensing of landlords taking place in the West End of Morecambe, CCTV and developments in ICT.

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Revenues and Benefits and Skills also regularly attended the Budget and Performance Panel meetings.

MAIN ISSUES CONSIDERED BY BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE PANEL



CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING

The Panel receive quarterly Corporate Financial and Performance Monitoring reports that include strategic summaries on how the City Council performs in delivering the Corporate Plan targets. It scrutinises the reports to identify any areas of concern and put forward their recommendations to Officers and Cabinet.

This year the Panel asked for further information regarding:

- ‘Pensions’ - County Council Representatives provided an in depth presentation at the November meeting.
- ‘Performance Monitoring’ (via Performance and Service



Accounts presentations of each service of the Council) — extra meetings were scheduled to accommodate the presentations from each service.

- ‘Savings and income generation ideas’ for each service.
- Updates on the financial position of Salt Ayre Leisure Centre.

Other areas have also been identified and, in some cases, briefing notes have been requested, including:

- Homelessness.
- Void Council Housing stock.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The City Council’s Treasury Management Advisor and Financial Services Manager gave presentations to the panel and views were sought on the proposed Treasury



Management Framework for 2018/19, and these were fed into Cabinet and ultimately Budget Council on 28th February 2018.

BUDGET CONSULTATION

In January 2018 the Panel held its annual Stakeholder meeting. All Councillors and budget stakeholders were invited to attend.

A presentation from the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, Revenues & Benefits and Skills was provided on the City Council’s Budget and Policy Framework proposals for 2018/19.

The Panel were also provided with information regarding the budget proposals of Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority.

INFORMAL TASK GROUPS

The following Task Groups have been created, or are due to report back to the Committee:

- **CUSTOMER SERVICE AND FUTURE COMPLAINTS POLICY INFORMAL TASK GROUP**
 - **DIGITAL LANCASTER INFORMAL TASK GROUP**
 - **RESILIENCE COMMISSION INFORMAL TASK GROUP**

The following Task Groups recommendations were reported to Cabinet and Council in this municipal year:

- **LATE NIGHT ECONOMY IN THE LANCASTER DISTRICT INFORMAL TASK GROUP**



HOLDING CABINET TO ACCOUNT AND CALL-IN

HOLDING CABINET MEMBERS TO ACCOUNT

Overview and Scrutiny Members continue to hold Cabinet Members to account. This has taken place through the Call-in process and considering items of business at Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Budget and Performance Panel and also through arranging for Cabinet Members to come to meetings to discuss issues and developments within Cabinet portfolios, as well as through meetings of Pre-Scrutiny Members.

CALL-IN

Call-in is one of a number of ways in which Overview and Scrutiny can hold Cabinet to account.

The choice to 'Call-in' a Cabinet decision is used sparingly at the City Council, and with care.

The procedure ensures that, if necessary, decisions or proposals made by the Cabinet, a Cabinet Member, a Cabinet Committee, an Officer with delegated authority, or under joint arrangements can be thoroughly examined, amendments proposed, and full debate entered into by all Members. It is the view that call-ins are only used in exceptional circumstances. 'Exceptional Circumstances' are where members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have evidence which suggests that the decision in question has not been made in accordance with the principles set out in Article 13 'Decision Making' of the City Council's Constitution.

There has been one request for Call-in this municipal year, on 7th February 2018. This was an Key Officer Decision for the appointment of a constructor team for Lancaster Lower Lune (Phase 3) Flood Risk Management Scheme. The outcome of the Call-in was that Cabinet was requested to consider; (1) that the parent company guarantee be written into the contract, (2) that future reports on major contracts (over £100,000) include brief consideration of the governance and financial strength of contracting companies, (3) that the constitutional review pay specific attention to updating the contract procedure rules.

Cabinet went on to agree the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on the same evening.

APPOINTMENTS

At the request of Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has made the following appointments to outside bodies.

OUTSIDE BODY

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MEMBERSHIP

Homelessness Forum

Tracy Brown

Lancaster and Morecambe Fairtrade District Steering Group

Brett Cooper (until Oct 2017)

Caroline Jackson (from Oct 2017)

Museums Advisory Panel

June Ashworth

Representatives are asked to report back, if necessary, to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work of these bodies.

PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

Pre-Scrutiny is the process mainly based on the study of the City Council's published 'Key Decisions' contained in the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions. With this information the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can select issues to consider before a decision is taken.

Each year the Committee appoint a Councillor to the role of Pre-Scrutiny Champion. The current Pre-Scrutiny Champion is Councillor Caroline Jackson. Councillor Jackson meets regularly with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Budget and Performance Panel.

This process can help to add value to decisions at the pre-decision stage, can widen consultation to include Non-Executive Councillors and it can also help to minimise the use of Call-in.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomes the opportunity to submit a response during the consultation phase of a decision and encourages this approach.

HEALTH SCRUTINY

Councillor Colin Hartley is the City Council's representative on the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee. He is invited to attend meetings when updates are given on the Better Care Together Review of local health services and any other health issues.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Budget and Performance Panel would like to thank the following for their contribution to the Scrutiny process during 2017/18:

- Cabinet Members who have appeared before Overview and Scrutiny bodies;
- Representatives from organisations, which have delivered presentations to the Committee/ Panel this year;
- Officers who have attended meetings and participated in the work of scrutiny;
- Members of the public who have attended meetings, or submitted evidence as part of the ongoing work of scrutiny;
- Training and development provided both internally and externally;
- All current members of the Democratic Services Team.