



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Cllr John Ibison, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Council	14 June 2018	8

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Periodic Report

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Council about the work that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken since the last periodic report was submitted.

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 Since the last periodic report to Full Council the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met on ten occasions, all of which were scheduled meetings. There have been no calls-in during 2017/18.

### 4. Committee meetings

- 4.1 Councillor Michael Vincent was elected as Chairman of the Committee on 22 September 2014, with Councillor Kerry Jones elected as Vice Chairman. On 8 January 2018 Councillor John Ibison was elected as Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year, with Councillor Kerry Jones continuing in her role as Vice Chairman.
- 4.2 The committee's work has focused on the delivery of the annual Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. The committee's Work Programme has remained sufficiently flexible to accommodate other issues that have arisen during the course of the year.
- 4.3 The Leader of the Council attended one committee meeting, to introduce the 2019 update to the Council's Business Plan.
- 4.4 Quarterly Business Plan performance reports have been received from the Service Director Performance and Innovation. The reports have

assisted the committee to monitor the delivery of the Business Plan and to identify topics for further scrutiny.

- 4.5** The committee continued to closely monitor the development of the Local Plan by receiving quarterly progress reports from the Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager, until the Plan's submission in January 2018.
- 4.6** Twelve months after the submission of their reports to the Cabinet, the committee reviewed the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the following task groups:
- (i) Building Stronger Relationships with Town and Parish Councils
  - (ii) Clinical Commissioning Groups
- 4.7** The committee continues to fulfil its requirement to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) at least annually, receiving a report about the CSP's performance and priorities for the coming year. A report about the Partnership was most recently received by the committee on 12 March 2018.
- 4.8** The Council has a co-opted representative on Lancashire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, who reports annually to the committee. The report for 2017/18 will be considered by the committee at their July meeting, alongside other health matters.
- 4.9** Other reports received by the committee from officers and representatives of external organisations included the following:
- Scams and doorstep crime – report from Lancashire County Council
  - Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group - update
  - Children and Young People
  - Wyre Campaigns Plan 2017/18
  - Waste and recycling services task group report
  - Dementia in Wyre
  - Review of proposed fees and charges
  - Cost profiles – benchmarking results 2017/18
  - Life in Wyre task group report
  - Planned maintenance and investment schedule 2018/19
  - Digital transformation task group report
  - O&S Work Programme preparation
  - Department of Communities and Local Government Select Committee report – The Effectiveness of Local Government Overview and Scrutiny Committees
  - Asset Management Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2023
  - Digital Transformation Plan - update

## **5. Task Groups**

### **5.1 Waste and Recycling Contract**

Wyre Council has a contract with Veolia for waste and recycling collection services which was initially for eight years from 2012, with an option to extend for a further eight years from April 2020. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a task group to consider options for the delivery of the waste and recycling collection services beyond April 2020.

The task group reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2017, its recommendations being accepted by the Cabinet the following month.

### **5.2 Life in Wyre**

In May 2017 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a task group with the following purpose:

“To review the Life in Wyre Survey and to better understand its use and identify areas for improvement to ensure the Council gets best value from the survey.” (Scoping Document)

The task group submitted its report and recommendations to the Cabinet in November 2017.

### **5.3 Digital transformation**

The decision to purchase the Modern.Gov Committee Minutes System, for the management and publication of committee minutes, agendas and documents was taken in December 2017. In summary, the benefits will be threefold:

- 1) To make the agenda publication process more efficient and more resilient.
- 2) To improve the efficiency of the committee minutes and agendas process making it far less time consuming for council officers.
- 3) To enable paperless working to be introduced for Council meetings, saving time and money.

A task group was set up “to consider the options for the council to move to more digital processes and towards a paper-free organisation”.

The task group made fifteen recommendations about the implementation of Modern.Gov, which were supported by the Cabinet in response to a task group report on 14 February 2018.

#### **5.4    Engaging with Children and Young People**

A task group that has reviewed how the council might engage more effectively with children and young people is due to report to the Cabinet on 13 June 2018.

The review was commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in response to comments made in a report on the Local Government Association Peer Review Challenge, which said that the council's current Business Plan is skewed towards older people and adults. Steps have already been taken to rectify this imbalance.

### **6.    Training and development**

**6.1**    Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have attended several courses run by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, including the following:

- Introduction to scrutiny (3 members)
- Scrutinising Council performance (1 member and Scrutiny Officer)
- Chairing skills (1 member)

**6.2**    Councillors continue to attend the North West Strategic Scrutiny Network whenever possible. The Network holds three meetings a year, keeping councillors abreast of current scrutiny thinking both nationally and locally.

### **7.    Future work**

#### **7.1    Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19**

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/19 is reviewed at every meeting of the committee. All members are invited to make suggestions about potential review topics for inclusion in the Programme. Scrutiny is member-led and without suggestions from councillors about task group topics the Programme will not achieve its purpose.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer	01253 887606	peter.foulsham@wyre.gov.uk	15 May 2018