

## **Report of Scrutiny Committee**

1. This report summarises the business considered at the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 11 January 2022.

### **Scrutiny Portfolio Update: Strategy and Reform**

2. The Leader of the Council and the Deputy Chief Executive presented an update on the work of the Strategy and Reform portfolio since May 2019.
3. We welcomed the progress made on the portfolio over the last year and also queried that challenges facing the portfolio.
4. We queried how internal communications can be made more effective as this was identified as a challenge and it was explained that new tools had been introduced such as bi-monthly Employee Voice meetings, a monthly Team Brief newsletter, and a development programme to promote the role of managers in supporting staff.
5. We queried progress on public service reform and the County Deal and were advised that a report would shortly be considered by Full Council on joint working in Lancashire, which sought agreement to move forward with the County Deal.
6. We questioned how the council could continue to strengthen its governance and the advantages of the Scrutiny and Governance Committees in challenging the work of the council and administration were emphasised.
7. We were grateful for the reassurance that governance remains a focus and priority for the Council and ensuring that it is embedded into the work of the Council.
8. We also sought clarity as to the meaning of the Corporate Strategy project to “transform the way the council operates”. It was explained, in response, that this referred to fundamental changes to the way the council operates and delivers services.
9. We questioned how the Peer Challenge Action Plan would be monitored and it was explained that this would be done by the Cabinet within quarterly performance monitoring reports which are also considered by the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel.
10. We requested further information on events which took place outside of Leyland in 2021.
11. We suggested that communications key indicators be developed further for future years and be more outcome focussed.
12. We also requested that the results of the Residents’ Survey and Employee Survey be considered by the Scrutiny Committee.
13. We asked that consideration be given to the Council’s online customer service system allowing third parties to be able to report and make service requests.

14. We thanked the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Chief Executive for their attendance and report.

### **Partnership Working 2021**

15. The Leader of the Council and the Deputy Chief Executive presented an update on the Chorley and South Ribble Partnership, which was established in July 2021.

16. We queried how a focus on South Ribble's needs and issues would be maintained given the shared nature of the new Partnership and it was explained that the new Partnership would be of benefit for South Ribble as more senior partners, such as the NHS, were engaged.

17. We also queried member engagement in the Partnership and it was advised that the Leader of the Council attends meetings and reports back to the council. Data from each My Neighbourhood Community Hub, which all members are involved in, also feeds into the Partnership and it is subject to scrutiny by the council.

18. Following this, we welcomed the possibility of undertaking joint scrutiny with Chorley Council.

19. We raised a query regarding how the Chorley and South Ribble Partnership Strategy 2021-2024 was developed and agreed and were advised that it was created by officers and has been agreed by the Partnership. It was acknowledged, however, that the document was constantly evolving.

20. We welcomed the wide range of partners involved and suggested that parish and town council representatives could be involved in the work of the partnership.

21. We questioned what progress could be expected by the next update and it was stated that work on healthcare would have progressed, although this was subject to the engagement of the relevant partners, and that there would be clear plans and priorities for economic growth and skills and training.

22. We thanked the Leader of the Council and Deputy Chief Executive for their report and attendance and wished the partnership well in delivering its strategy and looks forward to receiving future monitoring reports.

### **Final recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Task Group on Health Inequalities**

23. We received the draft final report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Task Group into Health Inequalities, which sought approval to be presented to Full Council and highlighted the rationale, objectives, methodology and findings of the review in addition to final recommendations.

24. We sought clarification on statistics relating to life expectancy between wards and between men and women and were advised that one statistic was based on an

average figure whilst the other was based on true data. This would be clarified for the final report.

25. We expressed concern that the social prescribing model which the review recommended emulating was not sustainable and was overly target-driven and it was suggested that the development of a social prescribing system in South Ribble could be modeled to take these views and best practice into account should the recommendation be accepted.

### **Urgent Decisions**

26. We received a report which outlined a number of urgent decisions taken since 29 October 2021 in accordance with urgency procedures outlined in the Council's Constitution.

27. We noted that 4 urgent decisions had been submitted during this period.

28. We reiterated concerns made previously over the number of urgent decisions taken, given that these were not subject to call-in and therefore ineligible to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee.

### **Partnership Update on Waste Service**

29. The Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building and the Director of Customer and Digital presented a confidential report which provided an update on the waste and recycling collection contract with FCC Environment.

30. We discussed a number of areas and topics including:

- Upcoming waste contract extension negotiations
- Increased cost pressures
- The potential for future sharing with Chorley Council
- Recycling rates
- Recycling and waste provisions for community groups
- Use of electric bin lorries
- Achieving the targets set out in the national Waste and Resources Strategy

31. We welcomed the reassurance that the Council has the necessary resources and expertise to deliver the timeline for the waste contract extension negotiations.

32. We asked that contact be made with West Lancashire Borough Council to see if anything might be learned on their approach to increasing recycling rates.

33. We requested that the possibility of the recycling service being extended to community groups and voluntary organisations be explored further.

34. We thanked the Cabinet Member and Director for their attendance and report.

**Recommendation(s)**

That Council note the report.

Councillor David Howarth  
Chair of Scrutiny Committee  
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