

Report of Scrutiny Committee

1. This report summarises the business considered at the meetings of the Scrutiny Committee held on 12 July 2022 and the Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel held on 20 June 2022.

Scrutiny Committee – 12 July 2022

2. We requested that a detailed update on Masterplans and further information on the employee survey results be provided at the next meeting of the Committee in October.
3. We asked that all outstanding items raised on the Matters Arising sheet be reviewed and updated.

Community Wealth Building

4. The Leader of the Council and the Director of Change and Delivery attended the meeting to present an update on the Community Wealth Building Programme.
5. We acknowledged that Community Wealth Building was a complex concept.
6. We asked for further information on pension contributions for new staff that transferred following the insourcing of the waste contract and look forward to receiving this.
7. We asked how the Council could encourage key stakeholders to buy in to Community Wealth Building principles and heard changes in Council procurement policies and updated national and local frameworks supported the model.
8. We requested that the community wealth building model be reviewed in light of the changing and increasing challenges affecting the Borough and ensure it remains adaptable.
9. We were pleased to hear about the extensive networking and sharing of best practice with our partners.
10. We look forward to receiving further information on the £150k reserve for community wealth building.
11. We asked that the Council encourages the Lancashire County Council pension fund committee to consider adopting community wealth building principles.
12. We thanked the Leader of the Council and the Director of Change and Delivery for their report and attendance.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme Update

13. The Leader of the Council and the Director of Communities attended the meeting to present an update on the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.
14. We were pleased with the scheme and feedback presented to us. We heard that lessons were learnt about the huge demand for the sessions and improvements had been made around communications and the booking system to meet these demands.

15. We asked about funding for the scheme in the future and were assured that funding was in place for three years with a commitment made to secure any additional funding required in the future to ensure delivery of the programme.
16. We asked for further information be provided on any benefits and positive impacts the programme has had on anti-social behaviour and community safety.
17. We welcomed the reassurance that consideration is being given to extending the programme to other school holiday periods.
18. We requested that further consideration be given to those children who are home-schooled and explore ways to improve engagement with the programme.
19. We thanked the Leader of the Council and the Director of Communities for their report and attendance.

Urgent Decisions

20. We received a report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer which outlined a number of urgent decisions taken since 20 April 2022 in accordance with the urgency procedures outlined within the Council's Constitution.
21. We noted that 8 urgent decisions had been submitted during this period.
22. We were reassured that the number of urgent decisions was trending downwards, but the committee would continue to monitor in the coming months.

Scrutiny Budget and Performance Panel – 20 June 2022

Performance Monitoring Report 2021-2022- Quarter 4

23. The Leader of the Council and the Director of Change and Delivery presented a report which outlined the Council's performance against the delivery of the Corporate Strategy projects and objectives during Quarter 4 (January- March 2022).
24. We noted that the majority of projects within the corporate plan were on-track.
25. We asked for feedback on the Peer Review to be made available - this would be reported at Council in July.
26. We look forward to the Chorley and South Ribble Partnership presenting its draft action plan to the Scrutiny Committee later in the year.
27. We queried the approach taken by the Council regarding the proposed Tourism Strategy.
28. We requested more information on the number of credit union members, amounts saved and loaned and welcomed the commitment to take the credit union out to local communities across the Borough - linking in with the community hubs.
29. We sought clarification on the role of community co-operatives and asked for a register to be kept as they are formed.
30. We welcomed an update on the progress of work at Worden Hall and were pleased with the offer of a site visit once the work was completed.

31. We expressed concern at the customer service wait times and acknowledges the steps being taken to improve the situation and learn for the future.

Revenue Budget Outturn 2021/22

32. The Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer presented a report which set out the revenue and reserves provisional outturn for the Council as at 31 March 2022.

33. We noted that there was an underspend against the budget for 2021/22. Following the allocation to reserves and the agreed movement of £0.392m at quarter three to the Covid Recovery Reserve, there was no change to the general fund reserve.

34. We look forward to the quarter 1 performance report updating on the impact of increased costs and cost of living crisis is having on our residents.

35. We asked that the level reserves for planning appeals and inquiries be reviewed in the future.

Capital and Balance Sheet Outturn 2021/22

36. The Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer presented a report which outlined the outturn financial position of the Council in respect of the capital programme as at 31 March 2022, highlighting key issues and explaining key variances, and providing an overview of various elements of the Council's balance sheet as at 31 March 2022.

37. We questioned the impact of recent increases in interest rate on the assumptions and budget position and were reassured that they would be reviewed.

38. We requested that the capital programme be carefully monitored to ensure delivery of the planned schemes.

Recommendation(s)

That Council note the report.

Councillor Ange Turner
Chair of Scrutiny Committee

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