

Report of Scrutiny Committee

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

Scrutiny Committee – 11 October 2022

2. We requested an additional meeting of the Scrutiny Committee be arranged before Christmas in order to consider Employee Survey Results and the Leisure Company Progress Report. A date has been arranged for Thursday 24 November 2022.

Penwortham Masterplan

3. The Cabinet Member for Planning, Business Support and Regeneration, the Director of Planning and Development, Head of Development Management and a representative of the consultants GL Hearn attended the meeting to present an update on the Penwortham Masterplan.
4. We look forward to receiving further information of the split in consultation responses between residents and businesses;
5. We asked that more be done to engage with landowners through the masterplan process;
6. We requested that further communication be undertaken with residents to help manage their expectations on timescales for delivery;
7. We asked that the document be reviewed further in light of the financial and economic challenges we face;
8. We were pleased to hear that the masterplan would fully consider public transport and connectivity between the three district centres; and
9. We thanked the Cabinet Member for Planning, Business Support and Regeneration, the Director of Planning and Development, Head of Development Management and the consultant from GL Hearn for their attendance and answering our questions.

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service Emergency Cover Review Consultation

10. The Head of Service Development and the Station Manager from Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service attended the meeting to present draft proposals included as part of the Service's Emergency Cover Review Consultation.
11. We heard that the proposed change in duty system from day crew plus to flexi day crewing at Penwortham Fire Station had been recommended following analysis of data around attendance times and targets, areas of risk, incident frequency and staffing levels with the objective of identifying how best to deploy resources within a limited budget;
12. We welcomed the opportunity to contribute towards the consultation;
13. We strongly opposed the replacement of day crewing plus for the following reasons:
 - a. the increased response times to incidents and potential impact on fire safety and saving lives;

- b. the wider impact of the proposals on Preston and central Lancashire which isn't reflected in the data;
- c. we queried over the validity of the data associated with the proposals;
- d. concern that not enough crew members live within a 5-minute radius of Penwortham Fire Station and the logistics involved such as training;
- e. the strategic importance of Penwortham Fire Station with regards climate and other emergencies across the county and regionally has not been reflected.

14. We thanked the Head of Service Development and the Station Manager for their attendance and answering our questions.

Urgent Decisions

15. We received a report of the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer which outlined a number of urgent decisions taken since 20 July 2022 in accordance with the urgency procedures outlined within the Council's Constitution.

16. We noted that 3 urgent decisions had been submitted during this period.

Recommendation(s)

That Council note the report.

Councillor Ange Turner
Chair of Scrutiny Committee

BS