

Meeting of the Full Council – 12 December 2013

Report on the Scrutiny Committee Meetings held on 13 September, 11 October, 8 November and 14 November 2013

Chair: County Councillor Bill Winlow

The agenda and minutes of the meetings may be viewed on the County Council's web site at the following link:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=120>

13 September 2013

Skills for Work: Lancashire's Skills Agenda; Youth Skills and Employment Framework; Apprenticeships and Employment Programmes

The Committee received a report which set out the current context and policy framework for delivery of workforce skills development in Lancashire. In addition it set out the detail of Lancashire's Youth Employment Strategic Framework, currently led by the Learning and Skills Team of the County Council's Young Peoples' Service.

A detailed, up to date progress report was also provided on specifically the £10m Apprenticeships and Employment Programmes of the County Council, including the Ex-Service Personnel Mentoring in Schools Programme.

It was agreed that,

1. The officer involved be thanked and congratulated for the excellent work done on the skills agenda, particularly in relation to young people and apprenticeships.
2. The commitment of previous and current administrations to this area of work is recognised and welcomed.
3. Further information on NEETs and the work being undertaken to address the issues come to a future Scrutiny meeting.
4. Further information be circulated to Committee members on the number of NEETs by district.
5. A further piece of work comes to a future Scrutiny Committee on vacant apprenticeship places in Lancashire.

Lancashire and Cumbria Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Joint Health scrutiny Committee with Cumbria County Council to consider issues of cross boundary substantial variation in services proposed by University Hospitals Morecambe Bay Trust. The terms of reference for the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with Cumbria County Council were also agreed.

Task Group Update

A report was presented to Members updating them on the progress with existing Task and Finish Groups. A Task Group on Planning Matters – Interface between Upper and Lower Tier Authorities had been agreed at the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

The establishment of two new Task Groups was agreed:

- Attainment of Pupils on Free School Meals and the Use by Schools of the Pupil Premium
- Halal Meat Supplies to the County Council.

Urgent Business - Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act

A report was presented to the Committee under Urgent Business on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. The item had been accepted as Urgent in order to meet the commitment made to the Executive Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet to report in September.

The report summarised the effect of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and explained the County Council's current arrangements for dealing with the authorisation of requests for covert surveillance in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

11 October 2013

Review of Winter Service

The Review of Winter Service Report built upon the reviews undertaken for the winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11 and aimed to implement further improvements and new initiatives to deliver the Winter Service for 2013/14 and beyond.

The Committee agreed to,

1. Commend the Environment Directorate and the Highways Operations Team on how well they have done and to keep up their good work.
2. Ask the Highways Operations Team make sure that all Town and Parish Councils will be contacted as well as making sure all non-parish areas receive information.
3. Request a list of priority footpaths for all County Councillors.
4. Request the subject of Highways Maintenance continues to be brought up at future Scrutiny Committee meetings possibly 6 December.

8 November 2013

Working Together With Families (WTWF)

The Committee received an update regarding implementation of the Working Together With Families approach across Lancashire. The report identified progress to date challenges encountered and associated risks and mitigating actions.

It was agreed that the Committee receive a further update report in three to six months.

Independent Reviewing Officers

The report provided a response from the Children and Young People Directorate in relation to the actions taken to improve the recruitment and retention of Independent reviewing Officers (IROs).

It was agreed that a further report be presented to the Scrutiny Committee in a year's time on where the Safeguarding Inspection and Audit Team were in relation to the indicators.

14 November 2013 (special meeting)

Membership of the Board of One Connect Limited

The Committee considered the request made by five members of the County Council that the decision made by the Leader of the Council on 6 November 2013 on the membership of the Board of Directors of One Connect Limited be "Called In".

The Committee agreed that the Leader of the Council is not asked to reconsider her decision of 6 November 2013 on the Membership of the Board of One Connect Limited.