Overview & Scrutiny Committee Joint Chairs Report

Executive Summary

1. This report provides an update on recent Overview & Scrutiny activity across the Council.

Key Points for Consideration

A) Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Performance Monitoring
At the Committee’s meeting on 18th June 2019, members considered a report which detailed the progress at the end of quarter 4 (31st March 2019) towards achievements of the targets contained in the Resources Directorate Plan 2018/2019 and in the Neighbourhoods Directorate Plan 2018/19.

The Committee at this meeting also scrutinised reports of the Chief Finance Officer relating to delegated Approvals in 2018/18; the Collection Fund outturn report 2018/19 and the Financial Outturn report 2018/19.

Future activity
The Committee is due to receive a report at the July meeting, for the first time, scrutinising the Township Funds and will be scrutinising matters appertaining to the organisation’ human resource provision: Health related Absences; Workforce Wellbeing; and Employment Equality.

B) Health Schools and Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Policy Development

The Scrutiny committee received a very a pleasing report informing us of the possible siting of three new schools in the borough. One of which would be the new Special School to be possibly built in Heywood, pending a further report after the due diligence exercise and the proposed Heads of Term have been negotiated.
Committee members also received a report detailing the 'outlining work' of the Greater Manchester Suicide Prevention Group which will be reviewed again at a future meeting. The report highlighted the improved results within the Borough, compared to our fellow Greater Manchester Boroughs.

Performance Monitoring
At the Committee’s meeting on 26th June 2019, members considered a report which detailed the progress at the end of quarter 4 (31st March 2019) towards achievements of the targets contained in the Directorate Plans 2018/2019, relating to Children’s, Adults and Public Health Services. The Committee at this meeting also scrutinised a report which details the numbers of social care related complaints that had been received in the third and fourth quarters of 2018/19.

On 16th April Members of the Committee visited the facilities at Nye Bevan House, Rochdale, and we were impressed by the unstinting professionalism of the staff and the breadth and range of services that are on offer at this facility. The Committee will soon be visiting the Birch Hill Hospital Site for a follow-up visit regarding services that are provided by Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust.

Future activity
The Committee’s next meeting in September promises to be an interesting and varied gathering with presentations regarding the work of the Northern Care Alliance; the Community Connectors Service (which Members will recall from Township Committee presentations approximately 12 months ago); and an update on the Council’s partnership with Link4Life.

My thanks go to all my committee members and officers who give up endless hours at these very important scrutiny sessions

C) Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Policy Development
On 6th June 2019, Members of the Committee (together with Councillors Dutton, O’Rourke and Rush) held a most productive meeting with Mr Hall from the Post Office regarding the Post Office’s proposals for the future operation of Heywood and Middleton Post Offices – further to the Motion on this matter that was debated and approved by the Council at its meeting on 26th March 2019.

Performance Monitoring
At the Committee’s meeting on 20th June 2019, members considered a report which detailed the progress at the end of quarter 4 (31st March 2019) towards achievements of the targets contained in the Directorate Plans 2018/2019, relating to Neighbourhoods and Economy Directorates.

The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods report which detailed the applications received, successful awards and the annual spend of the Discretionary Crisis Fund.

The Committee received a presentation updating on the Integrated Place Work project which involved a group of workers from different public services and third sector
organisations who worked together in a particular area. The team was led by Rochdale Borough Council. The team includes a number of organisations (such as RBH, Police and the Fire and Rescue Service).

Future activity
The Committee is committed to monitoring the future regeneration projects across the Borough including developments regarding Rochdale Market, the Riverside retail development, RBH’s proposals to develop College Bank in Rochdale and their general ‘lettings policy’ (in this regard the Committee looks forward to meeting the RBH Chief Executive, Mr Swarbrick, at our next meeting in September), proposals for renewable energy including affordably sourced local supplies (which we have commissioned as a study group) and the ‘Junction 19’ proposals in and around Heywood.

1. Councillor M. Holly – Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2. Councillor R. Dutton – Chair of Health, Schools and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
3. Councillor D. Meredith – Chair of Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee