
RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 4th November, 2021

Present: Councillors Carole Haythornthwaite, Michael Hindley, Patrick McGinley, Andrew Clegg, Tim O'Kane and Michael Miller, Paddy Short (Chair)
Co-optees: Doug Hayes, Bernard Dawson

In Attendance: Councillor Paul Cox, Steve Riley

Apologies: Councillor Noordad Aziz and Stephen Button

165 Apologies for absence, Substitutions, Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Apologies were received from Councillor Noordad Aziz and Stephen Button, Co-optee.

166 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 9th September 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Resolved - That the minutes be received and approved as a correct record.

167 Appointment of Co-optees

The Scrutiny and Policy Officer submitted a report to inform the Committee of the approval of the proposed Co-optees by Full Council as set out in the report. Members were asked to note the appointments of Doug Hayes, Bernard Dawson and Stephen Button. The Chair welcomed the new co-optees to the Committee.

The Scrutiny and Policer Officer informed the Committee that as three co-optees had been appointed, there remained one vacancy. The Chair nominated Paul Barton to fill this vacancy.

Resolved - That the Committee nominates Paul Barton as Co-optee to the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and asks that Council approve the nomination.

168 Waste and Recycling Update

The Deputy Leader (Environmental Services) Councillor Paul Cox, and Executive Director (Environment) reported to the Committee on Waste and Recycling.

The report covered the following:

- Service provision during the pandemic
- National indicators
- Local authority waste and recycling statistics
- Other services

- External funding
- Future plans
- Legislation

The Committee received responses to the following questions, which were submitted in in advance of the meeting:

1. There has been reports of other nearby local authorities dealing with a shortage of waste collection drivers. Has this affected Hyndburn in anyway?
2. What more can the service do to support the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration?
3. Paragraph 3.3.4 explains a potential issue with switching to electric vehicles in terms of disposal of waste at the tip. Can you provide more detail on this?
4. Is there any update on the letter to the sentencing Council mentioned in paragraph 3.4.1 regarding fly tipping?
5. Paragraph 3.4.7 mentions secondary legislation regarding the environment bill. How will this affect the Council?
6. Several Councillors have received complaints from residents regarding some grass areas which are no longer cut by the Council. These areas can become targeted by fly tippers. How does the Council review its grass cutting scheme? Is there scope for adding new areas to be cut? Warwick Avenue is an example of an area which was previously cut by the Council, but is no longer.

Councillors asked follow up questions on the following topics:

- Collection of food waste
- Collection of bulky waste, were it was clarified that Hyndburn is one of the only authorities in the country who provide this service for free
- Climate change, were difficulty procuring suitable electric collection vehicles was discussed, as there are currently no suitable options on the market, though switching the fleet to electric does remain a medium term priority
- Side waste and how this effects recycling figures
- Waste analysis – the portfolio holder highlighted that the Council needs help with this. Under current legislation, Hyndburn is the collection authority. Once waste it collected, it becomes the responsibility of LCC who are the disposal authority. Therefore, any analysis of waste needs support from LCC. Councillors Haythornthwaite and Miller offered to raise this and other issues discussed in their roles as County Councillors.
- Green technology including EV alternatives such as hydrogen
- Direct recycling of bulky waste (E.g. furniture which is still usable). It was reported that discussions had been held with a local charity regarding this but had not progressed. The Committee asked that the Executive Director revisit this.

Resolved - That the report be noted, and;

That the Executive Director (Environment) is asked to consider options for the redistribution of bulky waste items with local charities.

169 Local Economic Impact of Covid-19

The Scrutiny and Policy Officer submitted a report which provided information on changes in local economic data over the course of the pandemic. The Officer explained that this data

was based on desktop research of publically available data from DWP, National Statistics, Lancashire Insights and the Councils own internal information.

Councillors had received regular updates over the course of the pandemic on Covid-19, but this was generally health related data, infection and vaccination rates etc. Members had requested information on the effects on the local economy.

The report covered the following:

- Furlough
- Benefit Claims
- Unemployment
- Jobs and earnings
- New businesses
- Retail site vacancies
- Business grants
- Test and Trace Support Payments
- Children in low income households
- House Prices

Committee members discussed their role in supporting local economic development, and it was suggested that this be added as an agenda item for a future meeting.

Councillors asked if there was any evidence of abuse of business grants, and if so, what actions have been taken to recover losses. The Scrutiny and Policy Officer will make enquiries with the relevant service.

Resolved - That the report be noted, and;
That Economic Development is considered as a future agenda item for this Committee.

Signed:.....

Date:

Chair of the meeting
At which the minutes were confirmed