

Focus

This annual report provides an overview of the work carried out by Scrutiny during the Municipal Year 2015/2016.

In 2015/2016 a new Scrutiny structure based on two committees was introduced to promote an increased focus on the Council's two priorities: The Economy: maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool *and* Communities: creating stronger communities and increasing resilience. Alongside the new structure, a new culture of effective questioning and challenge of Executive Members, Senior Officers and key priorities and performance has been developed.

The change in structure and culture has made a huge impact to the way in which scrutiny is undertaken in Blackpool with more challenge being provided than ever before.

Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee

The Committee has considered a number of key issues, including Child Sexual Exploitation, Social Care Placements, Mental Health provision and Respite Care alongside more general reporting from both Children's and Adult's Services on a regular basis.

In addition the Committee has held three special meetings. Two of these meetings have been focused on The Harbour, where Members have raised a number of concerns with Lancashire Care Foundation Trust regarding the provision of services to patients, lack of bed capacity in the mental health sector and lack of community provision.

The third meeting was a joint meeting with Members of the Tourism, Economy and Resources Committee due to the cross cutting nature of the items being considered. Thematic discussions on Homelessness and Domestic Violence were held resulting in recommendations to undertake further scrutiny of the health of homeless people and the Domestic Violence Strategy.

The Committee also undertook the statutory health scrutiny function receiving regular reports on topics such as performance from the Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group, Blackpool Hospitals Trust and Healthwatch.

Scrutiny @ Blackpool

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

The Committee has successfully undertaken its role to scrutinise the functions and responsibilities within the portfolios of the Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council. Cabinet Members and senior officers have been held to account in terms of both decisions taken and proposed Key decisions.

Members have developed a focus on scrutinising relevant performance information to ensure that targets are met in order to improve outcomes in areas including Waste Services and Street Cleansing, Transience, Tourism and Car Parking.

The Committee has effectively undertaken its role in financial management monitoring as well as considering the calculated cumulative impact of budget cuts in Blackpool since 2011/2012. The Committee also held a Budget Consultation meeting with Non-Domestic Ratepayers and Trade Union Representatives to consider the budget proposals for 2016/2017.

With regards to the Committee's statutory responsibility, the performance of the Community Safety Partnership has been regularly scrutinised and officers and Members of the Partnership have been held to account.

The Committee has also undertaken its statutory scrutiny duty to consider the delivery of flood risk management and other duties in respect of bathing water management.

Looking Forward 2016/2017

A new Health Scrutiny Committee has been introduced to ensure effective scrutiny of health bodies and concerns in Blackpool. The Committee is developing its workplan to ensure a focused approach to scrutiny of health and will be continuing with the work the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee started on The Harbour.

The remit of the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee has been amended following the removal of Health Scrutiny and as such will have the capacity to focus on the effective scrutiny of Children's and Adults Services. The Committee hopes to hold a number of thematic discussions on key areas including Care at Home, Early Help and the Youth Justice System. Further joint pieces of work will be undertaken, as appropriate, moving forward.

The Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee will continue to monitor the financial performance of the authority, as well as monitoring performance of the Community Safety Partnership, Tourism, Council-owned Car Parks, Waste Services and Street Cleansing. The Committee will also look to embed scrutiny of the Council Plan in relation to the Council Priority: "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool".

Pupil Referral Unit Scrutiny Review Panel



The Review Panel was established following concerns raised by the Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee regarding the size of the Pupil Referral Unit in Blackpool. A single meeting was held to gather evidence and speak to appropriate officers and was a number of conclusions and recommendations were drawn to make improvements, all of which were accepted by the Executive.

Recommendations included providing a consistent approach to school exclusions and providing educational diversity in every school.

The Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee has been monitoring the implementation of the recommendations and is pleased with the progress made to date.

Public Health Scrutiny Review Panel

The Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee considered that there were a large number of issues raised in the Public Health Annual Report, which required more detailed consideration and so agreed to establish a Review Panel. The Panel considered the wider determinants of health, targets and priorities moving forward, the revised Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Draft Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy.

The Panel considered that there was a significant amount of work being planned and undertaken to adequately try to address the findings in the Public Health Annual Report. Members made a number of recommendations which focused on helping to tackle health inequalities, reactions the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and identified future areas to be scrutinised. The report is subject to Executive approval.

Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages Scrutiny Review Panel



Following a referral from the Public Protection Sub-Committee, a Scrutiny Panel was held to review the Council's policy on licensed horse drawn hackney carriages, following an increase in the number of concerns, including the amount of horse droppings and the standard of driving. The Review Panel came to a number of conclusions and made a number of recommendations to the Executive, all of which were approved. Recommendations included undertaking a full health and safety risk assessment and investigating a potential driving test for operators. The Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee is actively monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

