

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

COMMUNITY PANEL

Report of Chairman

June 30th 2011

The Panel held its first meeting of the Municipal Year in June.

The first item of business was comments on the Work Programme and the only item on the Council's Forward Plan (1st June to 30th September) that Members considered was within the remit of the Panel.

The Forward Plan item was the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan which Members will scrutinise at our next meeting.

In regard to the Work Programme's inclusion of the Community Resource Centre and the Young Persons' Foyer project; the Panel is keen to examine the progress on both these projects and therefore have requested a further report to be received at the July meeting.

Under Neighbourhood Working, the Panel scrutinised the response to last year's Task and Finish Group's report and recommendations. A lengthy discussion with the Portfolio Holders and the Assistant Director took place.

Members were concerned that, although several of the recommendations had been acted upon, there were others about which they wanted further information as to whether they too were being addressed. It was agreed that officers would draw up an action plan and circulate it to the Panel Members in time for its Development Session in July.

The Corporate Monitoring Report for the last quarter of 2010/11 was different in content to previous reports, in that it reported on the work that had taken place on the reconfiguration of Council's Service teams and the outcomes of the review of the Corporate Plan agreed by Council in May last year.

The Members, whilst agreeing that this information was useful to the Panel in that it summarised the work on the changes that had taken place and laid out the new arrangements, will look forward to the 1st quarterly report due in September, which we expect to provide us with a more detailed analysis of actions, together with risk and performance indicators, enabling us to measure the Council's performance in regard to its policy objectives and targets.

The final item for the Panel was an update report on the replacement accommodation for Homeless Women and Families.

After discussion and questions in relation to timetable, funding and the interest Members had in being involved at the design stage of the project, it was resolved that the Panel considered this project should be included in the Council's Corporate Plan and that the Assistant Director report back to the Panel should there be any over run of the timetable plus any consequential financial implications. It was agreed that the project remain in the Work Programme in order that the Panel can continue to examine the progress of this project, for which there is unanimous support.

Councillor Olwyn Luckley
Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.