COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Monday, 18th June 2012

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillor Bea Foster – in the Chair.

Councillors Jonathan Barker, Paul Campbell, Anne Kelly, Andrew Newhouse, Paul Reynolds and Betsy Stringer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Leader of the Council - Councillor Julie Cooper
Councillor John Harbour - Executive Member for Leisure & Culture
Councillor Shah Hussain - Executive Member for Community Services
Councillor Mark Townsend - Executive Member for Resources and Performance Management

OFFICERS

Mick Cartledge - Director of Community Services
Tom Forshaw - Head of Chief Executive’s Office
Joanne Swift - Head of Streetscene
Simon Goff - Head of Green Spaces & Amenities
Gerard Vinton - Head of Sport & Culture
Sharon Hargraves - Head of Customer Services
Saima Afzaal - Assistant Democracy Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Margaret Brindle, Roger Frost and from Steve Rumbelow.

2. Executive’s Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The updated Executive Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period of 1st July – 31st October 2012 was circulated for questions relating to the remit of this Committee.
• Councillor John Harbour provided a brief update on leisure issues within his portfolio, and discussed the progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid to develop Thompson Park.

• Simon Goff updated Members on the Brun Valley Forest Park project. The item was to seek approval for the release of funds within the capital programme.

IT WAS AGREED That the update be noted.

3. Year-end Performance Report 2011/12

Members considered a report which provided an analysis on Council Year end Performance for 2011-12.

Tom Forshaw outlined the year end performance results, focusing on results for those services within the committee’s remit and highlighted the generally upward trend of indicators which were on target.

The following comments were received:-

• The target for Customer Services Passport for Leisure should have been higher.

Gerard Vinton advised that the Council was promoting the take up of more leisure passports in the Contact Centre, by targeting people on benefits. He advised that every effort was being made to ensure realistic targets were set and that the current target would be reconsidered.

• Customer Services – Impact on Council staff re: introduction to the Council Tax Benefit system.

Sharon Hargreaves indicated that the Council anticipated that work load would increase however; different models would be considered estimating the number of residents that would be affected. She highlighted that Members would be informed further into the process.

IT WAS AGREED That the report and comments be noted.

4. Appointment to Information Services Corporate Group

Mick Cartledge explained that there was a place for Member representative to serve on the Information Services Corporate Group for the 2012/13 Municipal Year, and that their involvement was required to facilitate the implementation of the IS Strategy. He highlighted that all meetings would be held during the day.
IT WAS AGREED That Councillor Paul Campbell be appointed to the Information Services Corporate Group for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

5. The Role of Scrutiny 2012-2013

Saima Afzaal outlined the background, preparation and support for Scrutiny Members and highlighted that the scrutiny training session held on 6th June 2012 was an opportunity for all scrutiny Members to look at their priorities and share experiences and knowledge about the process and principles of scrutiny.

She highlighted that the Committee was focussed on recommending improvements in service and making a difference. She also outlined the remit of the Committee which was based on the Strategic Plan 2012/13 as set out relating to Community Directorate.

Members were invited to put forward their ideas for scrutiny and improvement projects during 2012/13 and to consider the work programme for the next meeting.

The following projects were identified by Members as priorities for the Committee to be considered during 2012/13.

- Playing fields - to consider a review to improve the condition of some existing playing fields in the Borough.

Simon Goff indicated that this area of work would be looked at within the Green Spaces Strategy which would be reported to this Committee to identify any potential areas for action.

- Burnley Community Strategy - to ensure that the Community was involved in participating and consultation.

- Improve Education Attainment - by working closely with the Education Trust and its partners, to gain knowledge on how the Education Trust worked and the Council’s role within the Trust.

- Residents Engagement - to review the engagement work, whether it was sustainable to continue to provide the service, and to consider issues including attendance at meetings and the potential costs involved.

Councillor Julie Cooper indicated that the Executive was looking at the Council’s Engagement Strategy and further discussions were on going with the Executive Member for Community Services on this area of work and Mike Waite. She added that regular updates would be available to this Committee.
• Children & Young Peoples Plan – to ensure that participation was inclusive of young people in the borough.

Mick Cartledge advised that the Children and Young People’s Plan was reported to this Committee and regular updates would continue to be reported to future meetings of this Committee.

A further discussion took place on some of the ideas for potential Reviews / improvements put forward by Members and it was decided that some of the items identified be considered for the next meeting to determine future area of work.

The Chair proposed that a review to consider Education Attainment be explored.

IT WAS AGREED

(1) That a Working Group be set up to scope a Review on Education Attainment, consisting of Councillors; Bea Foster, Anne Kelly and Paul Reynolds, and that Saima Afzaal would contact Members to arrange a meeting.

(2) That the work programme for the next meeting be agreed as set out below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE OF MEETING</th>
<th>AREAS TO BE CONSIDERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07/08/2012</td>
<td>• Green Spaces Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Update on Community Engagement Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Update on Children and Young People’s Trust</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Draft responses to the Health Consultation

Mick Cartledge presented the draft responses for Members comments to the following health consultations held on 12th June 2012 :-

• East Lancashire NHS Hospital Trust’s proposals for Foundation Status
• NHS East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group Strategic Plan
• The Lancashire Emerging Health and Well-being Strategy

The following comments were received:-

• How would performance be measured? There was no evidence of any targets set.
• That services should be joined up and working together
• It was essential to have democratic accountability by appointing elected representatives to the Commissioning Group.

• To ensure that targeted support would continue to be available in deprived areas of the borough.

**IT WAS AGREED**

(1) That the above comments be included in the final response to the Health Consultation which would be agreed in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Chair of Community Services Committee to the Health Consultation.