

# **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2008–09**



**The work of Overview and Scrutiny at  
Hyndburn Borough Council from  
May 2008 – May 2009**

**June, 2009**

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### APPENDIX

Table demonstrating how Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn Borough Council has contributed to the Council’s Corporate Priorities.

## FOREWORD



**Councillor Doug Hayes (pictured above left) and Councillor Brian Walmsley, the Chairs of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee respectively.**

The last 12 months has seen further progress in the development of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Hyndburn Borough Council. The new structure of two Overview and Scrutiny Committees, with the ability to appoint time limited task and finish Scrutiny Panels that was introduced at the start of the Municipal Year, has further assisted scrutiny in moving forward and meeting the challenges of the modernising local government agenda.

Hyndburn is justifiably proud of its non-partisan and cross-party approach it has adopted for the delivery of the Overview and Scrutiny function. We are both pleased to say that once again, the hard work of Councillors, Officers and other partners has once again contributed to Scrutiny's success.

The major challenge for the year ahead now lies in implementing and delivering the new legislative requirements for Overview and Scrutiny contained in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007 and other legislation.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone involved in 2008/09 for their support in helping to make it another successful year for Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn Borough Council.

### **Councillor Doug Hayes**

Chair,  
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
2008/09 Municipal Year

### **Councillor Brian Walmsley**

Chair,  
Communities and Well-Being  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
2008/09 Municipal Year

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Annual Report details the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn Borough Council during the period May 2008 to May 2009.

At the Council Annual General Meeting in May, 2008, the Council agreed a new structure for the delivery of Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn. This included the establishment of two politically balanced Overview and Scrutiny Committees of eight Members.

The internally focused Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprised five Conservative and three Labour Members. Its Work Programme for the past twelve months has included the regular review of Performance Information; scrutiny of Internal Service Plans; Budget Monitoring; and the consideration and review of reports on a number of internal services throughout the year.

The externally focused Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprised four Conservative, one Independent and three Labour Members. The Committee's remit included the ability to look at any issue that affected the social, economic and/or environmental well-being of the area. Work programme items considered during the year included the progress and challenges of the PubWatch scheme (Lancashire Constabulary) and a presentation on the work and future plans of the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust.

During the course of the 2008/09 Municipal Year, and in accordance with the Council's Constitutional Procedures, two Scrutiny Panels (time-limited task and finish groups) were appointed. The Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee appointed a Scrutiny Panel which undertook a review of the delivery of Neighbourhood Management in the Borough and its relationship with the Area Council's structure. The Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee appointed a Panel which examined the state of the canal in the Hyndburn Borough and produced a report with several findings and recommendations.

Council also provided a budget of £1,000 to assist the further development of Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn during the course of the past 12 months.

The purpose of this annual report is to describe:

- the approach to Overview and Scrutiny adopted at Hyndburn;
- the work of the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the Municipal Year;
- health scrutiny;
- training events/overview and scrutiny networks;
- and suggestions for 2009-10

## **Overview and Scrutiny: Summary of meetings 2008/09**

Total Committee Meetings: 15

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings: 9\*

Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings: 6

Total Work Programme topics examined by the Committees: 34 (***excluding standing/constitutional procedural items***\*\*):

Scrutiny Panels: 2 (one Panel met on 9 occasions, the other met on 4 occasions)

Hyndburn Borough Council also had a non-voting co-opted representative (Councillor Paul Barton) appointed to the Lancashire County Council's Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

### Notes

\* Including two extraordinary meetings, one following a 'Call-In' which considered a decision made (but that had not been implemented) by Cabinet relating to the sponsorship of Accrington Stanley Football Club; the other meeting received and approved the final report of the Scrutiny Panel – Neighbourhood Management.

\*\* Standing/constitutional procedural items considered at Ordinary meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during 2008/09 are detailed below:-

- apologies for absence, declarations of interest, disclosure of whip, dispensations and substitutions;
- minutes of meetings;
- responses of the Cabinet to reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- the Committees current Work Programmes (along with a copy of the latest edition of the Council's Forward Plan);
- Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan – progress report (submitted to the first, third and fifth ordinary meetings of both Committees);
- update on Committees decisions and recommendations (submitted to the second and fourth ordinary meetings of both Committees);
- Council budget monitoring report (submitted to each ordinary meeting of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee);

- Consideration of the appointment of a Scrutiny Panel (Ad-hoc – to any ordinary meeting of the relevant Committee);
- referrals of consultations etc from Cabinet and/or Council not included on either Committees Work Programmes (Ad-Hoc).

## **APPROACH TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AT HYNDBURN**

### **Work Programme**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members developed their work programmes at a workshop held as part of the first meeting of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2008. This set out items the Committees intended to focus on during the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

The Work Programmes were developed using a set of 9 key questions to help with the selection of topics. These questions were used by the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Committee to prioritise work programme items.

Overview and Scrutiny items considered during the year were also selected from Cabinet agenda and minutes, the Forward Plan and issues raised by Members or by the Public.

### **Criteria for Selecting Work Programme Items**

1. Is this topic a key priority for the Council? (e.g. as identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Strategy).
2. Is this topic important to the public? (e.g. are Members aware of public concern, has the issue been raised at Area Councils, has it been raised via public consultation?).
3. Is there evidence of poor performance or value for money concerns which Overview and Scrutiny should investigate? (e.g. from performance information, external and internal audit reports etc).
4. Does the Council spend a significant proportion of its budget on this issue?
5. Is this issue important to Members?

6. Is anyone else already looking at this issue? (i.e. is it really necessary for Overview and Scrutiny to spend time on this?).
7. Is this the right time to look at this issue? (e.g. is it about to change anyway?).
8. Will the time spent on this item be worthwhile? (e.g. can Overview and Scrutiny really make a contribution to this issue?).
9. Is there scope to involve the public, voluntary groups or other organisations in this topic?

### **Working Methods**

In examining Work Programme topics, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees adopted a flexible approach which varied depending on the nature of the issue being considered. Most of the topics were considered as 'one-off' investigations at a meeting, whilst others (such as the work of the Scrutiny Panels) were considered over several meetings and included site visits and in-depth research.

Some of the approaches which have been used over the year include:

- routinely inviting Cabinet Members to be questioned by the Committees on specific topics relating to their portfolios;
- inviting external organisations to submit reports and give presentations to the Committees;
- obtaining evidence from expert witnesses, such as the Black Health Agency on the progress of the newly created Local Improvement Networks (LINKs); Lancashire Constabulary on the PubWatch scheme; and the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust on its recent achievements, challenges and future plans.
- The Committees have sought to adopt a fair and constructive approach in running Overview and Scrutiny meetings. This has involved, for example, providing attendees at meetings with a list of advance questions formulated by Overview and Scrutiny Members at "agendas planning" meetings. The agenda planning meetings are usually held approximately a week before the Committee meeting, at which Overview and Scrutiny Members meet and develop their formal lines of enquiry and formulated any advance questions for topic(s) under consideration.

Overview and Scrutiny Members also agreed to adhere to the following principles when questioning individuals. Cabinet Members and other invitees have been asked for their feedback on how far these principles were adhered to during 2008-09.

## **Overview and Scrutiny Principles**

The Committee will exercise the following principles when conducting its business:

1. At all times adhere to the Code of Conduct for Members and the protocol for Member/Officer relations.
2. To treat people fairly and with respect and be constructive, especially when challenging people.
3. To seek consensus on the best solutions irrespective of party politics.
4. To be open and transparent.
5. To look for continuous improvement rather than blame.
6. To be inclusive and democratic.
7. To communicate well and constantly.
8. To make best use of available resources.
9. To ensure equality of opportunity.
10. To allow Portfolio holders when present to deal with questions and facilitate officer input when under scrutiny.

# **RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **Membership 2008/09 Municipal Year**

<p><b>Councillor D Hayes (Chair)</b> <b>Councillor J Liddle (Vice-Chair)</b> <b>Councillor M Ayub</b> <b>Councillor P Gott</b> <b>Councillor S Horne</b> <b>Councillor J Lockwood</b> <b>Councillor K Pratt</b> <b>Councillor J Smith</b></p>
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## **RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Membership: 8 Non-Executive Councillors

Number of meetings: 9

The Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee's remit over the year included monitoring the performance of Council services and making suggestions for service improvements; monitoring the Council's budgetary position throughout the year; advising in respect of possible efficiency savings and steps required to address any projected budget deficit; and assisting with the development and review of Council policies and services, including those delivered in partnership.

The Committee was made up of Councillors D Hayes (Chair), J Liddle (Vice-Chair), M Ayub, P Gott, S Horne, J Lockwood, K Pratt and J Smith.

The Committee's terms of reference were as follows:

### **Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Main Terms of Reference**

1. To monitor the performance of Council services and make suggestions for service improvements.
2. To consider the Cabinet's proposals to achieve a balanced budget in advance of the budget being determined by Council.
3. To monitor the Council's budgetary position throughout the year and advise in respect of possible efficiency savings and steps required to address any projected budget deficit.
3. To monitor and oversee Best Value Reviews and to monitor implementation of Service Improvement Plans.
4. To monitor and oversee the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process and development and implementation of any Improvement Plan.
5. To assist with the development and review of Council policies and services, including those delivered in partnership.

### **Corporate Performance Information – 2007-08 End of Year Performance Report**

The Committee scrutinised a report of the Portfolio Holder (the Leader of the Council) which provided performance figures against national Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's) and other key performance indicators for the 2007-08 Municipal Year. Consideration was also given to a compendium of all the BVPI's the Council was required to collect and report in 2007/08.

The Corporate Performance information was used to assist the Overview and Scrutiny Committees develop and prioritise their work programmes and also provided additional information to support the consideration of reports from Service Areas and Partnerships.

### **Departmental Service Plans**

The Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in undertaking its performance monitoring role, considered, reviewed and commented on Departmental Service Plans throughout the course of the year. In addition, a six monthly progress report against each Service Plan, including details of any significant variances and a forward look was considered at the November, 2008 meeting of the Committee.

The Service Plans detailed the aims and objectives of each Service Area and how they proposed to meet their aims and objectives over the next 12 months. Comments and suggestions made on several of the Service Plans were fed back to Service Managers. Progress continues to be monitored by scrutiny through the receipt of six monthly updates on all the Service Plans.

### **Budget Monitoring**

The Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as a standing item at ordinary meetings, monitored the Council's budgetary position throughout the year and advised in respect of any projected deficit. Members scrutinised the reports and questioned the Portfolio Holder (Finance) on the budgetary position at each meeting and made a number of comments to Cabinet throughout the course of the Municipal Year on the budget.

### **Duty to Involve Regulations and Project Plan**

Under the Duty to Involve Regulations, which came into force in April, 2009, Councils must as a minimum requirement, inform people about services, and should consult, involve or devolve when appropriate.

During the course of 2008/09, the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee helped to shape how the Council complied with the duty. In June, 2008 the Committee was informed of the Regulations, and in July, 2008 and January, 2009 received further update reports and commented on the Council's approach to and Implementation of the Duty to Involve Project Plan. In addition, Members of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee also worked informally with the Council's Policy, Partnerships and Performance Team in helping to shape how the Council complied with the duty.

### **Planning Section – Improving Planning Performance (Matter arising from the Annual Audit and Inspection letter, March 2008)**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Leader of the Council (Community Services) relating to actions being taken to improve the performance of the Planning Service. The Annual Audit and Inspection letter of March, 2008 made reference to the poor performance of the planning service in 2006/07 and acknowledged that the Council had recognised improvements were needed and that specific measures would need to be undertaken to reverse a decline in performance.

The Committee questioned the Portfolio Holder on the report and welcomed the improvements/actions set out in Improvement Plans produced for the Development Control and Plans and Environment Services sections; along with the continued focus of the planning service on achieving improvements against national and local indicators that were used to measure performance.

Following consideration of this topic, Members made recommendations relating to the Scheme of Delegation and a Development Control Performance Quarterly Newsletter and resolved to continue monitor progress on improving performance again in the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

**Partnership and Performance between Hyndburn and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Councils**

The Committee, at its meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, considered a report of the Portfolio Holder (the Leader of the Council) on the current work programme and the progress, challenges, achievements and future plans of the partnership between Hyndburn and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Councils. The report primarily focused on the services being delivered in the work areas for community safety, housing market renewal, regeneration projects, strategic projects, economic regeneration and future plans for developing the partnership. The Committee welcomed the continued progress of the Partnership and the joint working being undertaken which was making a real difference to the delivery of Council services to the people of Hyndburn.

**Hyndburn Borough Council – Draft Corporate Strategy (Policy Review / Development) (Matter arising from the Annual Audit and Inspection letter, March 2008)**

At the Committee's September, 2008 meeting, the Head of Policy, Partnerships and Performance presented a report on the draft Corporate Strategy and gave a presentation on the actions needed by the Council in relation to matters arising from the Annual Audit and Inspection letter. It was pointed out that the ultimate aim of the Strategy was to move Hyndburn out of the bottom 100 most deprived areas index.

The Committee commented on the draft Corporate Strategy and specifically on those areas identified for improvement following the recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment in relation to the need for clearer arbitration of priorities and closer integration of financial projects and programme management.

**Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 - update**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Leader of the Council (Environmental Protection) which updated Members on how incidences of fly-tipping were dealt with, the impact of the smoking ban in Hyndburn, and on how chewing gum removal was managed by the Council. Details of the number, incidences and type of waste collection incidences that had occurred during 2007/08 were also discussed. A resident who attended this meeting sought and received a response in relation to his enquiry relating to the enforcement regime for fly-tipping incidents and waste management in the Woodnook area.

### **Floral Markets Town Initiative**

The Committee deferred consideration of a report submitted on this matter at its November, 2008 meeting to allow for further details and costings of schemes to be provided.

The Leader of the Council subsequently presented a more detailed report on the 2008/09 Floral Markets Town Initiative at the January, 2009 meeting of the Committee and commented on the various levels of involvement / non-involvement of individual Area Councils. He also outlined scheme enhancements and extensions, talked about the canal corridor and discussed the need for private businesses to be encouraged to become more involved in the Initiative.

Arising from this review, the Committee endorsed a suggestion of the Leader that it would be helpful if the Council placed more emphasis in persuading private sector businesses, such as Banks, to become more involved in supporting the Floral Markets Town Initiative and for the Area Councils team to become more pro-active, through their work in the communities, to encourage more businesses to become involved in the Initiative.

### **Progress towards achieving Level 3 of the Equality Standards (Action Needed by the Council - Matter arising from the Annual Audit and Inspection letter, March 2008)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion on the Council's progress towards achieving Level 3 of the Equality Standards.

The Committee was informed that the Trades Unions had been consulted and involved in the progress being made towards achieving Level 3 and enquired and was informed about the 'quality control' methods the Council had in place to demonstrate it was meeting the criteria for achievement of Level 3 Standard. The Head of Human Resources also responded to the Committee's questions relating to the introduction of or change to policy, procedures, working practice or service consultation and future monitoring.

The Committee welcomed the progress that had been achieved to date and, in recognising the importance of the work the Council was undertaking towards achieving Level 3 of the Equality Standard resolved to monitor progress during the 2009/10 Municipal Year

### **The role and remit of the Council's Organisational Development section**

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Asset Management and Markets submitted a report on the organisational development function in Human Resources. The Committee focused on the contents of the Corporate Training Organisational Development Plan 2008/09; review of targets; the assessment and evaluation of actual outcomes; and ascertained the reasons for actions taken and where outcomes had not been met.

### **The role and function of the Civic Services Office**

The Committee considered a report which provided information on the role and function of the Civic Services Office within Hyndburn Borough Council. The funding and operation of the Mayor's Office and the Mayoral Charitable Fund; the costs and energy efficiency of the Mayoral car; and the role of the Deputy Mayor were scrutinised in-depth.

### **Accrington Market Hall Refurbishment – Progress Report**

The Committee received a report on progress to date with regard to the refurbishment of Accrington's Market Hall. Questions were asked of the Portfolio Holder on the types of businesses that would be located in the upstairs part of the new market hall; the number of units in the market, and enquired when the refurbishment works would be completed.

### **Cemeteries and Crematorium – Progress and Future Plans**

The Committee received a report from the portfolio holder for Environmental Protection which focused on recent success stories, challenges and future plans for the Cemeteries and Crematorium service. Questions were asked of the Portfolio Holder and the Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager on the operation of the service.

Arising from consideration of this topic, the Committee made a number of recommendations to Cabinet which it was felt would assist the service to meet its future challenges. Cabinet subsequently resolved to refer all the recommendations to the Council's Capital Programme Working Group for further consideration.

### **Fleet Vehicle Leasing, Processes, Procedures and Associated Matters**

The Committee received a report from the Deputy Leader of the Council (Environmental Protection) which focused on providing Members with a better understanding of the vehicle financing and procurement procedures.

In reviewing this topic, the Committee felt it needed more statistical information on the vehicle financing and procurement aspects of the report and resolved to add to its work programme a request for a more detailed report on this matter in the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

### **Scrutiny on Neighbourhood Management in Hyndburn**

The Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules in the Constitution allow for the appointment of one Scrutiny Panel (a time-limited task and finish group) by each Committee at any time.

The Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee appointed a Scrutiny Panel to undertake a scrutiny review of Neighbourhood Management in Hyndburn, including how its work linked in with the Area Council's Structure.

The Scrutiny Panel met on nine occasions and its membership comprised of Councillors Hayes (Chair), Ayub, Gott, Liddle, Pratt and Smith. The Panel's report, detailing its findings and recommendations, was received and accepted at an Extraordinary meeting of the Committee in April, 2009. Cabinet's response to the Panel's findings and recommendations is awaited.

During the course of this Scrutiny Panel work, the Leader of the Council, in March, 2009, presented to Cabinet a report, informing members that he had initiated a review of the Area Councils function, in the context of the development of neighbourhood management in parts of the Borough. It was explained that the intention was to remove duplication in those areas with neighbourhood management areas and to redistribute the revenue budgets and officer support currently provided for Area Councils in those areas, taking into consideration the funding which is provided for Neighbourhood Management.

## **Call-In Procedure**

The Call-In procedure is an important part of the Overview and Scrutiny role. It provides a check and balance on decisions made (but not yet implemented by the Cabinet). Non-Executive Members can Call-In a decision (subject to meeting the Constitutional criteria for Call-In) if it is felt that a decision requires further consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee can review the decision itself or refer back any decision taken by the Cabinet for consideration or by the body or person who made it.

One matter was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2008/09 as a result of being Called-In:-

### **Extraordinary Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Call-In meeting**

#### **Sponsorship of Accrington Stanley Football Club (18<sup>th</sup> December, 2008)**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, Cabinet resolved to give approval for the Council to enter into a sponsorship arrangement with Accrington Stanley Football Club for the 2008/09; 2009/10 and 2010/11 football seasons at a cost of £27,900 per season. A resolution was also made instructing Officers to undertake a feasibility study into the possibility of enhanced community use at Bullough Park by partnership working with Accrington Stanley football club, including the lease of part of the park to Accrington Stanley football club with a report back to Cabinet upon completion of the study.

In accordance with the Call-In Procedure for Cabinet Decisions, the procedure was activated, the reasons being that the sponsor and another Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt the Cabinet decision was 'an inappropriate use of Council resources and that this resource should be used to regenerate and upgrade football pitches that have suffered a lack of investment throughout the Borough'

Arising from the Call-In meeting, the Cabinet decision relating to the sponsorship of Accrington Stanley Football Club was released in full for implementation. In releasing the decision, the Leader of the Council however offer Overview and Scrutiny members the opportunity to request him to give publicity to, and focus on, by means of a full page advert in the local press, the activities of local amateur football teams in the Borough. The Chair of the Committee, following consultation with the Committee, subsequently wrote to the Leader of the Council to accept his offer.

The issue as to whether the Chaigley Trust, a local registered charity, should be contacted about the possibility of the Trust supporting local sports/playing pitch facilities in the Borough, including allowing such organisations to apply for Capital

funding from the Trust was discussed and it was agreed that the representatives of the Trust would be invited to a future Cabinet and/or Overview and Scrutiny meeting to talk about their work and future plans.

In relation to Councillor Grayson's request for a feasibility study to be undertaken to identify the condition of all the football pitches in the Borough, the Deputy Managing Director reported that the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy was to be reviewed. Members requested that Overview and Scrutiny and Councillor Grayson be kept informed of the outcome of the review in relation to football playing pitches in the Borough.

**Budget Scrutiny - Council Budget 2009-10 (Considered at the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2009).**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members questioned the Leader of the Council in detail on the Cabinet's Budget proposals at the meeting of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny (Budget) Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2009.

Following the meeting, the recommendations of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting were considered at the Council (Budget) meeting alongside the Cabinet's Budget proposals.

The Opposition Group, for the first time, accepted the opportunity to put forward their budgetary proposals for scrutiny which were considered by the Committee. The four Independent Members on the Council also jointly submitted a document outlining their budgetary proposals for 2009/10.

Council, at its Budget meeting, gave consideration to the Opposition and Independent Members budgetary ideas, before agreeing the Budget for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

**Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee:  
Summary of Activities 2008-09**

**Committee Meetings: 9**

**Total topics examined: 45** (16 Work Programme topics; 29 standing/constitutional procedural items)

**In-depth Scrutiny Reviews: 1**

**Call-ins: 1**

# **COMMUNITIES AND WELL-BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **Membership 2008/09 Municipal Year**

**Councillor B Walmsley (Chair)**  
**Councillor J Storey (Vice-Chair)**  
**Councillor R Atkinson**  
**Councillor N Collingridge**  
**Councillor B Dawson**  
**Councillor H Grayson**  
**Councillor S Haworth**  
**Councillor C McCormack**

## **COMMUNITIES AND WELL-BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Membership: 8 Non-Executive Councillors

Number of meetings: 5

The Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee's remit over the year included monitoring the implementation of Hyndburn's Community Strategy and the achievement of Community Strategy targets and objectives; monitoring the performance of external service providers; the impact of those services on the well-being of the Borough; reviewing and scrutinising matters relating to the health service in Hyndburn; and monitoring progress in respect of the development of sustainable communities, including neighbourhood management and housing market renewal.

The Committee was made up of Councillors B Walmsley (Chair), J Storey (Vice-Chair), R Atkinson, N Collingridge, B Dawson, H Grayson, S Haworth and C McCormack.

### **Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Main Terms of Reference**

1. To monitor implementation of Hyndburn's Community Strategy and the achievement of Community Strategy targets and objectives.
2. To monitor the implementation of the Council's policies and strategies in respect of community safety and promote community safety across the Council's policies and services.
3. To monitor the performance of external public service providers, the impact of those services on the well-being of the borough and the contribution of those services to the achievement of Community Strategy objectives.
4. To review and scrutinise and to make reports and recommendations on matters relating to the health service in Hyndburn.
5. To monitor progress in respect of the development of Sustainable Communities, including neighbourhood management and housing market renewal.
6. To conduct investigations and report in respect of issues affecting the wellbeing of the Borough or particular areas of the Borough.

### **Patient and Public Involvement – Local Improvement Networks (LINKs)**

The Committee received a presentation from Susan Wilson of the Black Horse Agency that raised awareness and explained the role and remit of Local Improvement Networks (LINKs), which brought together Health and Adult Social Care for the first time.

The Local Involvement Networks were Independent networks of local people, organisations and groups set up in England to give communities a stronger voice in how their health and social care services were delivered. It was also explained that one of the purposes of the LINKs was to enable local people to shape services, whether provided in the hospital, the community or peoples homes.

Arising from consideration of this topic, the Committee welcomed the development of the Lancashire LINK and resolved to receive a report on its progress in 12 months' time. LINKs members would be invited to attend that meeting, along with the Council's appointed representative to Lancashire County Council's Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (ELPCT)**

Dr J. Haworth, Medical Director and Director of Health Standards, East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) gave a presentation on the major health priorities for the Trust for the next five years at the Committee's meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2008.

The Committee received information on the Trust's five strategic priorities for the next five years and focused on the "Saving a Million Years of Life" (SMYL) initiative. The key priorities for reducing health inequalities for 2009 including coronary heart disease, drugs and substance misuse, alcohol misuse, infant mortality and geographical inequalities. Consideration was also given to factual information on how health inequalities were being dealt with in East Lancashire, including a multi agency approach and provided information on other key priorities including improving access to dental services.

Members asked several questions on the presentation, including the appointment of Project Managers; education and tackling alcohol misuse; health authority comparisons; dental provision and the monitoring of health in schools.

The constructive dialogue and responses received from the representatives of the PCT was welcomed.

### **Report on proposals to introduce Selective Licensing of Private Landlords**

The Committee received a presentation from the Housing Market Renewal Manager on the introduction of selective licensing of private landlords. It was explained that as part of the 2004 Housing Act the Council could designate part or parts of the Borough for selective licensing of private landlords. Two areas had been identified in the Borough for designation for the selective licensing of private landlords, Church and West Accrington and Peel and Woodnook, each designated area would last for five years.

The Committee raised a number of concerns about the proposals including issues relating to consultation, costs, timescales and staffing.

In response, Members were informed that Accent Regeneration was acting as the Council's consultant with both residents and landlords. It was pointed out that there would be a cost to the implementation of the scheme with the Council and this could be passed onto landlords in the form of a fee which in turn could increase rental costs. Regarding timescales, it was reported that consultations had begun in July, 2008 and it was aimed that the areas would be designated for selective licensing by April, 2009.

### **East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (ELPCT) – Water Fluoridation in East Lancashire – Key Stakeholder Briefing**

Melanie Catleugh, a consultant in Dental Health (ELPCT) gave a presentation to the Committee to inform Members of the process that had been undertaken in the North West to date with regard to water fluoridation. It was stressed that the ELPCT had a neutral stance regarding water fluoridation and her attendance was to share evidence given to the ELPCT and sought views on the process by which the ELPCT would make a decision on whether to ask the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to explore the possibility of fluoridation.

This presentation generated much interest with three Members of the public in attendance, along with representatives from the North West Councils against Fluoridation and the Fight against Fluoridation, (Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley) organizations, who outlined their cases opposing Fluoridation at the meeting. Members were also informed that Hyndburn Borough Council policy for some time had been to oppose fluoridation and that Hyndburn's appointed representative on the North West Councils against Fluoridation was the Leader of the Council. After a lengthy debate it was subsequently resolved to refer the matter back to Cabinet and council for a final decision, which was to continue to oppose the Fluoridation of water, which formed the basis of the council's response to the consultation.

**Addressing Health Inequalities (Matter arising from the Annual Audit and Inspection letter, March 2008)**

Consideration was given to a presentation by Elaine Michel, Consultant in Public Health (ELPCT) on the need for the further development of existing health partnerships in order to address the levels of health inequality across the Borough and the Sub-Region.

Poor health levels in Hyndburn were linked to levels of deprivation and this had been shown by very high levels of admissions to hospital and other deaths compared to other areas of the country.

Members discussed and considered a number of suggestions put forward by the ELPCT on how the Council could support the initiatives for tackling health inequalities, including the need for clear strategic direction from the Borough Council about improving health and tackling health inequalities; an explicit Council plan needed to tackle inequalities, including health, which could be shared with partners to clarify ambitions and priorities, a strong focus on the collaboration needed to deliver Local Area Agreement (LAA) Improvement Targets; and a need for mutual challenge around performance and delivery for all partners.

This matter was referred to Cabinet for responses to the issues raised, which were subsequently submitted back to the ELPCT.

**East Lancashire – Presentation on Alcohol Misuse and Harm in the Borough**

A representative of East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (ELPCT) submitted a report showing the “trends in quarterly hospital admission rates for alcohol related harm, boroughs in East Lancashire 2002-2006 and mortality rates for alcohol misuse “.

Evidence presented in graphs showed high rates of hospital admissions and premature death of both male and females due to alcohol misuse which had also been responsible for a wide range of hospital conditions. The importance of local organisations working together to produce strategies and reduce the trend was highlighted.

The Committee asked several questions on this topic, including the amount of data available on the problem of alcohol misuse by youths; concerns that staff on sick leave may, in some cases, be misconstrued as having a problem with alcohol; and if the low cost of some alcohol, and therefore its availability, contributed to the increase in consumption, particularly for people living in deprived areas.

It was ascertained that there was a wide range of information available available from surveys from schools which could be accessed. There were also strategies that could be used in the workplace to help people who had problems with alcohol. It was also noted that whilst the low cost of some alcohol did make it more accessible to people, that problems with the misuse of alcohol were not just prevalent in deprived areas.

Arising from consideration of this important social well-being topic, it was agreed to refer the suggestions put forward by ELPCT to Cabinet to respond to on Alcohol Misuse and Harm. It was also agreed to monitor progress and receive a further progress report on this matter in September, 2009.

### **CCTV Cameras – Review of Effectiveness**

The Committee received a presentation from Stuart Hunter, the CCTV Manager with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council which focussed on the operation and effectiveness of CCTV cameras.

The CCTV cameras in Hyndburn were managed and operated by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council as part of a partnership arrangement. To support the Committee in its consideration of this matter, Members were provided with a breakdown of statistical details of incidences and arrests by category and by camera activity.

The Committee questioned Mr Hunter on the effectiveness of the cameras, and whether the CCTV cameras had actually had a measurable and demonstrable effect on the reduction in crime figures in the Borough. Members also requested an update on the timescales for the installation of new CCTV cameras around the Borough.

The Committee also received an update from the Council's Licensing Manager on the pilot scheme for CCTV cameras to be installed in ten Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

There were no recorded incidents at the time of the scrutiny meeting to report and it was explained that an evaluation of the pilot, which would end in March, 2009 would be undertaken.

Arising from this scrutiny review, Cabinet was recommended to support a strategic review of the CCTV systems, to be undertaken in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership and when the new cameras had been operational for a reasonable length of time.

The Committee also emphasis the urgent need for the additional cameras to be installed and fully operational and to be informed of the outcome of pilot CCTV scheme in taxis. It was also agreed to request the attendance of the Police at a meeting in the next Municipal Year when CCTV cameras was included on the Committee's Work Programme.

### **Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Programme – Final Evaluation**

Consideration was given to a final evaluation report submitted by the Economic Development Manager on the outcomes of the SRB6 Programme "People of Accrington and Church Together". It was explained that the eight year, £8 million SRB Programme had ended in March, 2008, and the main findings of the evaluation report were discussed at the meeting.

The Committee scrutinised the information contained in the evaluation report, and welcomed the news that the programme had ended with a number of strong legacy projects, such as SureStart and Hyndburn Domestic Violence Forum. In addition, the programme had levered in a total of £29.5 million match-funding, 60% more than the original target.

### **Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) – Progress Report**

The Economic Development Manager submitted a report which detailed the progress of the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI), which had recently been re-branded as the "No Limits Programme" in Pennine Lancashire.

The Committee's commented on two aspects of the Programme:- the "GET SET Business Start Up" which was primarily focused on sole traders; and the "Enterprise Havens", which were seen as community based facilities, with one planned for Accrington Market Hall.

### **Hyndburn's Local Strategic Partnership – Measuring Performance and methodology**

The Committee considered a report of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Manager which provided the Committee with an overview about how the LSP measured its performance. The report focused on how the LSP was ensuring that the Partnership achieved its ambition to improve the quality of life for the people in Hyndburn and realised the vision to make Hyndburn “The Place to be”.

Improving the outcomes for the people of Hyndburn was at the top of the Partnership's agenda and it was faced with a range of challenges, including the Local Area Agreement. In order to address the challenges, it was explained that the Partnership needed effective performance management and measurement to ensure success in meeting its challenges, to provide evidence of its achievements and to identify ‘what works’.

The Committee acknowledged the progress made by the LSP and its future plans, and welcomed the improvements in the working relationship between the Council and the LSP, which was now regarded as being much more effective with a closer alignment of performance objectives between the two organisations. The Committee did however raise concerns that in the current climate, the economic targets would be hard to achieve, however they were reassured that targets were always open to refresh, having regard to changing circumstances.

### **Update Report on the Current Position of the Leisure Trust**

The Portfolio Holder for Parks, Arts and Leisure submitted a report which updated the Committee on the current position regarding the Council's partnership with Leisure in Hyndburn.

The Committee asked several questions relating to the current position of the Leisure Trust. The Portfolio Holder and the Deputy Managing Director responded to Members questions, including financial information given to the Leisure Trust in the financial year 2008/09; details of the membership, qualifications and experience of the Board and whether the Board had a business plan.

Arising from the consideration of this item, the Committee continued to have concerns and resolved to receive a further progress report on this matter early in the 2009/10 Municipal Year and for the Chief Executive and Members of the Board of Trustees, Leisure in Hyndburn to be invited to attend this meeting.

### **Presentation on the new Sixth Form at Accrington Academy**

Andrew Bateman, Principal of Accrington Academy gave a presentation on the establishment of the Accrington Academy. The Academy had started in September 2008 and would be a Sports and Mathematics College, and added that the Academy Group was part of the United Learning Trust and worked in partnership with other educational bodies.

The Committee was informed that the Academy aimed to improve schooling, develop access to education in the area and worked with academic organisations such as Manchester University. Details were given of new developments on site of the Academy and the facilities and courses that would be provided and it was pointed out that it would offer post 16 education. The courses to be offered for post 16 students would concentrate on providing industry standard qualification and it was the Academy's aim to work with other education providers in the area to ensure that there was no duplication in the provision of courses.

Andrew Bateman extended an invitation to Members of the Committee to look around the Academy by prior arrangement.

The Committee welcomed Mr Bateman's presentation and the work that the new sixth form at Accrington Academy would undertake, which would contribute to the social and economic well-being of the Borough.

### **Education and Lifelong Learning – Attainment Rates for GCSE results in the Borough and Lancashire**

Dr. Graham Dunn, Director of Education Standards and Inclusion (L.C.C.) submitted a report which provided information on the GCSE results for Hyndburn compared with those for Lancashire for the years 2006/2008 and the results for individual schools for 2008. He reported that the results had shown a rise in the proportion of pupils achieving five or more GCSE grades A\* - C in Hyndburn to above the Lancashire average over the period 2006 – 2008, but pointed out that the proportion of pupils in Hyndburn achieving five or more GCSE grades A\* - C including English and Maths was below the Lancashire average. It was also pointed out that there was a relative under-achievement of girls in Hyndburn in grades A\* - C including English and Maths as compared nationally and that the performance of Pakistani heritage pupils had stagnated over the last 3 years. Dr Dunn added that Lancashire County Council aimed to improve the performance of ethnic minority pupils and pupils in socially disadvantaged areas of the County.

### **Report on a Department of Health Event – Improving Health Scrutiny**

The Member Services Manager submitted a report on a Department of Health Event looking at improving health scrutiny. Members referred to the importance of Health Scrutiny and in particular, the need for the Council's representative on the Lancashire County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide regular progress reports back to Hyndburn Councillors on that Committee's work.

### **Chaigley Trust (Charitable Organisation)**

The scrutiny on the Chaigley Trust (a Charitable Organisation) was considered by the Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in March, 2009 generated much interest, including press and public attendance at the meeting.

Mr S Cook, a Trustee gave a presentation on the work of the Chaigley Trust but declined to answer any questions raised at the meeting and made it clear that as the Trust was a Charitable organisation, the Board of the Trust was not answerable to Hyndburn Borough Council and that he had attended the meeting on a voluntary basis.

The Committee and others present expressed their disappointment that the presentation had contained no current information on the activities of the Trust and that Mr. Cook had refused to answer any questions other than those previously submitted to the Trust.

From a scrutiny perspective it was considered that there were some positive aspects arising out of the consideration of this topic. An important part of Overview and Scrutiny's role is to enable the voice and concerns of the public and the Committee, in asking questions under its social, economic and environmental Well-Being statutory powers in this case, provided a "critical friend challenge" to the decision makers (the Chaigley Trust).

A few weeks following the meeting, the Chaigley Trust announced it would be acquiring another property in the Ribble Valley for the Trust. It also created a new website, with contact details, including an e-mail contact address to enable residents to communicate with the Trust.

### **PubWatch – Awareness/Evaluation of the Scheme**

Police Constable Les Sholicar of Lancashire Constabulary attended the meeting and gave an informative presentation on the implementation and running of the Hyndburn PubWatch Scheme.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and resolved to write to Lancashire Constabulary expressing support for the work undertaken by the Police in regard to owners of Off Licence Premises signing up to an OffWatch Scheme and resolved to write a letter of support asking how the Council could assist Lancashire Constabulary in encouraging this Initiative.

### **Regeneration Proposals for Blackpool Street / South Shore Street, Oswaldtwistle**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Leader of the Council (Environmental Protection) relating to the completed housing regeneration programme at Blackpool Street and South Shore Street, Oswaldtwistle.

Prior to the meeting, as part of their research and information gathering on this topic, some Members of the Committee had visited a number of properties on the street to see the properties at first hand and view the works that had been carried out.

The Committee resolved to welcome the report and the local neighbourhood improvements this housing regeneration programme had delivered.

### **Scrutiny Panel Review – the State of the Canal in the Hyndburn Borough**

The Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules in the Constitution allow for the appointment of one Scrutiny Panel (a time-limited task and finish group) by each Committee at any time.

The Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee appointed a Scrutiny Panel to undertake a scrutiny review on the state of the canal in Hyndburn. The Scrutiny Panel met on four occasions, and also undertook a site visit to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest and concern with Members of another Local Authority who had undertaken a similar type of scrutiny review. The Panel's membership comprised of Councillors Hayes (Chair), Collingridge, Dawson and Grayson.

The Panel's report, detailing its findings and recommendations, was received and accepted at a meeting of the Committee in January, 2009. Cabinet's response to the Panel's findings and recommendations was to appoint a Cabinet Working Group to take forward the work of the Scrutiny Panel with a view to developing a Canal Strategy for the Council.

**Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee:  
Summary of Activities 2008-09**

**Committee Meetings: 5**

**Total topics examined: 35** (18 Work Programme topics; 17 standing/constitutional procedural items)

**In-depth Scrutiny Reviews: 1**

**Call-ins: 0**

## **Health Scrutiny**

### **Lancashire County Council's Adult Social Care and Health Equalities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Unitary, County and Metropolitan authorities have had a specific power to scrutinise health services and health issues within their area.

In Lancashire, this obligation is discharged by Lancashire County Council through its Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which includes one non-voting co-opted representative from each district. At the beginning of the Municipal Year, Councillor Paul Barton was appointed to represent Hyndburn on the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Lancashire County Council's Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on eight occasions during the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

Matters considered by the Committee during the past 12 months have included Meeting Patients Needs Implementation Plan; Report of a Dementia Services Task Group; Update on the host of Lancashire LINK; Reducing Under 18's Conceptions; Community Equipment Assessments; Tobacco control consultation; Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust – Maternity Services Review; Proposed Fluoridation Debate/process; "Safe, Sensible, Social" – Alcohol Strategy Consultation; presentation – National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE); Stroke Services in Lancashire; and Annual Representations and Complaints Report.

## **PROGRESS ON THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

In July 2003, an Improvement Plan was agreed and implemented to improve the work of Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Improvement Plan continues to be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Some of the main areas of progress on the Improvement Plan during 2008-09 were as follows:

### **Progress on improvements to Overview and Scrutiny during 2008-09**

- Each Committee continued to routinely review the Forward Plan at each meeting to identify potential Work Programme topics.
- In the majority of cases Overview and Scrutiny Agendas only exceeded 4 scheduled Work Programme topics (excluding standing/constitutional procedural items) on the rare occasion.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committees continue to hold agenda planning meetings. These are normally held in the week before the scheduled Committee meeting and helped Members to develop their lines of questioning and formulate any advance questions on the topics under consideration. A list of questions is then provided for Portfolio Holders/Officers and external organisations who are invited to the Committee. This approach has continued to lead to more focused and productive meetings and enables Portfolio Holders to prepare more effectively for meetings.
- The procedure for reporting Overview and Scrutiny recommendations to and receiving responses back from the Cabinet and Council continues to develop.
- External organisations have once again continued to contribute to the community well-being work of Overview and Scrutiny during the course of the year. External contributors to the Overview and Scrutiny function this Municipal Year have included East Lancashire Primary Care Trust; Lancashire Constabulary; Accrington Academy and Lancashire County Council Education Services.
- Publicity on Overview and Scrutiny has continued to develop during 2008-09, with improvements to the Council's Website, although obtaining local press coverage of topics continues to be a challenge.

## **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT EVENTS / OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY NETWORKS**

Detailed below are training and development events undertaken and networking meetings attended during the past 12 months and forthcoming events.

### **(a) Member Development – In-House Training Course - Overview and Scrutiny Research and Investigation Skills**

Nine Councillors attended a Member development course on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 held at Scaitcliffe House which focused on Scrutiny Research and Investigation Skills. The half-day course, delivered by Val Slater, a Local Authority Councillor and Associate of the North West Employers Organisation (NWEO) was found to be useful and informative and a valuable learning and development event.

### **(b) Overview and Scrutiny Network – Lancashire Scrutiny Partners Forum (LSPF)**

The LSPF is open to Officers and Elected Members from all the District/Borough Councils in Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Councils and the County Council. It aims to promote the development of the Overview and Scrutiny function in Lancashire. It provides an opportunity for Lancashire's Scrutiny Officers and Elected Members to meet and discuss Scrutiny matters of common concern and interest and to disseminate information about Scrutiny Work Plans adopted by Lancashire's District and County Council's.

The LSPF also enables Officers and Elected Members to participate in discussions about best practice in Overview and Scrutiny and to learn from each other and from other Authorities which have been successful in the Scrutiny process; and address any training needs which representatives may identify.

Hyndburn Borough Council was represented by Officers and Members at meetings of the LSPF hosted by Blackpool Borough Council (June, 2008), Lancashire County Council (September, 2008 and February, 2009) and South Ribble Borough Council (November, 2008).

**(c) Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) – Seventh Annual Conference – 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 – Member Attendances**

The Centre for Public Scrutiny's (CfPS) seventh annual conference and exhibition is to be held at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nottingham on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2009. Hyndburn Borough Council will be represented for the first time at this conference. Councillors Ayub and Smith will attend the first day of the Conference, which this year will focus on the 'critical friend', the important role of the non-executive Councillors in challenging public service providers and powerful decision-makers across the public sector.

Councillors Gott and Pratt will attend the second day of the Conference and Member Development day, which will focus on Leadership Academy training, enabling delegates to understand the challenges and potential of scrutiny leadership, to develop influencing strategies within the Council, and local Community and perhaps most importantly, assess how they can add value to their organisations through Overview and Scrutiny.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AT HYNDBURN – OUR ACHIEVEMENTS**

Detailed below are some examples of our recent achievements in Overview and Scrutiny this year.

**Overview and Scrutiny – Annual Audit and Inspection Letter  
Hyndburn Borough Council – March 2009**

The Annual Audit and Inspection letter of Hyndburn Borough Council – Audit 2007/08, dated March 2009, under the heading "Fit for purpose organisation – corporate governance" made the following positive comment about the progress of Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn:-

Paragraph 30: "scrutiny arrangements are good and have led to further improvements this year".

### **Overview and Scrutiny – Informal meetings/briefings**

During the last 12 months, Overview and Scrutiny has also held a number of innovative informal meetings / briefing sessions for Non-Cabinet Members to add value to the functions work. An example of this was following concerns about the 'credit crunch' and the impact this was having on the work of JobCentre plus, a number of Councillors attended a site visit and met with the manager and staff at the Accrington Job Centre. Following on from this, Members of Overview and Scrutiny met with the Managing Director and the Head of Policy, Partnerships and Performance at Hyndburn and received a briefing and question and answer session, outlining the impact of recession in the Borough and how the Council was addressing this and worklessness.

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AT HYNDBURN – SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS 2009-10**

The responses received to the Cabinet, Non-Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Member Surveys on the effectiveness of scrutiny during the past twelve months are currently being analysed and will be used to develop ideas to further strengthen the Overview and Scrutiny function.

Some initial suggestions for improvements, based on the existing Improvement Plan and feedback received during the year, are put forward below. These will be developed further with the appointed Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny.

#### **Initial ideas for Improvements to Overview and Scrutiny during 2009-10**

- Aim to carry out more in-depth Scrutiny Panel reviews during 2009-10, (and encourage more non-cabinet member involvement with Panels), building on the lessons learnt from the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels during the last Municipal Year.
- Consider more innovative ways to engage the public, including more targeted press releases where appropriate.
- Aim to involve a wider range of people in scrutiny work on a more regular basis - allowing 'expert witnesses', or community or residents groups to comment on items before the Committees.

- Aim to improve communications between Overview and Scrutiny and the Cabinet throughout the year, especially the need to develop the Work Programmes in conjunction with the Cabinet.
- Continue to raise the awareness of Overview and Scrutiny with Members, Officers and the residents of the Borough.
- Implementation of the new legislation relating to scrutiny in respect of the 'Councillor Call for Action' and the Crime and Disorder Committee.

## **HYNDBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

Hyndburn Borough Council has eight Corporate Priorities:-

### **Corporate Priorities**

- **Corporate Governance and Customer Focus**
- **Safer Communities**
- **Strong and Balanced Housing Market**
- **Thriving Economy**
- **Safeguarding the Environment**
- **Valuing Diversity**
- **Educational Attainment**
- **Healthier Living**

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## APPENDIX

The attached tables demonstrate how the Overview and Scrutiny process at Hyndburn Borough Council has contributed to the Council's Priorities.

### KEY:

Corporate Priorities indicated in **purple** type

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2008-09	Links to Corporate Priorities
<b>Formulation of Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes 2008/09</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities; Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity; Educational Attainment; Healthier Living</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Review 2007/08 – Draft Report</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny – Training and Development DVD</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Budget 2008/09 - Allocation</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Cabinet / Overview and Scrutiny Member survey on effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny 2007/08</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Invitations to External Meetings / Networking Opportunities</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Responses of the Executive to reports of Overview and Scrutiny</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2008-09 (continued)	Links to Corporate Priorities
<b>Duty to Involve Regulations / Project Plan</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Matter arising from the Annual audit and Inspection Letter – Actions Needed by the Council – Draft Corporate Strategy</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities; Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity; Educational Attainment; Healthier Living</b>
<b>Cemeteries and Crematorium – Progress and Future Plans</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities; Safeguarding the Environment</b>
<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Work Programmes of the Committees- Monitor and Review</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Call-In: Sponsorship of Accrington Stanley Football Club</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities; Thriving Economy; Valuing Diversity; Healthier Living</b>
<b>Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA)</b>	<b>Safer Communities; Strong and Balanced Housing Market</b>

	Links to Corporate Priorities
<p>Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2008-09 (continued)</p> <p><b>Budget Scrutiny Meeting – (Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10 -2011/12; Medium Term Financial Strategy; General Revenue Budget 2009/10; Capital Programme 2009/10; Labour Group – Budget Proposals 2009/10; Independent Member – Budget Proposals – 2009/10)</b></p> <p><b>Budget Monitoring report</b></p>	<p><b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity; Educational Attainment; Healthier Living.</b></p>
<p><b>Responses of Cabinet to recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Committees</b></p>	<p><b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity; Educational Attainment; Healthier Living.</b></p>
<p><b>The role and remit of the Council's Organisational Development function – progress and future plans</b></p>	<p><b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b></p>

	Links to Corporate Priorities
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2008-09 (continued)	
Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan report	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus
Overview and Scrutiny Decision Monitoring report	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus
Work Programme report	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus
Scrutiny Panel– Neighbourhood Management	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus
Floral Markets Town Initiative – outcomes / future plans	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus Safeguarding the Environment
Corporate Performance Information 2007-08 End of Year Performance report	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity; Educational Attainment; Healthier Living.
Departmental Service Plans – review of progress against action in plans	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity; Educational Attainment; Healthier Living.

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2008-09 (continued)	Links to Corporate Priorities
The role and function of the Civic Services Office	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus
Accrington Market Hall Refurbishment – Progress Report	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity; Educational Attainment; Healthier Living.
Update report – Partnership and Performance between Hyndburn and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Councils	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity
Fleet Vehicle leasing, procurement , processes, procedures and associated matters	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities; Safeguarding the Environment
Matter arising from the Annual audit and Inspection Letter – Actions Needed by the Council Planning Section – Improving Planning Performance	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity; Healthier Living.

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee - topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2008-09 (continued)	<b>Links to Corporate Priorities</b>
<b>Matter arising from the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter – Actions Needed by the Council</b> <b>Progress towards achieving Level 3 of the Equalities Standard</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities; Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity; Educational Attainment; Healthier Living</b>
Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee – topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2008-09	<b>Links to Corporate Priorities</b>
<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Responses of Cabinet to recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Sub-Committees</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan report</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Decision Monitoring report</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>

	Links to Corporate Priorities
Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee – topics and ‘standing/procedural’ items considered 2008-09 (continued)	
<b>Work Programme report</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>Patient and Public Involvement – Local Involvement Networks (LINKS)</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Healthier Living</b>
<b>East Lancashire Primary Care Trust – Water Fluoridation in East Lancashire – Key Stakeholder Briefing</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Healthier Living</b>
<b>East Lancashire Primary Care Trust – Progress Report</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Healthier Living</b>
<b>Addressing Health Inequalities (Matter arising from the Annual Audit and Inspection letter – Actions needed by the Council)</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Healthier Living</b>
<b>East Lancashire – presentation on Alcohol Misuse and Harm in the Borough</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Healthier Living</b>

	Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners
Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee – topics and ‘standing/procedural’ items considered 2008-09	
CCTV Cameras – Review of Effectiveness	Safer Communities
Single Regeneration Budget Programme – Final Evaluation	Thriving Economy
Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI)	Thriving Economy
Hyndburn’s Local Strategic Partnership – measuring performance / methodology	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities; Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Thriving Economy; Safeguarding the Environment; Valuing Diversity; Educational Attainment; Healthier Living
Update report on the current position of the Leisure Trust	Corporate Governance and Customer Focus; Safer Communities; Thriving Economy; Valuing Diversity; Educational Attainment; Healthier Living
Presentation on the new Sixth Form at Accrington Academy	Educational Attainment
Education and Lifelong Learning – Attainment rates for GCSE’s in the Borough and Lancashire	Educational Attainment

Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee – topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2008-09	<b>Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners</b>
<b>Report back on Department of Health Event – Improving Health Scrutiny</b>	<b>Healthier Living</b>
<b>Chaigley Trust (Charitable Organisation)</b>	<b>Corporate Governance and Customer Focus</b>
<b>PubWatch– Awareness / evaluation of the Scheme</b>	<b>Safer Communities</b>
<b>Regeneration Proposals – Blackpool Street / South Shore Street Oswaldtwistle</b>	<b>Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Healthier Living</b>
<b>Report on proposals to introduce selective licensing of private landlords</b>	<b>Strong and Balanced Housing Market; Safer Communities</b>
<b>Scrutiny Panel – scrutiny review – State of the canal in the Hyndburn Borough</b>	<b>Safeguarding the Environment; Safer Communities; Valuing Diversity; Healthier Living</b>