

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2007–08



**The work of Overview and Scrutiny at
Hyndburn Borough Council from
May 2007 – May 2008**

June, 2008

CONTENT

Title	Page No.
Foreword.....	2
Introduction	3
Approach to Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn	6
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee.....	13
Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee.....	22
Health Scrutiny.....	29
Progress on the Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan.....	30
Training Events/Overview and Scrutiny Networks.....	31
Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn – Our Achievements.....	33
Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn – suggestions for further improvements 2008/09.....	35
Hyndburn Borough Council’s Corporate Priorities and our Priorities with other Partners.....	37

APPENDIX

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

FOREWORD



**Councillor Doug Hayes,
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee,
Hyndburn Borough Council**

The last 12 months has seen the continued development of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Hyndburn Borough Council. A new Committee structure was also introduced at the start of the Municipal Year to assist scrutiny in moving forward and meeting the challenges of the modernising local government agenda.

Hyndburn is proud of its non-partisan and cross-party approach it has adopted for the delivery of the Overview and Scrutiny function. I am pleased to say that the hard work Councillors, Officers and external partners have contributed to Scrutiny at Hyndburn this year has also been recognised both within and outside the Authority. This has included the positive comments detailed in the published Internal Audit report of the scrutiny function of September, 2007; the Comprehensive Performance Assessment report of February, 2008, when Hyndburn was recategorised as an 'Excellent Authority'; and in the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter of Hyndburn Borough Council – March, 2008.

The major challenge for the year ahead lies in implementing and delivering the requirements for overview and scrutiny contained in the recently published Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone involved in 2007/08 for their support in helping to make it another successful year for Overview and Scrutiny.

Doug Hayes

Chair,
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2007/08 Municipal Year

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report details the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn Borough Council during the period May 2007 to May 2008.

At the Council Annual General Meeting in May, 2007, the Council agreed a new structure for the delivery of Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn. This included the establishment of a politically balanced Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 10 Members which focused on major issues such as the formulation of Work Programmes, the scrutiny of the Council's Budget proposals and to consider all decisions 'Called-In'.

Two Sub-Committees were also constituted. The internally focused Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee comprised two Conservative and two Labour Members, along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who served as Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members. The Sub-Committee's work programme for the past twelve months included the regular review of Performance Information; scrutiny of Internal Service Plans; Budget Monitoring; and the consideration and scrutiny of reports on the performance of a number of internal services throughout the year.

The externally focused Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee comprised one Conservative, one Independent and two Labour Members, along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who served as Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members. The Sub-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 SureStart, Hyndburn; Lancashire Constabulary - policing matters, including a review of the effectiveness of dispersal orders in Rishton and Oswaldtwistle; and a presentation on the work of the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust. The Sub-Committee also questioned Portfolio Holders and received progress reports on the work of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Reports on the development of a Community Cohesion Strategy for Hyndburn; the Regeneration of Hyndburn; and Town Centre – Masterplan Options were also considered as part of the Sub-Committee's policy development/review role.

During the course of the 2007/08 Municipal Year, and in accordance with Constitutional Procedures, three Scrutiny Panels (time-limited task and finish groups) were also undertaken. The Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee appointed two Scrutiny Panels in the year; one Panel undertook a scrutiny review of selected Council policies and strategies, whilst the other Panel undertook an in-depth review examining the cost of Christmas decorations and activities, including procurement and storage. The Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee also appointed one Scrutiny Panel which examined and produced a report on Hyndburn Homes and Hyndburn Homes Repairs Service.

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. This budgetary provision supported two Councillors to attend a Chairing Scrutiny Course facilitated by the Institute of Local Government Studies (INGOLOV) and also enabled Hyndburn, for the very first time, to host a meeting of the Lancashire Scrutiny Partners Forum.

The purpose of this annual report is to describe:

- the approach to Overview and Scrutiny adopted at Hyndburn;
- the work of Overview and Scrutiny and its Sub-Committees during the Municipal Year;
- health scrutiny;
- training events/overview and scrutiny networks;
- progress on the overview and scrutiny improvement plan;
- and suggestions for 2008-09

Overview and Scrutiny: Summary of meetings 2007/08

Total Committee/Sub-Committee Meetings:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings: 4*

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee meetings: 5

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

Total Work Programme topics examined by the Committee and its Sub-Committees **(excluding standing/constitutional procedural items)*****: 47

Scrutiny Panels: 3 (two panels met on four occasions, one met on five occasions)

Hyndburn Borough Council also had a non-voting co-opted representative (Councillor Paul Barton) appointed to the Lancashire County Council Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

Notes

- * Including one extraordinary Call-In meeting which considered a decision made (but not yet implemented) by Cabinet relating to the Procurement of Leisure Services.
- ** Including one extraordinary meeting to consider and respond to a consultation by the East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust on its plans to become a Foundation Trust.
- *** Standing/constitutional procedural items considered at Ordinary meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Sub-Committees during 2007/08 are detailed below:-
 - apologies for absence, declarations of interest, disclosure of whip, dispensations and substitutions;
 - minutes of meetings;
 - responses of the Executive to reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Sub-Committees;
 - the Committee / Sub-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 Sub-Committees);
 - update on Committee / Sub-Committee decisions and recommendations (submitted to the second and fourth ordinary meetings of both Sub-Committees);
 - Council budget monitoring report (submitted to each ordinary meeting of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee);
 - Consideration of the appointment of a Scrutiny Panel (Ad-hoc – to any ordinary meeting of the relevant Sub-Committee);
 - referrals of consultations etc from Cabinet and/or Council not included on the Committee/Sub-Committee's 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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2007. This set out items the Committee and the two Sub-Committees intended to focus on during the 2007/08 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/Sub-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 Community Strategy and Corporate Plan).
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 which Overview and Scrutiny should investigate? (e.g. from performance information).
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 Committee and Sub-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.

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

- routinely inviting Cabinet Members to be questioned by the Committee/Sub-Committees on specific topics relating to their portfolios;
- inviting external organisations to submit reports and give presentations to the Committee/Sub-Committees;
- obtaining evidence from expert witnesses, such as East Lancashire Primary Care Trust on progress and matters of local concern; Lancashire Constabulary on policing matters; and SureStart, Hyndburn on its recent achievements, challenges and future plans.
- The Committee and its Sub-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 were usually held approximately a week before the Committee/Sub-Committee meeting, at which Overview and Scrutiny Members met and developed their formal lines of enquiry and formulated any advance questions for the topic(s) under consideration.
- Developing links to Area Councils. For example, to improve communications with residents of the Borough arising from the scrutiny panel review of Hyndburn Homes and Hyndburn Homes repairs service, a panel recommendation was accepted by Hyndburn Homes for them to provide a written information report to each Area Council meeting.

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 2007-08.

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.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Membership 2007/08 Municipal Year

Committee Members:

Councillor D Hayes (Chair)
Councillor B Walmsley (Vice-Chair)
Councillor M Ayub
Councillor N Collingridge
Councillor P Gott
Councillor H Grayson
Councillor J Liddle
Councillor J Lockwood
Councillor C McCormack
Councillor J Storey

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Membership: 10 Non-Executive Councillors

Number of meetings: 4

In accordance with Constitutional requirements, the Committee was politically balanced:- 5 Conservative, 4 Labour and 1 Independent Member and met on four occasions during 2007/08. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also monitored and reviewed the work programmes of its two Sub-Committees and the three Scrutiny Panels undertaken during the Municipal Year. The Committee's Constitutional terms of reference are outlined below.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Main Terms of Reference

1. To co-ordinate the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees (in consultation with the executive).
2. To guide and assist the Sub-Committees in the development of their work programmes and to monitor and review the work programmes of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees.
3. To consider the Cabinet's proposals to achieve a balanced budget in advance of the budget being determined by the Council.
4. To consider significant matters of a cross-cutting nature or which do not fall within the terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees.

The Committee considered the following matters during 2007/08:-

- Draft Overview and Scrutiny Committee annual review report 2006/07;
- Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2007/08 – workshop session;
- Overview and Scrutiny – draft protocol for meetings;
- Overview and Scrutiny budget 2007/08 – allocation;
- Invitations to attend/reports back from external meetings/networking opportunities;
- Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet Member Surveys 2006-2007 – analysis and findings;
- Responses of the Executive to reports of Overview and Scrutiny;
- Monitoring and reviewing the work programmes of the Committee/Sub-Committees;
- Overview and Scrutiny Panels – update on progress;
- Report on the Internal audit of the scrutiny function;
- Call-In;
- Budget scrutiny.

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 2007/08 as a result of being Called-In:-

Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Call-In meeting

Procurement of Leisure Services (Exempt Report) (7th February, 2008)

On the 17th January, 2008, Cabinet considered an exempt report on the process for selecting a partner to provide Leisure Services in the Borough. The Leisure Trust had given the Council formal notice of the Trust's wish to terminate the agreement for the operation of Leisure Services with the Council with effect from 31st January 2008. A Councillor Working Group had subsequently convened to review the Council's arrangements for the management of those services, and tenders invited from organisations in respect of the following services:- Leisure Centres and Sports Development; Entertainment, Arts Development and Community Halls; Haworth Art Gallery and Norden Sports Centre. The Cabinet report gave details of that exercise, how the submissions had been evaluated and the recommendations of the Councillor Working Group.

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 were not satisfied with outcome of discussions on who was to take over the services; and did not feel that Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council was the right Partner to take the Leisure Services forward in Hyndburn.

Arising from the Call-In meeting, the Cabinet decision relating to the Procurement of Leisure Services was released in full for implementation. In releasing the decision, the Committee made a suggestion to the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Arts and Parks to submit reports on future proposals for the procurement of Leisure Services for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to submission to Cabinet.

Budget Scrutiny - Council Budget 2008-09 (Considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25th February, 2008).

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members questioned the Leader of the Council in detail on the Cabinet's Budget proposals at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny (Budget) Committee held on 25th February, 2008.

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

The Labour Group declined the opportunity to put forward their own budgetary proposals for consideration by the Committee. The three Independent Members on the Council jointly submitted a document outlining their budgetary proposals for 2008/09. In doing so, they acknowledged that the leading group had already incorporated some of their ideas into their outline budget, and stressed that the majority of the Independent Group's proposals were just ideas they hoped the majority of Council would adopt at the budget meeting.

Council, at its Budget meeting, gave consideration to the Independent Members budgetary ideas, before agreeing the Budget for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

**Meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
Summary of Activity 2007/08**

Committee Meetings: 4 (one of which was an extraordinary meeting)

Total items examined: 25 (17 Work Programme topics; 7 standing/constitutional procedural items; and 1 Call-In)

RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

Membership 2007/08 Municipal Year

Councillor J Liddle (Chair)
Councillor J Lockwood (Vice-Chair)
Councillor M Ayub
Councillor P Gott
Councillor D Hayes (Ex-Officio Member)
Councillor B Walmsley (Ex-Officio Member)

RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

Membership: 4 Non-Executive Councillors

(The Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were also appointed as ex-officio, non-voting Members)

Number of meetings: 5

The Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-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 Sub-Committee was made up of Councillors J Liddle (Chair), J Lockwood, (Vice-Chair), M Ayub and P Gott (Councillor Hayes and Walmsley were also appointed as Ex-Officio Members).

The Sub-Committee's terms of reference were as follows:

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee - Main Terms of Reference

1. To monitor the performance of Council services and make suggestions for service improvements.
2. 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 – 2006-07 End of Year Performance Report

The Sub-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 2006-07 Municipal Year. Consideration was given to a compendium of all the BVPI's the Council was required to collect and report in 2006/07, excluding user satisfaction BVPI's which had been reported separately.

The Corporate Performance information was used to assist the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Sub-Committees to 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 Sub-Committee, in undertaking its performance monitoring role, considered, reviewed and commented on Departmental Service Plans throughout the course of the year. The Planning and Transportation Services Plan; Regeneration and Housing Services Plan and Benefits and Customer Services Plan were dealt with by the submission of reports to ordinary Sub-Committee meetings, whilst all other Service Plans were reviewed via written correspondence with the Sub-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 were 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 Sub-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.

Report on issues arising from the termination of the Lancashire Highways Partnership

The Sub-Committee reviewed a report on the background to the termination of the Lancashire Highways Partnership and areas of concern that had arisen about aspects of that change, including the loss of expertise; performance in commenting on planning applications and highway searches; and the impact on streetscene services.

Arising from consideration of the report, and to raise awareness amongst the public, a recommendation that reference be made to the change in responsibility for highway issues transferring to Lancashire County Council was accepted and included on the Borough Council's website.

The Sub-Committee also recommended that Hyndburn's Chief Planning and Transportation Officer meet with the Director of Strategic Planning and Transport at Lancashire County Council. A meeting was held on 6th December, 2007 to discuss the best ways of addressing the Sub-Committee's concerns, improve communication, explore issues in more detail and suggest ways in which all these matters could be addressed to both parties mutual benefit, and most importantly for the benefit of the people of Hyndburn. Continued dialogue between Hyndburn and Lancashire County Council on issues arising from the termination of the Lancashire Highways Partnership is on-going.

Planning Section – Performance (Performance Information / Updates on new Planning Legislation

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Deputy Leader of the Council (Community Services) relating to the performance of the Planning Service and the measures being taken to sustain or improve the quality of that Service, including reference to the planning delivery grant; e-planning initiatives; investment in new technology; and staffing resources.

The Sub-Committee questioned the Portfolio Holder on the report and outlined its support of the measures being taken aimed at maintaining sustained improvement in the Planning Service.

Partnership and Performance between Hyndburn and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Councils

The Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 13th November, 2007, scrutinised a report of the Portfolio Holder (the Leader of the Council) on the current work programme and progress 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 corporate policy, housing market renewal, regeneration projects, strategic projects, economic regeneration and future plans.

The Portfolio Holder informed Members that the view of all parties to date was that the Partnership was working extremely satisfactorily and making a real difference to the delivery of Council services to the people of Hyndburn.

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, was welcomed.

Update report on the Performance of the Benefits Service

A report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Asset Management and Markets was considered by the Sub-Committee which outlined the major improvements to the Council's Benefits, Customer Services and Contact Centre during the last 12 months, along with a copy of the 2007/2008 Benefits and Customer Services Service Plan.

Having considered the report and Service Plan, Members asked several questions thereon, and recorded their appreciation of the many improvements that had been made to the Benefits, Customer Services and Contact Centre during the last 12 months. In addition, at the request and on behalf of the Sub-Committee, the Chair wrote to the Head of Benefits and Customer Services to thank her and her staff for the hard work they had carried out in improving service performance.

Sustainable Communities Strategies report

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Deputy Leader of the Council (Environmental Protection) which appraised Members and invited their comments on the process for the development of the draft Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The process being undertaken for the development of the draft Sustainable Communities Strategy was welcomed, and arising from the meeting, the Sub-Committee requested further information, subsequently provided, which containing the sources of information used to compile the draft strategy.

Information and Communication Technology for Members

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Asset Management & Markets submitted a report on progress in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Members Project.

The report was welcomed by the Sub-Committee, and Members provided feedback and suggestions for further improvements, including enquiring about the possibility of the provision of one to one training at Members' Homes and the publication of press cuttings information on the Council's Hyndtranet. The Council's Head of ICT is currently considering these suggestions as part of the ICT for Members Project.

Green Spaces Strategy Update

The Sub-Committee, as part of its policy development and review role, considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Arts and Parks which updated Members on the preparation and production of a Green Spaces Strategy for Hyndburn, including the commissioning and undertaking of the Strategy and findings of a Green Spaces audit.

A proposed Green Spaces Strategy for Hyndburn is now to be produced and submitted to Cabinet for consideration in June or July, 2008. The Portfolio Holder has agreed to the suggestion of Members that the Sub-Committee be afforded a further opportunity to comment on the final proposed Strategy prior to its submission to Cabinet.

Accrington Information Centre Report

Consideration was given to a report of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Arts and Parks on the operation and performance of the Accrington Information Centre. Concerns were expressed about the reduced opening hours and the limited service to the public, and the Sub-Committee resolved to ask Cabinet to make provision for an additional member of staff in order that opening hours could be extended and service provision improved.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee also wrote to the Lancashire County Council Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning outlining the Sub-Committee's concerns in relation to the separation of the Library and Information Services and the resultant loss in service to the public.

The views of the Sub-Committee and its representations made to Lancashire County Council in relation to the opening hours of the Library and Information Centre were supported by Hyndburn's Cabinet. Cabinet also resolved that the request for additional resources to extend the opening hours of the Information Centre at the Town Hall would be considered on the basis of the evidence of customer demand.

The County Council Portfolio Holder subsequently provided a detailed response to the Sub-Committee's concerns and outlined the background of the relocation of the County Information Centre from the previous joint operation in Hyndburn Town Hall to Accrington Library in October, 2006. The County Council responded that it had tried to include and engage Hyndburn in joint information operations both prior to and since the separation of operations in October, 2006. They also indicated they would still be interested in discussions in joint provision from the Accrington Library venue with Hyndburn Borough Council, should the Council wish to pursue this course of action.

Job Evaluation – Outcome Report

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Asset Management and Markets submitted a report on the outcome of the Job Evaluation (JE) exercise, with specific reference to the completion and implementation of the exercise; results and financial implications; trade union involvement; appeals process; and protection of earnings.

The Sub-Committee recognised that the JE process had involved a significant amount of work, and via the Head of Human Resources, commended the work undertaken and in doing so, conveyed its thanks to all those persons involved in the successful completion and implementation of the Job Evaluation exercise.

Equalities Scheme – Progress and Action Plan Report

The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Asset Management and Markets submitted a report on the production and publication of an Equalities Scheme and progress against the Action Plan.

Consideration was given to the work undertaken on the equality schemes action plan and progress made. The mandatory staff training being undertaken throughout the Authority was welcomed; along with the feedback given on the annual review and update of the Action Plan. A suggested improvement that the Action Plan should be amended to include generic post titles instead of the names of individual Officers was welcomed and accepted, and was to be implemented by the Portfolio Holder and Head of Human Resources.

Scrutiny of Cost of Christmas decorations/activities, including procurement and storage

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 Sub-Committee at any time.

The Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee appointed a Scrutiny Panel to undertake a scrutiny review of the cost of Christmas decorations and activities, including procurement and storage.

The Scrutiny Panel met on four occasions and its membership comprised of Councillors G Jones (Chair), Pam Barton, S Horne and K Pratt. The Panel's report, detailing its findings and recommendations, was received and accepted by the Sub-Committee at its January, 2008 meeting. Cabinet's response to the Panel's findings and recommendations was to set up a Cabinet Working Group with a remit to review and take forward the findings and recommendations of the Panel and to produce a strategy for the management and provision of decorations in the future. The Cabinet Working Group met for the first time on 10th April, 2008 and its work is on-going.

Scrutiny of Policies and Strategies

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 Sub-Committee at any time.

The Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee appointed a Scrutiny Panel to undertake a review on selected policies and strategies in July, 2007.

The Scrutiny Panel met on four occasions and its membership comprised of Councillors Hayes (Chair), B Dawson, J Liddle and C McCormack. The Panel's report, detailing its findings and recommendations, was received and accepted by the Sub-Committee at its November, 2007 meeting. Cabinet response to the Panel's findings and recommendations was to request the Council's Head of Policy, Partnerships and Performance to progress this matter.

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee: Summary of Activity 2007-08

Sub-Committee Meetings: 5

Total topics examined: 38 (20 Work Programme; 18 standing/constitutional procedural items)

In-depth Scrutiny Panel Reviews: 2

Call-ins: 0

COMMUNITIES AND WELL-BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

Membership 2007/08 Municipal Year

Councillor J Storey (Chair)
Councillor N Collingridge (Vice-Chair)
Councillor H Grayson
Councillor C McCormack
Councillor D Hayes (Ex-Officio Member)
Councillor B Walmsley (Ex-Officio Member)

COMMUNITIES AND WELL-BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

Membership: 4 Non-Executive Councillors
(The Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also appointed as ex-officio non-voting Members)
Number of meetings: 6

The Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Sub-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 Sub-Committee was made up of Councillors J Storey (Chair), N Collingridge (Vice-Chair), H Grayson and C McCormack. (Councillor Hayes and Walmsley were also appointed as Ex-Officio Members).

Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Sub-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.

Scrutiny on Surestart (Hyndburn)

Members considered a report on the establishment, progress, achievements, challenges and future plans of SureStart, Hyndburn in July, 2007. The Sub-Committee, in liaison with the manager of SureStart, Hyndburn also undertook two fact finding site visits to view the facilities at the Park Child and Family Centre, Church and the Beeches Child and Family Centre, Ferngore.

The manager of SureStart, Hyndburn gave detailed responses to questions raised by Members, which included the accessibility for community use of facilities; community events supported by SureStart; the viability of the community cafes; and public access to information technology facilities.

Arising from this scrutiny, the Sub-Committee made a number of suggestions and recommendations for consideration and requested an update report from SureStart, Hyndburn on progress in nine months time. A written report from the manager of SureStart, Hyndburn outlining progress and giving updates on the questions, comments and concerns raised by Members at the July, 2007 meeting was received and circulated to the Sub-Committee in April, 2008.

East Lancashire Primary Care Trust

The Head of Primary Care and the Contracts and Commissioning Manager, East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) gave a presentation on the progress, challenges and achievements of the PCT, and outlined future plans, at the Sub-Committee's meeting held on 12th September, 2007.

The Sub-Committee was informed of the organisational aims and corporate objectives of the PCT and Members reiterated their wish to assist the PCT on future issues wherever/whenever possible. The PCT subsequently provided further responses/feedback to matters raised by the Sub-Committee at the meeting, including details of the opening hours of General Practitioners (GP's) surgeries and other information relating to the provision of hospital services to residents of the Borough.

The constructive dialogue and responses received from the representatives of the PCT was welcomed and it was resolved to invite the Chief Executive of the PCT to make a further presentation and updates on issues discussed in 12 months time.

Lancashire Constabulary - Update on Policing Matters

As part of its Work Programme for the year, Officers from Lancashire Constabulary were invited to give an overview on policing matters in the Borough, including the work of Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and on the effectiveness and operation of Dispersal Orders in Oswaldtwistle and Rishton.

The Sub-Committee was informed that the Police were on course to meet the targets set by the Community Safety Partnership in reducing crime and had provided a range of statistics, as evidence, showing a fall in crime in comparison with the figures recorded during the same quarter in 2006.

Responses were also given to Members questions regarding progress with the opening of the new Great Harwood Police Station; methods for the prevention of the sale of alcohol from licensed premises to underage drinkers; attendances at PACT meetings; the impact of dispersal orders in Oswaldtwistle and Rishton; what happened to the monies received from the payments of fixed penalty notices; staffing; and the response rate of the communications team at Greenbank CCTV control room.

Consideration of this topic on Policing matters was felt to have been an informative, useful and worthwhile exercise in raising the awareness and mutual understanding of the respective roles undertaken by Lancashire Constabulary and Councillors in the Borough.

Update on Community Cohesion in Hyndburn

Consideration was given to a report of the Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion which sought comments on the development of a community cohesion strategy and an action plan for the Borough of Hyndburn.

Questions were asked relating to the effectiveness of neighbourhood management on community cohesion issues and whether further neighbourhood management would be established in other areas.

The progress on the Development of the 'Building Our Communities Together' – Community Cohesion Strategy and Action Plan was welcomed by the Sub-Committee.

East Lancashire NHS Trust – Consultation on plans to become a Foundation Trust

Representatives of East Lancashire Hospitals Trust (ELHT), as part of a consultation by that organisation on its plans to become a Foundation Trust, gave a detailed presentation to Members on those plans at an extraordinary meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 19th November, 2007. The plans were detailed in a consultation document “Your Hospitals – Your Say” that had been circulated to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee’s response to the consultation document, endorsed by full Council, was to broadly support the Trust’s aims and its application for Foundation Trust status. The view was also expressed that there should be a greater number of Members from Local Authorities represented on the proposed composition of the Council of Governors.

All consultees responses were subsequently detailed in a Foundation Trust Application Progress report considered by the ELHT Trust’s Board at a meeting held in January, 2008. The earliest ELHT could become a Foundation Trust was Autumn, 2008 and the Trust Board was continuing to work towards achieving Foundation Trust status.

Town Centre – Masterplan Options

The Sub-Committee was invited to comment on a report which informed Members that URBED, the consultants working on the Accrington Town Centre Masterplan, were moving towards the public consultation stage of the preferred option for the Masterplan. Reference was made to the key issues that would contribute to the production of an area strategy plan.

Feedback from Members was that there should be a transport facility operating between the proposed bus station and the train station due to the distance between the two sites. Reference was also made to the importance of ensuring that the plan incorporated the views of owners of town centre businesses as well as integrating all critical projects to ensure that the town centre project made progress.

As part of its continued policy review/development role, the Sub-Committee requested to be kept informed of feedback upon the completion of the public consultation of the draft Town Centre Masterplan.

Regenerating Hyndburn - Progress on Hyndburn's Future Regeneration and Economic Strategy and Associated Regeneration Projects

Consideration was given to a report outlining the progress on the development and delivery of Hyndburn's Regeneration and Economic Strategy (RES), which was the framework for driving forward regeneration activity in Hyndburn during the next four years. The Strategy focussed on three core themes that contributed to achieving the physical and economic transformation of the Borough.

Members were also informed of the progress of associated regeneration projects. The progress made or planned for on Blackburn Road corridor in relation to the amount of time the project had been in operation; concern about the lack of information being provided to Councillors and residents in respect of timescales being applied to the Church/Canal Gateway project; and the complexity of the development's delivery and location were all discussed.

The Sub-Committee resolved that efforts should be made to keep Members of the Council and residents informed of progress with the Church/Canal Gateway project. A progress report on Regenerating Hyndburn was also added to the Sub-Committee's Work Programme for consideration in the 2008/09 Municipal Year. It was also resolved that representative(s) of Enza Property, the preferred developers of the area who would have responsibility for compiling a masterplan and delivery plan, should be invited to attend the meeting when the progress report was considered.

Hyndburn's Community Safety Partnership – Update on progress and future plans

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety submitted a report and gave a verbal update outlining the progress, challenges and achievements of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) during 2007/08, along with its Strategic Assessment, and outlined the Partnership's future plans for 2008/09.

Statistical information had shown that crime had reduced in Hyndburn in comparison to 2005. It was also reported that the CSP, which was currently funded by Central Government, was to soon become the responsibility of Lancashire County Council, and consequently, there was some uncertainty about the Partnership continuing in its present form. The Portfolio Holder also responded to Members questions, comments and concerns on the work of the CSP.

Hyndburn's Local Strategic Partnership – Update on Progress/Future Plans

Consideration was given to a report of the Leader of the Council on the progress and future plans of Hyndburn's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

Hyndburn's LSP had been reviewed during the last 18 months and significant improvements made, including the production of an LSP Improvement Plan, the development of a Performance Management Framework, and the establishment of a dedicated LSP Manager post.

Questions, comments and concerns raised on the report and the work of the LSP included the importance of Elected Members sitting on the LSP Assembly regularly reporting back to the Council; concerns regarding the extent of youth services provided in Hyndburn; and the 'Every Child Matters' Initiative.

The Sub-Committee acknowledged the progress made by the LSP and its future plans. Information requested outlining the structure of the Local Strategic Partnership Assembly was subsequently received and circulated to Members.

Scrutiny Panel Review – Hyndburn Homes and Hyndburn Homes Repairs Service

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 Sub-Committee at any time.

The Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee appointed a Scrutiny Panel to undertake an in-depth review of Hyndburn Homes and Hyndburn Homes Repairs Service in July, 2007.

The Scrutiny Panel met on five occasions and its membership comprised of Councillors C Pritchard (Chair), N Collingridge, M Dad and D Mason. The Panel's report, detailing its findings and recommendations, was received and accepted by the Sub-Committee at its January, 2008 meeting. Hyndburn Homes has provided written responses to all the Panel's recommendations. A number of recommended actions have been accepted and implemented, including the circulation of contact information for key Hyndburn Homes and Hyndburn Homes Repairs Service staff, and the submission of written update/progress reports on housing matters through Hyndburn Area Council meetings.

**Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee:
Summary of Activities 2007-08**

Committee Meetings: 6

Total topics examined: 28 (9 Work Programme; 19 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 7 occasions during the 2007/08 Municipal Year. Matters considered by the Committee during the past 12 months have included the Adult and Community Services Directorate Annual Review of Performance for Adult Social Care 2006/07; the Commissioning of Clinical Assessment Treatment Support (CATS) Services in Lancashire; Lancashire Local Area Agreement: Healthier Communities and Older People's emerging priorities; reducing under 18's conceptions; Lancashire Care Trust – Mental Health Matters and review of Psychological Therapy Services and access to NHS Dentistry in Lancashire.

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 has continued to be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Some of the main areas of progress on the Improvement Plan during 2007-08 were as follows:

Progress on improvements to Overview and Scrutiny during 2007-08

- Each Sub-Committee continues 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 rare occasions.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Sub-Committees continues to hold agenda planning meetings. These are normally held in the week before the scheduled Committee/Sub-Committee meeting and help 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/Sub-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 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 included SureStart, Hyndburn; East Lancashire Primary Care Trust; Lancashire Constabulary; and East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.
- Publicity on Overview and Scrutiny has continued to develop during 2007-08, 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.

(a) Member Development Opportunity - Chairing Scrutiny Course – Birmingham

At the start of the 2007/08 Municipal Year, two newly appointed Chairs of Sub-Committees (Councillors Liddle and Storey) attended the Institute of Local Government Studies (INGOLOV) “Chairing Scrutiny” course held in Birmingham on 2nd July, 2007. The course was found to be very informative and worthwhile and a valuable learning and development resource.

(b) Member Development Opportunity – Learning Resource – Audio Compact Disks (CD's) – listening series for Overview and Scrutiny

The Council’s Organisational Development team, in liaison with Overview and Scrutiny, obtained a learning resource material in the form of a number of Audio CD’s which enabled Members the opportunity to further enhance their knowledge, development and skills in Overview and Scrutiny. The three CD’s, “Success with Scrutiny” – how to be an effective Chair of Scrutiny; Improving your Scrutiny Skills; and how to be an effective Chair of Scrutiny; were accompanied with a booklet of self-development notes to accompany the Audio Resource.

Councillor Grayson reviewed this listening series of CD’s and found them to be an excellent and worthwhile learning resource for Overview and Scrutiny.

(c) Overview and Scrutiny – Networking visit to County Hall, Preston - Lancashire County Council Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting

A suggestion arising from last year's Annual review report was to aim to visit or be visited by at least one other Council during each Municipal Year to learn from the operation of Overview and Scrutiny elsewhere and share best practice. An invitation received from Lancashire County Council to observe a meeting of its Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 9th October, 2007 was accepted. Councillors Gott and McCormack, along with the Overview and Scrutiny Officer observed the meeting. The business considered at the meeting included a discussion on proposals for the possible establishment of Academies in Lancashire, and specifically, on a proposal to open an Academy in Accrington in September, 2008 to replace Accrington Moorhead Sports College.

(d) 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 hosted, for the very first time, the meeting of the LSPF held in August, 2007. The meeting, chaired by Councillor Doug Hayes, was extremely successful, with a total of 32 Members and Officers from throughout Lancashire attending. The theme of the presentation undertaken by Hyndburn at the meeting was 'raising the profile of Overview and Scrutiny'.

Hyndburn Borough Council was also represented at meetings of the LSPF hosted by Lancashire County Council (June, 2007), Rossendale Borough Council (November, 2007) and Wyre Borough Council (February, 2008).

(e) North West Employers' Organisation (NWEO) – Overview and Scrutiny Chairs Practitioners Network – St Annes

Hyndburn was represented by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer and a Member Services Officer, at a meeting of the NWEO Overview and Scrutiny Chairs/Practitioners Network meeting, hosted by Fylde Borough Council on Monday 10th March, 2008. Matters considered included an update report on the work of the National Scrutiny Network; a presentation by Officers from Blackpool Borough Council on a review of Community Governance arrangements and devolved scrutiny and Area Panels at that Local Authority; and a discussion session on the challenges for Overview and Scrutiny in working with partners given the new duty to co-operate.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AT HYNDBURN – OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Overview and Scrutiny and Internal Audit Report – September, 2007

During the course of the 2007/08 Municipal Year, the Overview and Scrutiny function at Hyndburn was audited by the Internal Audit section at Hyndburn Borough Council. This was the first time that the Scrutiny function had been audited, the audit found that the paperwork kept was stored in a logical manner and was of an exceptional standard with a clear audit trail. The audit also examined how the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee worked together with its two Sub-Committees, and the Sub-Committee's ability to appoint time limited Scrutiny Panels to undertake in-depth reviews on specific topics. The findings of the audit were that the Scrutiny function was working well; records were kept for all projects, and that minutes of meetings were all easily identifiable, in order and accessible. The main recommendation arising from the audit was to try and find ways in which to further raise the profile of Scrutiny.

**Overview and Scrutiny – Annual Audit and Inspection Letter
Hyndburn Borough Council – March 2008**

The Annual Audit and Inspection letter of Hyndburn Borough Council – March 2008, under the heading “Improvement planning and sustaining improvement – Capacity” made the following positive comment about Overview and Scrutiny at Hyndburn:-

“The Council’s scrutiny process is strong. Scrutiny receives good officer support facilitating effective reviews, particularly in areas of under performance.”

**Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Overview and Scrutiny at
Hyndburn – Findings - February, 2008**

During the Autumn of 2007, Hyndburn Borough Council was reassessed by a Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) team. As part of the inspection, the lead CPA Inspector observed the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd October, 2007 and the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny and other Elected Members were interviewed about the progress and development of the Scrutiny function.

The Council received an ‘excellent’ rating following the CPA. Overview and Scrutiny was also found to have improved considerably over the past four years since the last CPA Inspection report of 2004. At that time, the Council had been judged to be ‘weak’ in its scrutiny arrangements, and this had impacted on the functions ability to offer robust internal challenge.

The CPA report of February, 2008 found scrutiny at Hyndburn to be developing well, with examples of positive impact and recognized that the Council was open to internal and external challenge to support its focus on customers and improve systems.

Overview and Scrutiny is now an integral part of the democratic process at Hyndburn and will now concentrate on building on the excellent work already being undertaken as highlighted in the CPA report and meeting the challenges and expectations for the further strengthening of the Overview and Scrutiny function detailed in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007.

Improvements in Hyndburn's Overview and Scrutiny function highlighted nationally - CfPS publication

Last year's positive internal audit report of the Overview and Scrutiny function and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment report which highlighted improvements made have been recognized nationally through positive publicity contained in an article published on the Centre for Public Scrutiny's (CfPS) website and in its Scrutiny Champions Bulletin – March 2008.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AT HYNDBURN – SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS 2008-09

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 2008-09

- Aim to carry out more in-depth Scrutiny Panel reviews during 2008-09, (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 Committee/Sub-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.

- Aim to visit or be visited by at least one other Council during the year to learn from the operation of Overview and Scrutiny elsewhere (Hyndburn hosted the Lancashire Scrutiny Partners Forum meeting in August, 2007 and visited a Lancashire Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in October, 2007).

HYNDBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND OUR PRIORITIES WITH OTHER PARTNERS

Hyndburn Borough Council has five Corporate Priorities and two other Priorities with Partners:-

Corporate Priorities

- **Corporate Governance and Community Leadership**
- **Community Safety**
- **Housing and Environment**
- **Economy and Employment**
- **Culture and Leisure**

Other Priorities with Partners

- **Health and Social Care**
- **Education and Lifelong Learning**

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

KEY:

Corporate Priorities indicated in **purple** type

Other Priorities with Partners indicated in **green** type

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2007-08	Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners
Formulation of Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes 2007/08	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Review 2006/07 – Draft Report	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Overview and Scrutiny – Draft Protocol for Meetings	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Overview and Scrutiny Budget 2007/08 - Allocation	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Cabinet / Overview and Scrutiny Member survey on effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny 2006/07	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Invitations to External Meetings / Networking Opportunities	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Responses of the Executive to reports of Overview and Scrutiny	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership

<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee - topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2007-08 (continued)</p>	<p>Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners</p>
<p>Update (verbal) report from the Chair on overview and Scrutiny Matters</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Report on Internal Audit of the Scrutiny function</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Panels – Update on Progress</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Budget 2007/08 – spend to date and allocation of remaining budget</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Work Programmes of the Committee and Sub- Committees- Monitor and Review</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Call-In – Procurement of leisure Services</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Culture and Leisure / Health and Social Care</p>

<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee - topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2007-08 (continued)</p>	<p>Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners</p>
<p>Budget Scrutiny Meeting – (Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy 2008/09 -2010/11; Medium Term Financial Strategy; General Revenue Budget 2008/09; Capital Programme 2008/09; Labour Group – Budget Proposals 2008/09; Independent Member – Budget Proposals – 2008/09)</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Community Safety; Housing and Environment; Culture and Leisure; Economy and Employment</p>
<p>Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee – topics and 'standing/procedural' items considered 2007- 08</p>	<p>Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners</p>
<p>Budget Monitoring report</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Community Safety; Housing and Environment; Culture and Leisure; Economy and Employment</p>
<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Responses of Cabinet to recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Sub-Committees</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>

<p>Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee – topics and ‘standing/procedural’ items considered 2007- 08</p>	<p>Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners</p>
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan report</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Decision Monitoring report</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Work Programme report</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Selection of a topic and appointment of a Scrutiny Panel / Scrutiny Panel Update reports</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Planning and Transportation Service Plan</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Economy and Employment</p>
<p>Corporate Performance Information 2006-07 End of Year Performance report</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Community Safety; Housing and Environment; Culture and Leisure; Economy and Employment</p>
<p>Issues arising from the Termination of the Lancashire Highways Partnership</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Housing and Environment</p>

	Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub- Committee – topics and ‘standing/procedural’ items considered 2007-08 (continued)	
Planning Section – Performance (Performance Information / Updates on new planning legislation).	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Economy and Employment
Regeneration and Housing Services Service Plan	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Housing and Environment
Update report on the Partnership between Hyndburn and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Councils	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Sustainable Communities Strategy report	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Community Safety; Housing and Environment; Culture and Leisure; Economy and Employment / Health and Social Care; Education and Lifelong Learning
Update on Benefits Service - Performance	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Members	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership

	Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee – topics and ‘standing/procedural’ items considered 2007-08 (continued)	
Departmental Service Plans – 2007/08	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Community Safety; Housing and Environment; Culture and Leisure; Economy and Employment
Job Evaluation – Outcome report	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Equalities Scheme – Progress against Action Plan report	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Accrington Information Centre Report	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Culture and Leisure
Green Spaces Strategy	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Culture and Leisure
Scrutiny Panel – scrutiny review of selected Council Policies and Strategies (Policy review and Development)	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Scrutiny Panel – scrutiny review of the cost of Christmas decorations and activities in Hyndburn, including procurement and storage).	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Culture and Leisure; Economy and Employment

	Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners
Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee – topics and ‘standing/procedural’ items considered 2007-08	
Minutes of the last meeting	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Responses of Cabinet to recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Sub-Committees	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan report	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Overview and Scrutiny Decision Monitoring report	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Responses of Cabinet to recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Sub-Committees	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Work Programme report	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership
Scrutiny on SureStart (Hyndburn)	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership / Health and Social Care; Education and Lifelong Learning

	Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners
Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee – topics and ‘standing/procedural’ items considered 2007-08 (continued)	
East Lancashire Primary Care Trust	Health and Social Care
Lancashire Constabulary – updates on Policing matters	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Community Safety;
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust – Consultation on Plans to become a Foundation Trust	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership / Health and Social Care
Report on the Town Centre - Masterplan Options	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Economy and Employment
Report on Regenerating Hyndburn	Housing and Environment; Economy and Employment
Update – Community Cohesion in Hyndburn	Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Community Safety
Community Safety Partnership – Update on progress and future plans	Community Safety

<p>Communities and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee – topics and ‘standing/procedural’ items considered 2007-08 (continued)</p>	<p>Links to Corporate Priorities / Corporate Priorities with Partners</p>
<p>Local Strategic Partnership – Update on progress/future plans</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership</p>
<p>Scrutiny Panel – scrutiny review of Hyndburn Homes and Hyndburn Homes Repairs Service</p>	<p>Corporate Governance and Community Leadership; Housing and Environment;</p>