

## Community Focus Scrutiny Committee



Date	10 December 2009
Venue	Town Hall, St Annes
Committee members	Councillor Keith Hyde (Chairman) Councillor Thomas Threlfall (Vice-Chairman)  Christine Akeroyd, Elizabeth Clarkson, Tony Ford, Kathleen Harper, Ken Hopwood, Barbara Pagett, Dawn Prestwich, John Prestwich, Elaine Silverwood, John Singleton
Other Councillors	Karen Buckley, Cheryl Little, Angela Jacques,
Officers	Allan Oldfield, Tracy Scholes, Bryan Ward, Annie Womack
Others	Chairman of the LSP - Bernard Whittle

### 1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

There were no declarations.

### 2. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under council procedure rule 22.3:

Councillor Elaine Silverwood for Councillor Maxine Chew

Councillor Barbara Pagett for Councillor Linda Nulty

### 3. Lytham Club Day Public Convenience Provision

This topic had arisen as a result of a Notice of Motion to Council in July 2009, asking the Council to consider its moral obligations to provide extra public conveniences on the day that Lytham Club Day is held each year. Council had referred the Notice of Motion for review by the relevant scrutiny committee.

Allan Oldfield (Director of Customer and Operational Services) presented his report, in which the risks and costs to the Council of undertaking such an obligation were outlined.

Members were also advised that it would not be feasible to do this just for Lytham Club Day, but would have to be undertaken for all club days, resulting in further cost and risk. Mr Oldfield explained that there was no budget provision to fund any portable public conveniences.

The committee discussed some schemes which had been adopted by other local authorities for special event days where traders had made their facilities available to the public. However, it was reported that those local authorities paid the traders for providing that service.

A number of members commented on the behaviour of some members of the public, not just on club days, and suggested that it would be prudent to review the number of permanent facilities available to the public.

After the debate the committee RESOLVED to recommend to Cabinet:

1. That the committee has considered the risks and the financial implication presented in this report and recommends that the Council supports the provision of portable public conveniences for all club days and major events.
2. That it is a requirement of event organisers to consider the provision of public conveniences as part of the event management plan.
3. That Council does not fund portable public conveniences for Lytham Club Day because there is currently no budget and no policy provision to do so.
4. That Mr Oldfield should review the current provision of permanent facilities across the Borough.

### 4. Performance Exception Report

Mr Oldfield also presented this report to the committee for their consideration. The performance exceptions included in the report reflected both good and poor performance to date, as measured against the targets set.

He provided updated information to the committee, which had not been available at the time of publication of the report. This related to N157a - improved to 87.5%; and N157c - improved to 75.42%.

Mr Oldfield explained the context of the performance exceptions report for the committee and told them that the figures were brought to the committee on a

quarterly basis. He then went on to highlight some of those indicators included in the report.

Committee members asked questions about sickness absence and the complaints procedure. Mr Oldfield clarified the requirement for the Council to report sickness as an overall figure without breaking it down into departments. However he did acknowledge that, if needed, that information could be provided for the use of the committee. He described for members the way in which the new complaints procedures operated.

He went on to tell the members that if any time they wanted a more in-depth report on any of the exception figures, they could resolve to request it.

After the debate the committee RESOLVED:

To note the report.

## 5. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

This report was introduced by Bryan Ward, Community Safety Manager, and Inspector Lawler from Blackpool and the Fylde Police.

It was explained to the committee that it is now required to scrutinise the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and the report was intended to inform them about the work that was being done.

Inspector Lawler gave a detailed explanation to the committee about the local crime statistics which had been included in the report, and what was being done to tackle those issues. She advised the committee where there had been successes and where more work needed to be done.

In particular she talked about the potential of restorative justice, especially in neighbour disputes where there had been good results. She also described how the Fylde was subject to "travelling" crime, where criminals from neighbouring cities such as Manchester and Liverpool would travel to the Fylde and commit burglaries here. The police Nightsafe operation was also highlighted as a success.

The committee members had questions covering a very wide range of topics, including the effectiveness of local PACTs, positioning of CCTV, reoffending rates after restorative justice, and how the police tackled travelling crime. Inspector Lawler responded appropriately and advised members how to raise their specific concerns.

After a detailed debate on the issues, the committee RESOLVED:

To note the report, and to recommend that the Chairman of the Community Focus Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Keith Hyde, be invited to sit on the Partnership and to participate in future strategic assessment activity regarding the partnership.

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