

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Select Committee No. 1 – PACTs

10 September 2008

#### Present at the meeting:

Councillor J S Birch (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs B Bourne  
Councillor B J Fagan  
Councillor P L Holland  
Councillor P Thompson  
Councillor P A Tushingham

**.1 Apologies for absence:** Councillors M Aldred, M Klieve, J Moodie and R T Splaine

**.2 Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of this Select Committee held on 26 August 2008 were approved as a correct record.

**.3 Interview on PACT process with Officer of Neighbourhood Services, Wigan Council:** Members put a number of questions to the Head of Neighbourhood Services, following his contextual presentation. Discussion followed on experiences in and lessons learned from PACT roll-out to date; partner organisations' strategic buy-in, operational commitment to ground-level response on local priorities and accountability; the evolution of inclusive, effective and efficient process; and connections with parallel pieces of work also concerned with community involvement in improvement activity (such as Community Cohesion, Routes to Involvement and the Township Review). Community volunteer engagement and mobilisation, and corporate resource commitment/staffing structures' evolution were also covered.

A number of the points made were noted by the Head of Neighbourhood Services and a commitment given to their consideration going forward. Members also recorded the challenges put and assurances given, and would reflect these in their report and presentation of key findings in Spring 2009.

Resolved: The Select Committee agrees to maintain a dialogue with the Head of Neighbourhood Services as the scrutiny work progresses.

**.4 Revised Terms of Reference for the PACT Review:** The Select Committee reviewed the revised terms of reference as a useful focus for the PACT review work with which they were charged and considered them a good reflection of previous debate on critical challenges that members needed to address in helping inform on-going improvement works in policy and process terms.

Mindful that a number of elected members were absent, it was agreed that the opportunity of comment would be extended again next time as a courtesy. R Horsfield committed on the development of objectives so as to make closer connection with the forward-looking work plan.

Resolved: The Select Committee agrees:

- the terms of reference for the PACT review in-principle which will be subject to formal sign-off by the Select Committee on 22 September 2008.
- Requests Lead Officer Rachel Horsfield to work-up a complementary set of tightly focused objectives for further review by elected members on 22 September 2008.

**.5 PACT review process: a First Draft Work Plan:** The Lead Officer presented a first draft work plan for consideration by the Select Committee; a methodological proposal and associated timescales for work through the interviews, desk-top research and member debate that were agreed as necessary last time. In the absence of 4 Select Committee members it was agreed that time be given to those in attendance for reflection and report back at the next meeting, and that with the full group this should be revisited on 22 September 2008.

Resolved: The Select Committee revisit and pass comment on/inform the evolution and refinement of this document through discussion on 22 September 2008.

**.6 Date and Time of Future Meetings:** Resolved: The next meetings of the Select Committee be held on 22, 30 September and 16 October 2008 at 6.00 pm in Wigan Town Hall.

Chairman



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Select Committee No. 1 – PACTs

22 September 2008

#### Present at the meeting:

Councillor J S Birch (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs B Bourne  
Councillor P L Holland  
Councillor J Moodie  
Councillor R T Splaine

**.1 Apologies for absence:** Apologies for absence were received from Councillors

**.2 Minutes of Select Committee 1 (PACTs), Wednesday 10 September 2008:** The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September were approved as a correct record.

**.3 Interview on PACT Process with Officer of Neighbourhood Services, Wigan Council:** The Chairman advised the Select Committee that Ms J Ridgway – Neighbourhood Services' Community Engagement Manager was unable to attend the meeting. The Chairman passed on Ms Ridgway's apologies and reported that she would attend the meeting scheduled for 16 October 2008..

The Select Committee was advised that officers would develop a set of questions for Member's consideration prior to the meeting on 16 October 2008.

The Chairman informed Members that the Select Committee needed to agree on the key personnel they would like to invite to attend future meeting of the Select Committee as well as agree a series of dates for future meetings to enable the development of the work plan. Members were invited to propose additions to the list of interviewees first put together, the following proposals were made:-.

- Acting Inspector Peter Clarke, Greater Manchester Police (Wigan Division) as a possible alternative to Inspector Bob Pell (with whom the establishment of contact had proven difficult in recent weeks);
- Ms Angela Fell, Wigan South Area Manager for Children & Young People's Services, Wigan Council;
- Ms Sue Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive, Wigan Council;
- Ms Sally Wolstencroft, Assistant Director (Cleaner, Greener Neighbourhoods), Environmental Services, Wigan Council; and
- Representatives from Licensing/Enforcement and Youth Mediation

The Select Committee further agreed that Mr Simon Dale and Ms Sian Jay should be removed from the list of prospective interviewees due to the recent changes in their work remits. It was also felt that representatives of the public and township forums should be removed due to the narrow perspectives they would be likely to present.

Concluding the discussion, the Chairman requested that Ms Horsfield, as Lead Officer of the Select Committee, to revise the draft work plan, make the necessary arrangements for interviewees to attend future meetings of the Select Committee and invite final additions to the list by Members not in attendance at the meeting.

Resolved: The Select Committee agrees the action points as discussed.

**.4 Revised Terms of Reference for the PACT Review:** The Select Committee considered the revised terms of reference for the PACT review. The terms of reference had been revised in order to make clear the review's headline purpose, particular objectives and outcome projections.

Resolved: The Select Committee agrees the revised terms of reference for the PACT review.

**.5 PACT Review Process: Work Plan Update:** The Select Committee agreed that having already referred to and considered this issue earlier on the agenda (minute XX refers), no further debate was considered necessary.

Members expressed concerns about the following issues:-

- the lack of momentum and sustainability of improvement works beyond the duration of a PACT cycle and multi-agency intervention in support of a time-limited action plan; and
- the lack of central resource apparently being dedicated to making the PACT process work

Resolved: The Select Committee requests that their concerns be passed on to Neighbourhood Services and the Deputy Chief Executive and responses be provided at the earliest opportunity

**.6 Dates and Time of Future Meetings:** Resolved: The Select Committee agree the following schedule of meetings:-

- Tuesday 30 September 2008, 6.00pm
- Thursday 16 October 2008, 6.00pm
- Tuesday 28 October 2008, 6.00pm
- Thursday 13 November 2008, 6.00pm
- Monday 24 November 2008, 6.00pm
- Monday 8 December 2008, 6.00pm
- Monday 15 December 2008, 6.00pm

Chairman