



APHA Overview & Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report 2016-2017

Since the last AGM, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met on 4 occasions: - 21st February 2017, 27th May 2017, 2nd August 2017 and 21st November 2017. Between these meetings O&S and the Task & Finish Team met on a number of occasions via video conferencing. O&S have also attended 2 joint meetings with the Executive Board (EB). Video conferencing has also been used successfully to facilitate attendance at meetings by a member that was unable to travel and is a beneficial tool to avoid inquorate meetings. Details of these meetings (agendas and minutes) are published on the website for all Members to access.

The Task and Finish Group was formed under O&S (and now forms part of O&S) in order to Formulate an Action Plan to take the Association forward. This plan was accepted by the Executive Board and is currently being implemented. Input by Members would be greatly appreciated and would speed up the implementation progress and the sustainability of the Association.

Following the appointment of the Business Improvement Officer progress has been made in re-building the Association from the dwindling membership numbers. Whilst it is disappointing than a small number of stalwart Members have withdrawn or wished to downgrade their Membership from Corporate to PLaN, a number of former Members have re-joined. The organisation now has:

21 Corporate Members
11 PLaN Members
2 Associate Members
(numbers as of November 2017)

These include new Members from as far away as the Falkland Islands and a growing Membership in Northern Ireland where it is hoped to establish a PLaN Group in the immediate future.

A marketing leaflet has now been developed and it is hoped that Elected Members on the EB will use this to contact counterparts in non-Member Authorities. It is essential that we achieve continued growth to sustain the Association.

Following the withdrawal of administrative services by Manchester, this function was kindly undertaken by Medway. Whilst there have been a number of implementation difficulties, it is hoped that these have now been resolved and that administration will become more efficient.

Throughout the year, O&S have provided support to the Executive Board by, not only the scrutiny of decisions taken and financial reports but suggesting actions and recommendations to ensure that, so far as possible, the business of the Association continued.

The Task and Finish group recognized that the composition of the Executive Board was cumbersome and needed streamlining to make it more efficient for current times. This has now been implemented and we now have a more sustainable structure. They also identified that the confusion caused by the creation of the Animal and Plant Health Agency was unacceptable and, following a suggestion from Laurence Dettman recognized that we might have to change the name

of the Association, which could coincide with a re-launch. The name change was discussed at last year's AGM but the current need for change has not yet been decided by EB.

The Membership must recognise that APHA is their Association and will only survive if members are prepared to contribute to the work. Without that support the Association will cease to exist.

Not only do we need to grow the membership but also the involvement of Members and Officers as the present situation is not sustainable for the future.

On behalf of the Chair
Councillor Keith Morley
Hon Associate