



APHA Overview & Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report - 119th AGM, 2018.

Since the last AGM, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met on 3 occasions: - 7th February 2018, 16th May 2018, 1st August 2018 the final meeting for 2018 is scheduled for the 14th November 2018. Between these meetings 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 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 (T&F Gp) was formed under O&S (and continues to form part of O&S) in order to Maintain an Action Plan to take the Association forward. This plan was accepted by the Executive Board and is continually being implemented and adapted. Again, 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 Executive Officer progress continues to be made in re-building the Association from the previous dwindling membership numbers. Whilst it is disappointing that a small number of stalwart Members have downgraded their Membership from Corporate to PLaN, a number of former Members have re-joined. The organisation now has:

21 Corporate Members.
17 PLaN Members
3 Associate Members
(numbers as of November 2018)

These figures indicate a 21% increase in the membership since 2017.

These include new Members from as far away as the Falkland Islands and Membership in Northern Ireland, where every Authority with a port or airport is now a member of the association and, as a consequence, a PLaN Group is currently being established.

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

The T&F Gp have been in talks with representatives of the Major Ports Group in an effort to have one voice for Port Health in the UK – now even more essential with Brexit around the corner. It is intended that APHA can be modernised and become more efficient and effective so that all Port Health Authorities will become Members.

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.

As the Association has become much more transparent, it is now thought that it is no longer efficient nor cost effective to maintain the O&S Committee. It is therefore proposed that this management tier of the Association is dissolved.

Significant steps have already been taken to streamline the Executive Board, and additional efficiencies will be introduced in the very near future.

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