

Annual Report: Cllr. Shabir Pandor 2010/11

Introduction

This is the ninth annual report I have presented since I was first elected in 2002. This report aims to provide an overview of the work and achievements from May 2010 to April 2011.

Leadership of the Council

After the partnership administration ended before the general election the Labour administration has continued to work with all parties across the council who shared a common set of values in how we wish Kirklees to develop and flourish amidst the challenges that are facing all local authorities. As a member of the cabinet of the council, I have continued to engage with other democratically elected members to support them in their role as local ward members. As joint corporate policy lead with the leader I have developed an understanding and appreciation of the importance of the services within this portfolio.

Since the general election our challenges have increased even further as the Government is now asking this council to make further savings which will be in the region of £80m.

Our strategic Priorities

Our strategic priorities remain the same and are as follows:

- * Enhance life chances for young people
Working in partnership to improve educational attainment for the under 16s and help them to reach their full potential
- * Support older people to be healthy, active and included
Helping people to improve their health and well-being. We will focus on preventative work and empowering people to make informed decisions
- * Lead Kirklees out of recession
Making sure we emerge with a stronger economy and better paid jobs
- * Provide effective and productive services
Ensuring services are focused on the needs of the community and are excellent value for money

Participation at Council Meeting Committees

I have attended all full council meetings, attended the Labour Group meetings and contributed to the way the council has conducted its business with a view to providing services that are responsive to the people of Kirklees and my own ward. In my role as a cabinet member I was asked by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to give evidence and answer questions after the cabinet decision on the future of KNH was called in. This provided me with valuable experience around clarity, effective communication, political awareness and decision making within a complex organisation.

The Area Committee..... moving towards new locality structures.... Town & Valley Committee

I have continued to be an active member of the Area Committee and have supported the chairs and my other councillor colleagues and officers who sit on and service this committee. The programme to deliver at a local level continues to pose major challenges and opportunities and I will continue to use my influence to ensure we continue to make changes and make a positive difference to peoples lives.

The Area Committee is now composed of 3 wards (Batley East, Batley West & Birkstall and Birkenshaw).

Ward Work

This area of my work continues to provide me with a real grasp of how national and local policies are having an impact and making a difference on local communities at a ward level. Over the past year I have seen my ward work becoming more complex and demanding. The demands have primarily come from housing, education and highways. I do get a lot out of and learn a great deal from the issues my constituents bring to me.

Achievements During the Year

I have achieved a substantial amount during the year a few examples include:

- I have completed the Local Government Improvement and Development (formerly IDeA) Leadership Academy
- I completed the Regional Member Development Charter Plus assessor training
- Continued work through the impact on the financial challenges facing the council and sensitively driving the I&E work programmes whilst understanding the political impact on staff, unions, service users and communities.

Members Surgeries

I continue to hold regular surgeries through out our ward and I am accessible at the request of my constituents.

Training and Development

Last year I set myself a target to become a Charter Plus assessor and complete the Local Government Improvement and Development's Leadership Academy

I have managed to complete both programmes. The Leadership Academy has provided me with valuable skills, knowledge and experience. This includes developing my:

- Political skills
- Communications skills
- Lobbying skills
- Work Life balance skills

- Understanding my own learning style and how I can make the best use of various resources to maximise my learning and development
- Interacting with other politicians
- Partnership and collaborative working