

**REGENERATION AND TECHNICAL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Monday 29th October 2007**

PRESENT – *Councillor Surve (in the Chair), Councillors. K. Foster, Doherty, Mike Johnson, J. Smith, J. Rigby, Julie Slater and Tapp.*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

<i>Councillor Cottam</i>	– Executive Member Regeneration
<i>Adam Scott</i>	– Director for Regeneration
<i>Peter Hunt</i>	– Director for Environment
<i>Brian Bailey</i>	– Lead Officer
<i>Paul Conlon</i>	– Principal Scrutiny Officer
<i>John Addison</i>	– Scrutiny Officer

RESOLUTIONS

9 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Councillor Ali.

10 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2007

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2007 be received and signed.

11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

12 Work of the Executive

The Executive Member for Regeneration was invited to give the Committee a brief overview and update on the Executive Decisions he had taken since the last meeting of the Committee, and to highlight any future decisions that he may be taking between this Committee and the Committees next meeting to be held in December 2007.

Members were also provided with a budget position statement for the Regeneration portfolio, which included progress on efficiency reviews.

The Committee considered the Executive Member decisions, Executive Board decisions relating to the portfolio and the current position in relation to the budget.

In response to a question about the cost implications of the Whitebirk Gateway, the Director for Regeneration informed Members that it was the gateway to Blackburn and that Lancashire County Council was not prepared to offer any funding for the scheme.

Some Members expressed concern at how the Council recycling figures would rise due to the recent changes in the Council's policy towards weekly bin collection. The Executive Member assured Members that the change to a weekly bin collection would help the Council to increase its recycling targets and that the implications in not achieving recycling targets were huge.

The Executive Member agreed to provide the Committee with a detailed report on the Council's waste and recycling figures, when these were available, to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Work of the Executive and the Performance Agreement be noted.

13 A666 Rapid Transport Link Presentation

The Committee were guided through a video of the route taken from Darwen to Blackburn and on to the Borough Boundary, which was the route of the proposed improved public transport link.

Officers from both the Council's Regeneration Department and CAPITA provided Members with a commentary to the video footage on congested areas and proposed works the Council was planning to undertake.

The Committee discussed the key points that had arisen surrounding the proposal, in particular the impact to the residents of the borough of the proposals, the cost and benefits to the proposed schemes.

In response to a question about the potential benefits to the borough verses the cost/impact to the people of the borough. The Officers informed the Committee that the proposed road improvements would reduce the average travel time between Darwen and Blackburn by up to 12 minutes. It was noted that the borough would also benefit from a reduction in carbon dioxide omissions from the improved journey time.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted

14 Blackburn Market and Darwen Market Strategy

Members were updated with information of the Committees survey of Blackburn Market on Wednesday 24th and Saturday 27th October. A copy of the questionnaire was attached to the Agenda for Members information.

Members were informed that the survey had provided a large amount of data that would be analysed to assist Members in drawing up questions for the Executive Member. Members were provided with an initial break down of the findings from the survey of Blackburn Market. It was noted that nearly 200 people had been surveyed over the two days.

The Committee were reminded that before the next meeting of the Committee a similar survey of Darwen Market would take place. The results would be fed back to the Committee.

Members considered how to progress their scrutiny investigation and agreed that a visit to Bury and Bolton Markets would provide the Committee with information of popular markets as identified for from members of the public through the survey of Blackburn market.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

Signed.....
Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....