

**REGENERATION AND TECHNICAL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Monday 4th February 2008**

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

RESOLUTIONS

16 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th December 2007

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2007 be received and signed.

18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

19 Work of the Executive and the Performance Agreement

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 March 2008.

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 progression of Freckleton Street bridge. The Executive Member informed the Committee that the bridge was at a critical stage with the steel structure being moved, but was being slightly hampered due to the current high winds. It was noted that the bridge was expected to be opened by the middle of June 2008.

Members asked the Executive Member for Regeneration a number of questions with regards to St Peters Cemetery, including the numbers of bodies in the cemetery and if they would have to be exhumed.

The Executive Member informed the Committee that there were 1046 bodies in St Peters Cemetery to be exhumed and that they would be relocated to the Pleasington Cemetery. It was noted that the last body buried in St Peters was over 60 year ago.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

20 Waste Recycling Figures 3rd Quarter

The Committee received a presentation from Peter Hunt, Director of Environment, on the Council's 3rd quarter recycling figures. The presentation outlined each of the quarters results so far and how the Council aimed to increase the recycling figures further.

The Director informed Members that he was please to inform the Committee that the recycling figures had increased again to 36% an increase of 1.6% from the second quarter results of 34.4%. It was noted that the total percentage of recycling for 2006/2007 was 27.7%.

Members were informed that the next delivery of the burgundy 140 litre bins was to 18,000 properties in early March and the last roll out of 24,000 bins to the complete Borough was likely to be September 2008.

It was reported that the increase in recycling had reduced the amount the Council spent on landfill tax by £400K per annum.

The Director answered questions about increasing recycling rates, focusing upon how the Council could do this, targets the Council could reach and implications to the Council on not increasing recycling.

RESOLVED:

The Director for Environment be thanked for his presentation.

21 Proposals for Town Centre Vision/Master Plan

The Strategic Director for Regeneration provided Members with a presentation on the proposals for Blackburn Town Centre, focusing on the current regeneration projects currently underway and what the Council hoped to achieve in the future.

The presentation highlighted how future projects would link into current regeneration projects and how Blackburn town centre would look in the future.

Members held a round table discussion with the Executive Member for Regeneration and the Strategic Director for Regeneration on the plans for Blackburn town centre.

Members were pleased with the plans and vision for Blackburn town centre and requested that a discussion regarding plans for Darwen town centre happen at a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Strategic Director for Regeneration be thanked for his presentation.

22 A666 Rapid Transport

The Strategic Director for Regeneration provided the Committee with a report and update on A666 Rapid Transport.

Members were informed that the Council had decided to review the future transport needs of the borough as a whole, rather than just focusing its attention on the A666 and requested that citizens be consulted on all aspects of future transport needs so investment and policy could be driven by this.

It was reported that the strategy was designed to help communicate key messages around transport issues and a planned consultation process that was as wide ranging as possible.

It was reported that the consultation would take the form of two phases, phase one would seek ideas and suggestions from citizens, businesses and those living outside of the borough but who travel into the borough regularly. It was noted that Members of the Council would also contribute ideas/suggestions of their own.

Phase two would be more detailed focusing on suggestions put forward in phase one as well as options already outlined in the LTP. It was expected that a final report outlining the results of the consultation process would be published in July 08.

The report also highlighted a number of guiding principles and objectives of the strategy:

Guiding principles

- In response to Member request, the consultation would be comprehensive and generate the additional information needed in order to make a decision that is fully signed up to.
- The information presented to both Members and the public will include projections of traffic congestion under a number of options. The detailed consultation will be carried out in this context.
- Generally speaking, the consultation would become more targeted and detailed as time goes on.

Objectives

- Raise public awareness of the fact that doing nothing is not an option
- Manage any media interest in the consultation and any suggested schemes
- Ensure all information relating to the consultation is co-ordinated and links to the key messages as set out in the communications strategy
- Support the Council's strategy to reduce congestion and improve public transport

Members held a round table discussion with the Executive Member and the Strategic Director on the use of public transport, how to encourage more users of public transport and better inclusion of cycling provision in the borough.

RESOLVED:

The Strategic Director for Regeneration be thanked for his update.

23 Work Programme

The Scrutiny Officer reminded Members of the Committee's main work programme for the year; Regeneration of Markets, A666 Rapid Transport and Waste.

Members were reminded of some of the issues that they had highlighted throughout the meeting and asked Members how they wished to continue with their work programme.

Members requested that for the next meeting of the Committee if available, they would like to have a presentation on plans for Darwen town centre.

Members agreed that before the next meeting of the Committee the Chair and Vice-Chair along with Officers should develop draft recommendations based on the Members deliberations on the Committees work programme to be circulated to all Members of the Committee prior to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That before the next meeting of the Committee the Chair and Vice-Chair along with Officers should develop draft recommendations based on the Members deliberations on the Committees work programme to be circulated to all Members of the Committee prior to the next meeting.

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

Date.....