

**REGENERATION AND TECHNICAL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Monday 31st March 2008**

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

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

RESOLUTIONS

24 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Councillors Doherty and J. Smith.

25 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th February 2008

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th February 2008 be received and signed.

26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

27 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 June 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 and when it was expected to be opened. The Executive Member informed the Committee that the bridge was progressing well and it was expected to be opened by the middle of June 2008.

The Executive Member invited any Members of the Committee once the road was in place to a site visit of the bridge if they wished. It was reported that in terms of the Freckleton Street Masterplan schedule were on time and that the Council owned most of the land required.

RESOLVED:

That the work of the Executive be noted.

28 Vision/Master Plan for Darwen Town Centre

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

The presentation highlighted how the Council hoped to encourage more shoppers into the town and to create a pleasant and vibrant market town as surveys of town had shown Members of the public wanted.

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

Members were pleased with the plans and vision for Darwen town centre and requested that a discussion regarding plans for Darwen town centre be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Strategic Director for Regeneration be thanked for his presentation.

29 Recommendations

The Chair provided Members of the Committee with a summary of the Committees work on its scrutiny investigations throughout the year. Member where further provided with a list of potential recommendations for Members to consider, based of Members findings and deliberations throughout its investigation.

The Committee discussed each recommendation intern and agreed that the following recommendations be submitted to the Policy and Review Committee;

Markets and ELRT (A666)

General

1. That all major projects include an engagement and consultation plan with clear outcomes, outputs and milestones to be managed by a discreet lead officer / contact point role separate from the project manager in order to ensure effective challenge and transparency.
2. That all major projects include a communications plan with clear timescales, to be developed by the project team and managed by the team's communications lead officer.
3. In developing major projects a transparent option appraisal process should be undertaken and reported in order to support meaningful engagement and inform the decision-making process.
4. Ward members should be informed of all major projects proposed or planned in their wards as part of any engagement plan.
5. In developing programmes to sustain and develop trade in both town centres and markets, priority should be given to all age Town Centre family activities.
6. In planning for bus provision to both town centres and markets the needs of disabled users and young families should be clearly addressed.
7. That if the Council is committed to markets management in the long term, consideration is given to recruiting managers with a track record in the retail industry.

Blackburn Market

8. That concessions should be considered - including staged rentals - to support the loyalty of well-established stallholders in assisting their move and establishment in the new Blackburn market hall.
9. That management of the transition phase between old and new markets be reviewed to offer a better and more responsive supportive service especially for more loyal stallholders.
10. That (in line with recommendations 1-4 above) more detail is provided to stallholders on arrangements for the new market including car parking, storage of stock and loading.

Darwen Market

11. In the current debate on disc parking in the town centre that consideration be given to a 3 hour window to encourage multiple shopping visits and spend, with a report back to the Committee on the impact to the recent changes to the parking policy.
12. That the long term sustainability of the 3 day market is properly addressed and demonstrable consideration be given to all options including development of a modern 5 day market and imaginary and appealing use of the outdoor area within the square to add interest, with a report back to the Committee with clearly defined timescales to be met.
13. That concessions should be considered - including staged rentals - to support the loyalty of well-established stallholders in Darwen Market as the Council moves towards creating a new Market for the town.

ELRT (A666)

14. That the proposed wider consultation is supported but that arrangements are put in place in line with recommendations 1-4.
15. That as part of the development of options and wider consultation, consideration be given to the carbon footprint of the current position and future projections of each option to allow comparisons.
16. In developing options a clear rationale and actions are set out for achieving modal shift from cars to buses along A666 as justification for the capital investment, and that park and ride be considered as part of the overall scheme.
17. In line with 15. a formal business case with clear and deliverable set of actions are developed and agreed with bus companies to ensure this is achievable.

RESOLVED:

That the Recommendations as list above be agreed and added to the Committees end of year report.

30 End of Year Report

The Chair provided the Committee with a report that set out the end of year observations, comments and findings made by the Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee in its 2007 – 2008 Work Programme

for submission to this years Policy and Review Committee and the Scrutiny Annual Review.

The report reminded Members of each of the work programme items agreed by the Committee and what the Committee wished to scrutinise through its investigations. The Committees work programme for the year included;

- Transport and the A666/ East Lancashire Rapid Transport Development
- Regeneration of the Markets
- Waste

RESOLVED –

1. That the End of Year report be agreed; and
2. That the End of Year report be forwarded for consideration by the Policy and Review Committee.

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

Date.....