

**REGENERATION AND TECHNICAL  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
Monday 13th October 2008**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE –**

Councillor Cottam	-	Executive Member for Regeneration
<i>Adam Scott</i>	-	Strategic Director for Regeneration
<i>Brian Bailey</i>	-	Lead Officer
<i>Janet Doolan</i>	-	Employment Pathfinder Delivery Manager
<i>Paul Conlon</i>	-	Principal Scrutiny 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 18<sup>th</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>h</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008 be received and signed.

**18 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**19 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 2008.

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

In response to a question about the current over spend in the Regeneration Budget of £103,000, the Strategic Director for

Regeneration informed Members that the current projected £103,000 overspend would be managed within its cash limited budget.

Members then held a discussion with the Executive Member for Regeneration around Concessionary fairs and the impact on the Regeneration budget. It was report that the Concessionary fairs were a corporate pressure.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **20**     **Worklessness**

Janet Doolan, the Employment Pathfinder Delivery Manager, provided Members with a presentation on the back ground to worklessness, challenges the Council faced and what the Council was doing to tackle the issue.

The presentation informed Members of the national picture of worklessness, the boroughs worklessness statistics and the Governments welfare reform agenda.

Members where informed that worklessness can lead to a number of problems for citizens, such as:

- Poor Housing
- Poor Health
- Poor Diet
- Alcohol Misuse
- Drug Misuse

It was reported that many people had significant barriers to work, were more likely to live in deprived areas, and in poverty. Other reported barriers included;

- Childcare availability and cost, adult Care
- Depression, mental illness
- Lack of motivation and confidence
- Basic Skills needs and/or no qualifications
- Poor personal and social skills
- Debt & effect of work on benefits or CSA payments
- Financial help with applying for jobs/interviews
- Cost and availability of transport, homelessness

Members were informed that the Council faced many challenges in tackling worklessness, such as helping residents tackle barriers to employment, respond to redundancies, assisting employers to fill vacancies and fund gaps in local provision.

It was reported that the Council was currently aligning priorities & funding of all agencies targeting individuals to help worklessness, using WNF money to target priority groups, helping employers fill their vacancies, working at a neighbourhood level and sharing best practice with the Lancashire County Council and Pennine Lancashire authorities.

Members then held a discussion with the Officers present around issues facing the Council in relation to worklessness, the effects of the credit crunch and apprenticeship schemes.

Members agreed that a task group of Members should be formed to review the information Members had received on worklessness and to provide the Committee with a scoped topic for the next meeting. It was further agreed that Councillors Julie Slater, Foster, Surve and Kay would form the Task Group.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Council's Employment Pathfinder Delivery Manager be thanked for her presentation.

**21 Feedback from Recommendations 2007/2008**

The Strategic Director for Regeneration provided Members with a written response to the Committees recommendations from 2007/2008 on behalf of the Executive Member for Regeneration.

Members agreed that since the Executive Member had to leave the meeting at the end of the previous Agenda item and that the Committee had just received the Executive Members response to there recommendations from 2007/2008, that the item be deferred to the Committee next meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the feedback to the recommendations from 2007/2008 be deferred to the Committee's next meeting.

**22 The Work Programme**

The Principal Scrutiny Officer provided Members with an update on the Committee's work programme for the year as agreed by the Policy and Review Committee at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008.

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 were reminded that the deferred items, Feedback from Recommendations 2007/2008 and the new Scrutiny topic, Community Safety Partnership and Domestic Violence would be at the Committees next meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committees work programme for the year be noted.

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

Date.....