

**REGENERATION AND TECHNICAL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Monday 30th March 2009.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE –

Councillor Cottam	-	Executive Member for Regeneration
Adam Scott	-	Strategic Director for Regeneration
Janet Doolan	-	Employment Pathfinder Delivery Manager
Paul Conlon	-	Principal Scrutiny Officer

RESOLUTIONS

31 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Surve and Rizwan.

32 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2008

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2008 be received and signed. A member drew attention to the work on the issue of domestic violence and reminded members of the religious/worship needs of victims of domestic violence and to ensure that these were met.

33 Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest made.

34 Work of the Executive

The Executive Member for Regeneration gave the Committee a brief overview and update on the Executive Decisions he had taken since the last meeting of the Committee and highlighted future decisions that he would be taking between this Committee and the Committees next meeting to be held in June 2009.

Members were also provided with a budget position statement for the Regeneration Portfolio, which highlighted a significant overspend for the portfolio. The Committee questioned the executive member on steps being taken to ensure that the budget situation was resolved and in response it was stated that there had been a significant reduction in income and this had contributed to the overspend. There would be a

significant carry over into next year's budgets but steps would be taken to manage the situation.

Members discussed with the Executive Member issues relating to car parking and raised the possibility of using the market site as a car park once the move to the mall was complete and prior to redevelopment. The executive member stated that he would seek to have the market site retained for car parking as we retained ownership of the building.

With regard to the issue of waste management and disposal the Executive member stated that a number of options were being considered and would be discussed in the near future. The Committee would be kept informed of progress on the issue.

The executive member would also be considering the latest projections for the market shortly and the outcome of the meeting would then be put to the market traders. The anticipated date of the transfer was still to be 2010 and options were to be reported to the executive board in April.

RESOLVED – That the report and updates be noted.

35 Performance information.

The Committee received performance information in relation to the work of the regeneration portfolio area. The Committee were informed of progress towards meeting the two targets that were currently not being achieved within the portfolio in particular the target relating to the number of jobs created and the issues arising from the current financial climate.

RESOLVED- that the report and the steps being taken to achieve targets not currently being met be noted.

36 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 Committee received a copy of the consultation document setting out the Darwen employment strategy 2009-2011. the consultation had been developed out of the City strategy Pathfinder which had established a successful multi agency strategic approach to reduce employment, reduce benefit dependency and increase employment of residents of the borough. The strategy incorporated the Local Area Agreement targets and set out the council and Local Strategic Partnerships ambitions to improve the economy of the borough.

The strategy set out the local context to the issue including the breakdown of the issue to ward level information from each of the partners. The framework for the economic progression was outlined together with targets to be achieved and who the strategy would be funded. The report also set out the key milestones for the strategy and how these milestones would be measured.

Members discussed the funding issues relating to the strategy and were informed that significant amounts of money would be available for training schemes and the partnership could challenge to obtain further funding to meet gaps in provision. A member drew attention to the low representation of ethnic minorities at chief officer level and suggested that a mentoring scheme be introduced to address this issue.

Resolved that the strategy be noted and that the further recommendations on the issue be considered at a reconvened meeting of the Committee on Wednesday 2nd April for submission to the Policy and Review Committee.

37 Recommendations of the Committee.

The committee reconvened on Wednesday 2nd April 2009 and considered recommendations for the work of the committee for submission to the Policy and Review Committee. The Committee forwarded the agreed recommendations to those members of the Committee not able to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED;

Worklessness.

1. That the Committee support the proposed strategy being included in mainstream funding and would wish this to continue.
2. That the use of apprenticeships be welcomed and all LSP Partners be recommended to consider the introduction of apprenticeships.
3. That progress on the appointment of apprentices be reported to the Committee on a regular basis,
4. That the strategic employment group be held accountable for the work they do to contribute to the Worklessness issue.
5. That the work on breaking the cycle of Worklessness continue as an issue for Scrutiny by the Committee

6. That the Committee receive a detailed Time line and measurable targets for the Worklessness strategy setting out who will deliver and how this contributes to achieving the overall aims.
7. That the risks and barriers to not delivering the strategy be outlined for the Committee in full.
8. That the partners be recommended to adopt the strategy as a key policy within their organisations.

Domestic Violence

1. That the inclusion of the work to prevent domestic violence as mainstream funding be supported and that the Committee seek reassurances that this meets the needs of those subject to and suffering from domestic violence.
2. That the executive member be requested to report back to this Committee on ways in which the resources are being targeted to make a difference to the lives of the those affected by domestic violence ie children, victims and perpetrators.
3. That the religious needs of victims be considered when safeguarding them.
4. That the Committee be recommended to carry out further work on this issue.
5. That the work of the strategy group looking at the issue be reported to the Committee.
6. That the issue of preventing domestic violence be included within the corporate priorities of the council and the due to the crosscutting nature of the issues involved ensure that all corporate issues are considered.
7. That a programme of awareness of the issues be undertaken by the Crime and Disorder Partnership within organisations to highlighting the issues and experiences of victims of Domestic Violence.

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

Date.....