

**REGENERATION AND TECHNICAL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Monday 7th December 2009**

PRESENT – *Councillor McGarvey (in the Chair); Councillors Browne, Surve, Mike Johnson K. Foster and Maxfield.*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr Cottam	- Executive Member Regeneration
Adam Scott	- Strategic Director for Regeneration
Tom Stannard	- Lead Officer
Paul Conlon	- Principal Scrutiny Officer
John Addison	- Scrutiny Officer

RESOLUTIONS

24 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received by Councillors Kay, Mulla and Tapp.

25 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th October 2009

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th October 2009 be received and signed.

26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

27 Work of the Executive

The Executive Member for Regeneration was invited to give the Committee a brief overview and update on the performance data for his Portfolio, and to highlight any future decisions that he may be taking between this Committee and the Committee's next meeting to be held in February 2010.

Members were also provided with a budget position statement for the Regeneration portfolio, which included progress on the efficiency reviews and the overall budget position for the department from the last financial year.

The Committee considered the performance data for the Regeneration Portfolio, the forward plan relating to the portfolio and the current position in relation to the budget.

Members requested that the Committee should receive detailed Capital Budgets that were relevant to the Regeneration portfolio enabling Members to have a better understanding of the department's budget position. The Executive Member informed the Committee that the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee already received the Council's Capitals Budgets, but he would look to improve upon the current information presented to the Committee.

Members held a discussion with the Executive Member around the department's budget; in particular why the department was £224k behind on its efficiency targets. The Executive Member informed the Committee why his department was not making its £224k efficiency target. Members were also informed that the Executive Member would provide them with a breakdown of the department's efficiency targets for 2009/2010 at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

28 Feedback on Recommendations 2008/2010

The Committee was provided with an update report from the Executive Member for Regeneration on the Committee's recommendations made during the last municipal year.

Members considered each update in turn and agreed to note the progress so far. Members were pleased that most of the recommendations had been considered in detail and been accepted.

After a detailed discussion, Members agreed that at a future meeting of the Committee, Members would like a discussion around the Blackburn Town Centre Movement.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

29 Markets

The Executive Member provided the Committee with a brief verbal overview and update on the redevelopment of Blackburn Market. Members then held a discussion with the Executive Members and Officers on the current Market and its Management.

The Executive Member was then presented with a list of questions obtained by the Scrutiny Committee from the Market Traders. The Executive Member agreed that he would take the questions away with him and provide the Committee with a written response to each of the questions asked by the Market Traders.

After a discussion around the Markets Management Board, the Executive Member invited the Chair or Vice Chair to attend the Boards Meetings. It was agreed by the Committee that the Chair or Vice Chair would attend these these meetings on behalf of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the Chair or Vice Chair will attend the Markets Management Board meetings on behalf of the Committee.

30 Highways Issues

The Executive Member provided the Committee with a report on the Highways Asset Management Integrated Services (HAMIS) project which had been developed over the last few months as a significant change to the way in which the Borough's roads and other highways facilities were looked after. It was noted that the review included Council staff in the Highways and Engineering Division of the Regeneration and Environment Department and Capita Symonds staff who provide technical services.

The Executive Member informed Members that the key issues of HAMIS were:-

- The condition of the highways asset is in a poor state of repair and getting worse. Too much of our budget is spent on reactive maintenance, as opposed to planned works.
- There is uncertainty about the respective roles of the Council staff and that of Capita Symonds.
- Processes, procedures and IT systems are not fully co-ordinated
- It was believed that there are potentially significant financial savings and efficiencies to be made.

The Executive Member and Officers also outlined the key features of the review, the progress to date of the review, finances and the key performance indicators of the review.

Members then held a detailed discussion with the Executive Member and Officers around HAMIS, in particular its finances, the life cycle of the

review and any savings the Council could potentially make from the review.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

31 Committee Visits

The Chair provided Members with an update on the ongoing work by the Committee.

Members held a round table discussion on recent visits and information gathering from the business advice centres and Blackburn and Darwen Markets.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

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

Date.....