

**REGENERATION AND TECHNICAL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Monday 9th August 2010**

PRESENT – *Councillor Julie Slater (Chair) Mulla, Browne, Khonat, Gee, Harling and Pearson.*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr Alan Cottam	- Executive Member for Regeneration
Cllr M. Law-Riding	- Executive Member for Environment
Brian Baliey	- Director for Regeneration
Peter Hunt	- Director for Regeneration
Tom Stannard	- Lead Officer
Paul Conlon	- Principal Scrutiny Officer
John Addison	- Scrutiny Officer

RESOLUTIONS

7 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Councillor Johnson, Julie Slater and Khonat.

8 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th June 2010

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th June 2010 be received and signed.

9 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

10 Work of the Executive and the Performance Agreement

The Chair asked the Executive Member for Environmental Improvement and Sustainability to outline his department's top five priorities for the next twelve months, what he considered to be his three biggest risks and the impact these may have.

The Executive Member for Environmental Improvement and Sustainability outlined the strategic and operational priorities for his Portfolio over the coming year;

- Appearance of the environment

- Maintenance of Parks & play areas
- Recycling rates
- Carbon reduction
- Savings targets

Members were also informed of the Portfolios biggest risks over the course of the next 12 months;

- Budgets now and next year
- Large savings required (25% average)
- Essential services with little room for cuts without significant noticeable differences
- Public satisfaction

Members held a discussion with the Executive Member for Environmental Improvement and Sustainability, in particular about areas covered in his portfolio and the impact of budget cuts.

RESOLVED:

That the Executive Member for Environmental Improvement and Sustainability be thanked for his attendance.

11 Work of the Executive

The Executive Member for Regeneration and the Executive Member for Environmental Improvement and Sustainability portfolios were invited to give the Committee a brief overview and update on the performance data for their Portfolio, and to highlight any future decisions that they may be taking between this Committee and the Committee's next meeting to be held in October 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.

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 held a discussion with the Executive Member for Regeneration around the department's budget; in particular around the department's efficiency targets for 2010/2011 and potential budget cuts in 2011-2012.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

12 The Council Budget Position two portfolio covered by the Committee

The Committee received a detailed presentation on the Regeneration department's budget position and the potential impact the governments October spending review may have on the department.

Members were informed that the department was currently looking at a £898K budget gap for 2000/2011 and that the department was conducting its own spending review.

The presentation highlighted to Members in year budget cuts for 2010-2011, NWDA funding cuts for 2010/2011 and the departments Budget 2011/2012 onwards.

The Committee then held a discussion with Officers on the effects the cuts would have to the Regeneration department. Members noted that work was currently being done on the risks and impact of cuts and that more information would be brought to the Committee when available.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

13 Response to Recommendations 2009-2010

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.

The Committee looked at the Executive response to the recommendations for the previous year and how these were to be implemented and if not why not. Members received a detailed report and feedback on the recommendations relating to the response to the severe weather and the effects that this had had on the infrastructure of the borough. Members looked at the ways in which the borough would seek to improve the response if this reoccurred and how new proposal would make a difference.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

14 Work Programme for the Year

The Lead Officer reminded Members of some of the issues highlighted throughout the Committees meeting, along with the Committees legacy items from the work plan for 2009/2010.

The Committee then agreed that for the year they would look at the following topics:

- Budgets- the Committee agreed that they would look at the portfolio's budget in light of spending cuts and its potential effects on the services provided.
- Waste procurement- to look at the proposals being considered to deal with the boroughs waste.
- Transport infrastructure- to look at the infrastructure improvements to the borough and how effects of the reduced budgets will be managed.

Members further agreed that they would also look at the Market Relocation, which continued the work from the previous year as the development continues to be of major interest to the portfolio. The Committee agree that it would undertake a visit to the current market and the site to which the market would relocate in March 2011.

The Committee also agreed to briefly investigate the issue of Graveyard capacity to see if the scope of the topic was worth reviewing as a topic for the year. It was agreed that officers would provide the Committee with information on Graveyard Capacity at its next meeting to be held in October 2010.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Committees work programme be agreed as;
 - Budgets
 - Waste procurement
 - Transport infrastructure
 - Legacy item – Markets

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

Date.....