

**REGENERATION AND TECHNICAL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Monday 11th October 2010**

PRESENT – *Councillor Khonat (Chair) Mulla, Browne, Johnson, Julie Slater, Gee, McFall and Shorrocks.*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr Harling	- Executive Member for Regeneration
Cllr F. Hussain	- Executive Member for Environment
Adam Scott	- Strategic Director for Regeneration
Tom Stannard	- Lead Officer
Paul Conlon	- Principal Scrutiny Officer
John Addison	- Scrutiny Officer

RESOLUTIONS

15 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Councillor Rigby.

16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th August 2010

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th August 2010 be received and signed.

17 Declarations of Interest

After receiving advice from the Principal Scrutiny Officer it was agreed that no declarations of interested needed to be made for Councillors Mulla and Gee. Members wished it be noted that Councillor Mulla was a member of the Muslim Burial Committee and that Councillor Gee was a Members of the National Markets Federation.

18 Work of the Executive and the Performance Agreement

The Chair asked the new Executive Members for Regeneration and Environment Portfolios to outline their departments priorities for the remainder of the year, what they considered to be their biggest risks and the impact these may have.

The Committee was informed of the new Executive Members priorities that included balancing departmental budgets, Waste Procurement, Transport Infrastructure and the relocation of the market and how they would approach these issues, with the biggest risk being clearly identified as the budget positions for both departments. The Committee held a round table discussion on the portfolio's priorities and the Committees existing work programme.

Members decided that the work programme agreed previously by the Committee still mirrored with the priorities of the Executive Members and that they were happy to continue looking at the issues of Budgets, Waste Procurement, Transport Infrastructure and the relocation of the market.

RESOLVED:

That the Work of the Executive and the Performance Agreement be noted.

19 Work of the Executive

The Executive Members for Regeneration and Environment Portfolios were invited to give the Committee a brief overview and update on performance data for their Portfolio's, and to highlight any future decisions that they may be taking between this Committee and the Committee's next meeting to be held in December 2010.

Members were also provided with a budget position statement for the Regeneration and Environment Portfolios, which included progress on the efficiency reviews and the overall budget position for the departments 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 held a discussion with the Executive Member around the Regeneration budget and progress against efficiency review, with the Executive Member informing Members that the department had completed 78.8% of its efficiency reviews and his department was on track for the remaining 21.2%.

It was noted that the Regeneration Portfolio was currently carrying a £179,000 overspend, with the Executive Member informing the Committee he was confident the overspend could be managed within his departments cash limited budget.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

20 Cemetery Capacity in the Borough

The Director for Regeneration presented Members with a report outlining the remaining Burial spaces within the Borough Cemeteries and the timescales until capacity is reached. The report informed Members that the Council operates a number of Cemeteries across the Borough and highlighted that the main Cemeteries currently being used for burials are Pleasington in Blackburn and Darwen Eastern.

It was reported that the Cemetery at Pleasington was reaching capacity for the Church of England Section with only approximately two and a half years burial capacity remaining and efforts were being made to find a suitable location for an extension.

The Director for Regeneration informed Members of the issues relating to the capacity in the Boroughs Cemeteries and the availability of land in the near future. The Committee looked at the specific issues relating to certain sections of the community. It was reported that the Council was looking at ways of ensuring that the availability of land could meet demand in the foreseeable future.

Members held a discussion with Officers regarding the needs of different communities within the Borough. Members agreed that the Committee would receive reports on the issue when major decisions were to be made to ensure that a scrutiny input could be made.

Some Members raised concerns about the time period between services at the crematorium and stated that they were not long enough. The Director informed Members that cremations were currently booked in for every 30 minutes. The Executive Member promised Members that he would look into the timings of cremation bookings and would report back to the Committee at a later date.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the Market relocation be noted.

21 Market Relocation

The Director for Regeneration provided Members with a brief update on the relocation of the Blackburn Market. The Committee agreed that it would continue to look at the issue of the relocation and the transfer to The Mall including trader issues both in the new market and the existing

market. Members were also keen to ensure that the Council did all it could to ensure that vitality and viability of the existing market until the relocation.

It was noted that once the market had successfully relocated, the Committee would look at the future uses of the old site and the ways in which the redevelopment could enhance and improve the town centre shopping experience.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the Market relocation be noted.

22 The Budget Position of the two Portfolio covered by the Committee

In addition to the Committees normal budget monitoring, Members were updated on the budget implications from the spending review for the two portfolio that reported to the Committee. Members were informed that the standard spending assessments were to be announced on 20th October 2010 and following this the overall figures would need to be disaggregated and the implications evaluated.

The Committee reaffirmed that the portfolio budget implications be part of the Committees work programme for the year and that reports be submitted to each meeting setting out the budget position and the implications of service reductions to meet the financial targets.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the Budget Position of the two Portfolio covered by the Committee be noted.

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

Date.....