

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 15th June 2011**

PRESENT – *Councillor Surve (Chair) John Pearson, David Pearson, Khonat, Akthar, John Slater, Iftakhar Hussain, McFall, Solkar, Gordon Rehman Sidat, Browne, and Cottam.*

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr Harling	- Executive Member for Regeneration
Cllr F. Hussain	- Executive Member for Environment
Cllr Humphrys	- Executive Member for Housing
Cllr Jan- Vimarni	- Executive Member for Customer Services
Brian Bailey	- Director for Regeneration
Sayyed Osman	- Director for Environment
Lisa Bibby	- Lead Chief Officer
Steve Tingle	- Deputy Lead Chief Officer
Ben Aspinnall	- Scrutiny Manager
John Addison	- Scrutiny Officer

RESOLUTIONS

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2 Minutes of Meetings held on 23rd March 2011 and 28th March 2011

The Chair informed the Committee that the Minutes of former Scrutiny Committees were here to be noted only, but the responses to recommendations from both Regeneration and Sustainable Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committees would be reported back to the October meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of Meetings held on 23rd March 2011 and 28th March 2011 be noted.

3 Work of the Executive

3.1 New arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny

The Scrutiny Manager gave a presentation to the Committee on the revised Scrutiny structure and the new work and functions of the Committee and outlined how things will work. The Members were informed about the reduction in the number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees from six to three. It was noted that Scrutiny now held an even greater importance due to the limited resources across the Council.

The Scrutiny Manager drew Members attention to the Call In dates in the Committee Calendar with Members being informed that they had been fixed into the calendar in case they were needed. It was stressed that should several Call Ins be received, several dates would be sought. It was further emphasised that one date per month was set for administrative purposes only and that there was no attempt to stifle democracy.

RESOLVED –

That the Scrutiny Manager's presentation on the new arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny be noted.

3.2 Transformational Agenda

Neighbourhood Services:

The Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services presented to the Committee a report on his portfolio and a brief outline as to what his portfolio area incorporated. Members were provided with a copy of the current Transformational Agenda position with regards to savings in his portfolio.

The Director for Neighbourhoods outlined in detail a break down of the transformational Agenda including areas that were on target as well as those areas where targets still need to be met. It was reported that there were no areas of the Transformational Agenda failing.

The Executive member informed the Committee that the portfolio programme was on target for a balanced budget at the end of the year.

Regeneration:

The Executive Member for Regeneration provided Members with a report on his portfolio and a brief outline as to what his portfolio area incorporated. It was noted that the Regeneration department also had a large number of grants reduced or cut and explained to the Committee the ways in which his portfolio was aiming to save money.

Members were then provided with a copy of the current Transformational

Agenda position with regards to savings in his portfolio.

The Director for Regeneration talked through the Transformational Agenda including areas that were on target and those where targets still needed to be met. It was reported that there were no areas of the Transformational Agenda failing.

The Executive Members informed the Committee that he and his portfolio were looking at different ways of working in light of the spending reductions to try and maintain high quality services. It was reported that one different way of working was to perhaps take a 25 year loan and resurface all roads in the Borough at the same time, thus cutting down on yearly and expensive repair work. It was stressed that this was currently only being looked at and that Blackpool had recently undertaken such a scheme.

Customer Services:

The Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services provided Members with a report on his portfolio and a brief outline as to what his portfolio area incorporated.

Members were then provided with a copy of the current Transformational Agenda position with regards to savings in his portfolio.

The Director for Regeneration provided a talk on the Transformational Agenda including areas that were on target and targets still to be met. It was reported that there were no areas of the Transformational Agenda failing.

Housing:

The Executive Member for Housing Services presented to the Committee a report on his portfolio. He briefly outlined what his portfolio area incorporated. The Executive Member highlighted that due to the nature of how his portfolio budget is collated, his department had been particularly hit hard by the spending review as a large number of grants the Council received had also been cut.

Members were then provided with a copy of the current Transformational Agenda position with regards to savings in his portfolio.

The Director for Housing outlined in detail a break down of the Transformational Agenda including areas that were on target and targets still to be met. It was reported that there were no areas of the Transformational Agenda failing.

RESOLVED –

That the Executive Members and Officers be thanked for their attendance.

4 Committee Work Programme

The Chair asked the Committee based on what it had heard from the Executive Members to consider its work programme for the forthcoming year. Members were reminded that the Committee was only choosing a work programme for the next 3 months and that it should be based on the Transformational Agenda.

Members agreed that the Committee should create a number of sub groups to work outside of Committee to scrutinise the portfolios for the next three months. Members held a round table discussion on potential areas the Committee could scrutinise with a number of ideas coming forward, in particular around street cleaning, reduction in core fee, highways maintenance and trading standards.

The Committees lead Chief Officer suggested that all the ideas put forward should be sent to all Members of the Committee via an online questionnaire. This would allow Members to consider and suggest ideas. Members also agreed that the results of the questionnaire be presented to the Chair and Vice-Chair to allow them to agree the Committees sub groups based on Members responses.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and scrutiny questionnaire should be sent out to Members the following day.
- 2) That the Committee should be split into sub groups to scrutinise the four portfolio areas.
- 3) That any Member of the Committee who does not volunteer themselves onto one of the three groups would be co-opted on to one by the Chair and Vice Chair.

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

Date.....