

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**PRESENT** – *Councillor Surve (Chair) Hardman, Khonat, Akthar, Iftakhar Hussain, Solkar, Taylor, McFall, Hollings, Whalley, Daley, K. Foster 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
Steve Tingle	- Lead Chief Officer
Judith Wyllie	- Deputy Lead Chief Officer
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. Apologies were received from Councillors Jackie Slater, Akhtar, Evans and Sidat.

**2 Minutes of Meetings held on and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of Meetings held on 28th March 2012 be noted.

**3 Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4 Work of the Executive**

**4.1 New arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny**

The LINK Chief Officer updated the Committee of the main changes to Scrutiny, approved at Annual Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

The key change outlined to the Committee was that the Culture Leisure and Sport Portfolio, now resided in the remit of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### 4.2 Forward Plan

The Executive Members for Regeneration, Housing, Neighbourhoods, Environment and Culture Leisure Sport Portfolios were invited to provide the Committee with a brief overview and update on the Forward Plan.

The Executive Members updated the Committee of their key decisions via the Forward Plan for the next 6 months.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the new arrangements for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny be noted.
- 2) That the forward plans be noted for Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **5 Priorities and Risks for the Municipal Year**

Each Executive Member was invited to highlight their key priorities and risks for the Municipal year from the lists that they submitted prior to the meeting.

#### Regeneration priorities;

- Ensuring the success of the markets and the vitality of our town centres;
- Maintaining the highway network;
- Delivering the Open for Business campaign;
- Supporting jobs and growth through sustainable long term regeneration;
- Delivering service transformation;

#### Regeneration risks;

Against a backdrop of continuing economic downturn and growing Worklessness,

- Declining income;
- Worsening local government finance settlement;
- Pennine Reach is not approved by dft;

### Environment priorities;

- Managing change and transformation;
- Waste Procurement - continue with identifying a long term solution for the treatment of waste;
- Ensure budgets continue to be managed effectively and not overspent;
- Investigate additional income opportunities for services - cemeteries, recycling, parklands via the health agenda, the Community Infrastructure Levy etc.
- Progress Your Call campaign for neighbourhood environmental improvements;
- Improve hygiene standards of food businesses by promotion of the Food Standards Agency Food Hygiene Rating Scheme – both to the public and businesses;

### Environment risks;

- Waste procurement affordability is not achieved by successful bidder;
- Council budget reductions seeing some services reviewed or no longer delivered, despite a continuation of high service expectations and lack of capacity within the community to take up reduced/ceased services;
- Income levels are not achieved;

### Neighbourhoods and Customer Services priorities;

- Your Call - Neighbourhood close working with Environmental Improvement and Sustainability Portfolio to help clean up the Borough and promote positive behaviour;
- Ward Solutions and Neighbourhood services i.e. through Shared Neighbourhood Teams helping to build resilience in communities by providing prevention as a front line intervention before more expensive costs of troublesome families etc;
- To protect young people through targeted action on alcohol and tobacco age restricted products;
- Welfare Reform and impact customer facing teams
- Customer Services review;
- Community Safety Partnership reforms and move to Police Crime Commissioning model;

### Neighbourhoods and Customer Services risks;

- Council budget reductions seeing some services reviewed or no longer delivered. High service expectations and lack of capacity within the community to take up reduced/ceased services;
- Managing the benefits changes including adequate support for residents and communities in the form of information, advice and guidance;
- Income levels are not achieved e.g. Council Tax;
- Inability to engage residents and communities in participating and changing behaviour;

### Housing priorities;

- Managing change and transformation;
- Effective management of resources to spend within budget and maximise value, effectiveness and efficiency;
- Implementation of the Private Sector Landlord licensing scheme
- Empty homes strategy;
- Finalising former Griffin HMR area regeneration;
- Effect working which will lead to the alleviation of poor housing conditions impacting on improved health of residents e.g. Home improvement agency;
- Effective procurement of partners to deliver new housing e.g. Extra Care Housing;
- Manage demand arising from homelessness and mortgage; reposessions, including impact of Welfare Reform on Housing.
- Effective management of houses in multiple occupation;
- Managing exit from asylum support contract;

### Housing risks;

- Council budget reductions seeing some services reviewed or no longer delivered. High service expectations and lack of capacity within the community to take up reduced/ceased services;
- Effective consultation and implementation of Private Landlord licensing;
- Inability to procure private sector partners to further development of new housing;
- Managing the benefits changes including adequate support for residents and communities in the form of information, advice and guidance;
- Inability to effect positive change to improve housing conditions
- Risks to cohesion and service pressures because of private sector provision of asylum support;

### Culture Leisure Sport priorities;

- Achieving year two savings across services whilst ensuring that services continue to be provided to an acceptable standard;
- Continuing the migration of 'free leisure users' to paying users as re'fresh funding continues to reduce;
- King Georges Hall. An important feature of Blackburn town centre – drawing in visitors from across the UK, but with high ongoing costs and challenges in a difficult economic situation;
- Completing the transfer of community centre management to volunteers and third sector partners;
- Development of Young People's Services;

### Culture Leisure Sport risks;

- Failure of achieving savings – resulting in overspend and difficulties in achieving further savings that are expected to be required during future years;
- That attendances at King Georges Hall will drop;
- That the transfer of users at Leisure facilities to paying customers is not sufficient to balance off the reduction in monies received from refresh;

Members considered all the information presented by the Executive Members focusing on a number of key areas around waste treatment, Highways, Changes to benefits and regeneration of the Town Centres.

## **6 Committee Work Programme**

The Chair asked the Committee to consider its work programme for the year based on what had been presented by the Executive Members.

Members agreed that the Committee should create a number of sub groups to work outside of Committee to scrutinise the portfolios for the remainder of the year. Members held a round table discussion on potential areas that the Committee could scrutinise with a number of ideas coming forward, in particular around promoting growth, Maintain Highways and Waste Procurement.

The Committee then resolved that their work programme should be split between now and November and November to March 2013. It was noted that the Committee between July and November would conduct reviews of the Highways Network and Waste Procurement. It was also agreed that between November and March Members would be looking at managing the benefit changes and ensuring the success of the Markets/Town Centres.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the Committee request a briefing report on it chosen Scrutiny topics of Maintaining the Highways Network and Waste Procurement.

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

Date.....