

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**PRESENT** – Councillors *Surve* (Chair), *Hardman*, *Entwistle*, *Whalley*, *Nuttall*, *K Foster* and *Cottam*.

**Also Present –**

Cllr Bateson	Executive Member for Regeneration
Cllr Talbot	Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Young People
Cllr Jan-Virmani	Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services
Cllr J Smith	Executive Member for Environment
Sayed Osman	Director for Environment, Housing and Neighbourhoods
Brian Bailey	Director for Regeneration
Martin Eden	Director Culture, Leisure and Young People
Lisa Bibby	Link Chief Officer
Tony Watson	Head of Environmental Service
Paul Lee	Head of Service Support to the Committee
John Addison	Principal Scrutiny Officer

**RESOLUTIONS**

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to first meeting in the municipal year of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Apologies were received from Councillors Hollings and S Khonat.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 be agreed as a correct record.

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

There were No Declarations of Interest received.

**4. Work of the Executive – the Corporate Plan and Executive Member Priorities 2013/14**

The Chair welcomed the all the Executive Members to the Meeting and congratulated Councillors Bateson and Smith to their new appointments to their

respected positions. Each of the Executive Members were invited in turn to present their priorities, challenges and pledges for 2013/14.

#### Executive Member for Environment

The Executive Member for Environment provided the Committee with an outline of the role of his department, this included to achieve the best quality of environment possible, deliver a number of key day to day services throughout the Borough (refuse, cleansing, grounds maintenance), maintain the best appearance and image of the Borough, promote better behaviour and attitudes through campaigns and initiatives such as 'Your Call' and encourage more recycling and reduce waste to landfill.

The Executive Member then outlined to the Committee his priorities for the forthcoming year;

- Working with residents to improve the appearance and cleanliness of their streets and open spaces, particularly through the Your Call campaign
- Increasing recycling and diverting waste from landfill whilst delivering a quality waste service
- Managing and responding to flooding and other environmental risks
- Helping our residents to improve their health and well-being by providing high quality green and open spaces
- Improving community well-being by delivering effective licensing and enforcement activities, particularly in relation to alcohol and tobacco abuse and noise nuisance

Members were then provided with the promises for the Environment department; that by 2015 I will have ensured that the Council has:

- Worked to find ways to improve recycling and reducing waste to land fill.
- Worked with residents to help them clean up their local areas.
- Bring focus on presenting the best face of the Borough in the two Town Centres and key gateways.
- Continued to respond and take action on incidents of fly-tipping
- Will build on the success of 'Your Call' in initiatives such as preventing dog fouling and litter.
- Supported residents groups to play more of a role in managing their local parks and bowling greens.
- Helped to improve the health and quality of life of residents by tackling issues of noise nuisance and illegal smoking.

#### Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services provided the Committee with an outline on the role of his department, this included, playing a key role in how the council talks and listens to its residents to help access to services and solve problems, Neighbourhood engagement team

supporting initiatives such as 'Your Call', delivering learning services which offer our residents the chance to learn new skills and gain experience.

The Executive Member then outlined to the Committee his priorities for the forthcoming year;

- Provide services that help the Council talk with and listen to its residents and communities and help them work together to solve problems.
- Help adults learn new skills and get experience which will get them jobs or be better able to do things for themselves.
- Help and support residents and communities through government changes to benefits.
- Make sure our communities feel safe in the borough.
- Improve the borough's housing, so better homes are on offer, residents have more choice and new homes are being built. Also address issues related to privately rented accommodation.
- Make sure there is an effective and efficient public protection service to cut risks to our communities and potential harm.

Members were then provided with the promises for his department; that by 2015 I will have ensured that the Council has:

- Build on Ward Solutions and Your Call to further improve engagement and enable the Council to respond to the needs of our communities.
- Enable the best possible advice, guidance and customer services to help people navigate change.
- Supported residents to gain new skills and seek employment.
- Continued to prevent people from becoming homeless.
- Helped residents to be safer and have less problems with anti-social behaviour.
- Bring empty properties back into use.
- Ensured the development of over 400 new homes.
- Protected the public from harm as a result of unregulated trade or business.

#### Executive Member for Culture Leisure and Young People

The Executive Member for Culture Leisure and Young People presented his priorities, challenges and pledges for 2013/14. Councillor Talbot advised the Committee that within his priorities were:

- A review of Leisure and Culture assets to support the on-going regeneration of Blackburn and Darwen town centre;
- Blackburn Leisure Centre – building works to commence Autumn 2013 and facility to be fully open early 2015;
- BRSA – surplus to requirements since opening of facilities at Darwen Vale HS. Proposal to develop a BM,X/Skate park facility;
- King George's Hall, largest performance venue in Pennine Lancashire, broader programme of shows over next 2 years.

- Blackburn Festival to take place on 15th June - Annual cultural event at Witton Park;
- £85k Arts Council funding to produce arts programme in Blackburn town centre;
- £2M Arts Council funding for cultural activity in Blackburn, Burnley, Hyndburn and Pendle over 3 year period.

The Executive Member continued by outlining the pledges for his portfolio as:

- By 2015, to have delivered a new state of the arts, athletics facility at Witton Park; and
- By 2015 to have delivered a new state of the arts, leisure facility in Blackburn town centre in partnership with Blackburn College.

#### Executive Member for Regeneration

The Executive Member for Regeneration provided the Committee with an outline of the role of her department, this included striving to make the borough a prosperous, well-connected and vibrant place to live and to assist business to thrive and create jobs with good wages. The Executive Member also reported that her department offered direct support to business with grant funding, develop and maintain high quality infrastructure.

The Executive Member then outlined to the Committee her priorities for the forthcoming year;

- To create more jobs and especially for local people
- To work local business to help them grow and prosper
- To improve skills to allow local people to access jobs
- To promote our successful town centres and markets
- To deliver long term investment in major capital projects including highways and transportation.

Members were then provided with the promises for her department; that by 2015 the Executive Member would have ensured that the Council has:

- Helped to increase the number of people who are in work and /or seek work
- Commenced or completed a number of major projects to support the economy – Pennine Reach, Cathedral Quarter, former Blackburn Market site and Freckleton St Link Road.
- Reduced the number of vacant shops and market stalls in both town centres;
- Reduced the number of road and street lights in need of repair.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Executive Members for Regeneration, Environment, Culture, Leisure and Young People, Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services and Officers be thanked.

**5. Committees work programme**

The Link Chief Officer and the Principal Scrutiny Officer reminded Members of some issues and discussions that had taken place with the Executive Members, highlighting the main issues of debate that had been raised;

- Advise Services
- Shisha Bars
- Empty Home/HMO
- Procurement – using local people and business.
- Vacant shop usages
- Youth unemployment

It was agreed that the above list would be circulated to Members of the Committee for their comment and that a suggested work programme be brought to the Committees next meeting.

As a final point, the Committee were advised that one of the changes for this municipal year (emphasising that corporate parenting was on the a whole Council responsibility) was that all Scrutiny Committees were tasked with delivering the challenge of including issues raised, or having a significant impact on Looked After Children where appropriate.

**RESOLVED –**

That a detailed work programme be brought to the July meeting of the Committee for approval.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....