

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 20th November 2013**

PRESENT – Councillors Whalley (Chair), Nuttall, Entwistle, Desai, Nuttall, K Foster and Cottam.

Also Present –

Cllr Jan-Virmani	Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services
Cllr J Smith	Executive Member for Environment
Sayyed Osman	Director for Environment, Housing and Neighbourhoods
Tony Watson	Head of Environmental Services
Paul Lee	Head of Service Committee Support
John Addison	Principal Scrutiny Officer

RESOLUTIONS

17 Appointment of Chair

The Principal Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that the Chair and Vice Chair were unable to attend the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Foster and seconded by Councillor Desai that Councillor Whalley be appointed Chair of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee for this meeting only.

RESOLVED –

That Councillor Whalley be appointed Chair of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee for this meeting only.

18 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillors F. Hussain, Hardman, Hollings, Khonat and Surve.

19. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th September 2013

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th September 2013 be agreed as a correct record.

20 Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

21 Work of the Executive – Corporate Budget Monitoring Report 2013/2014

The Chair welcomed the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services and Environment to the Meeting. Members were reminded that the Executive Members had been asked to update the Committee on their areas of the Corporate Budget Monitoring Report 2013/2014.

The Executive Members presented to the Committee an overview and update on items on the Corporate Budget Monitoring Report, highlighting a number of items for Members attention.

The Executive Member for Environment also provided Members with an update report on the on the Council's Waste procurement. Members were informed that the Council had undertaken a detailed review of its options for the medium to long term.

It was noted that building on lessons learned from previous projects, the Council had decided that it would never have sufficient volumes of waste to make having its own plant viable. Officers were currently conducting a soft market exercise and more information would be provided to Scrutiny once this had been complete.

RESOLVED –

That the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services and Environment be thanked.

22 Shisha Bars

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services present to Members a report on Shisha Bars in the Borough as requested by the Committee. It was reported that Shisha Smoking was increasingly seen as an emerging threat to public health and safety both locally, nationally and beyond.

Members were informed that over the past few years the number of shisha lounges operating in the Borough had risen to approximately 17. The current number trading was thought to be 9. Concerns have been raised about the way these businesses operate. It was reported that particular concern to the Council was the blatant disregard for the ban on smoking in enclosed public buildings and workplaces and the presence of children in the businesses leading to concerns about safeguarding.

In response to a question by Members on the action the Council was taking, it was reported that a number of multi-agency enforcement operations had taken

place with prosecutions taken through the courts. However, there had been limited success with this with a number of businesses still trading who were not fully compliant with relevant legislation. It was noted that steps were being taken to try to address this by the formation of a shisha strategy group which coordinates the multiagency work in this area.

The Director for Environment, Housing and Neighbourhoods present to Members a number of key facts surrounding the use of shisha;

- Nicotine content of Shisha pipe smoke reported at 2%-4% (1-3 for cigarettes)
- Carbon monoxide in shisha pipe reported at 0.34%-1.40% (0.41% for cigarettes)
- High levels of metals (arsenic, chromium, and lead)
- Smoking sessions may be less frequent but longer duration than with cigarettes
- Smoke is cooled by water which may lead to deeper inhalation
- Shisha smokers were 2.12 times more likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer
- Shisha smokers were 1.85 times more likely to be diagnosed with cancer of the throat
- Shisha smokers in pregnancy were 2.12 times more likely to have a low birth weight baby
- Babies of shisha smokers were 3.65 times more likely to have pulmonary (lung / breathing problems
- Shisha smokers were up to 4 times more likely to be diagnosed with gum disease
- Shisha smokers were 2.3 times more likely to experience other respiratory illness (congestion, coughing & wheezing) compared to non-smokers
- Has also been linked to male infertility – though current evidence not strong.
- Sharing water pipes has been associated with a risk of communicable disease E.g.: Tuberculosis & Hepatitis C
- Has been demonstrated with cannabis water pipes – however little evidence for shisha
- Shisha smoking IS smoking and carries many of the same risks as cigarettes
- Shisha tobacco may contain higher levels of nicotine, carbon monoxide and poisonous metals than cigarettes
- Many toxins are NOT filtered out by the water in the pipe

Members were informed that over the last 12 months the Council had made good progress in raising awareness and addressing underlying concerns presented by the use of shisha and the related issues arising from unregulated operation of shisha bars.

Members held a detailed discussion with the Executive Member and Officers around Shisha and agreed that this issue should be chosen as the Committee's next work programme topic.

RESOLVED –

That the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services and Officers be thanked.

23 Committees work programme

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

Members agreed that they would work with the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee on Advice Services and attend the planed site visit in early 2014.

Members agreed that they would finalise recommendations into their review of the Empty Property Strategy at the Committee's January 2014 meeting.

It was agreed that at the 29th January 2014 meeting, Members wished to receive an update on the Town Centre Strategy and the Highways recovery programme. It was also agreed that the Committee would set up a Task Group to look into Shisha Bars and Scrap Metal theft in the New Year.

RESOLVED –

That the update on the work programme be noted.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....