

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 9th July 2014**

PRESENT – Councillors *Surve* (Chair), *Roberts*, *Entwistle*, *S Khonat*, *Whalley*, *H Khonat*, *Whittle*, *Casey*, *Daley*.

Also Present –

Cllr Bateson	Executive Member for Regeneration
Cllr Smith	Executive Member for Environment
Cllr Jan-Virmani	Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services
Sayed Osman	Director for Environment, Housing and Neighbourhoods
David Proctor	Head of Planning and Transport
Gifford Kerr	Head of Service Support to the Committee
Paul Lee	Head of Service Support to the Committee
John Addison	Principal Scrutiny Officer
Shannon Gardiner	Modern Apprentice

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 Councillor Rigby.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th March 2014

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda

Councillor Ron Whittle declared a personal interest on agenda item 2 minutes of the meeting 5th March 2014 as it referenced Twin Valley Homes. Councillor Whittles personal interest was declared as he works for a housing association in case the matter was brought up.

4. Work of the Executive – the Corporate Plan and Executive Member Priorities 2014/15

The Chair welcomed all the Executive Members to the Meeting. Each of the Executive Members where invited in turn to present their priorities, challenges and promises for 2014/15.

Executive Member for Regeneration

The Executive Member for Regeneration provided the Committee with an outline of the role of her department, this included to achieve the best quality planning and transport services, to influence and work with key partners to achieve aims, and maintain the best appearance and image of the Borough.

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

- To work with local businesses to help them grow and prosper
- To create more jobs and especially jobs for local people, and to improve skills to assist people into work
- To promote our successful town centres and markets
- To deliver long term investment in major capital projects including highways & transportation and employment sites and premises and to develop a healthy project pipeline
- To deliver housing growth starting in 2014/15 with a Local Plan which is declared sound by an Inspector

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

- Maintaining a good quality service through a period of major budget and staff change
- Delivering major capital projects to time and budget whilst minimising disruption
- Improving the Borough's image and perceptions as a place to live, invest and visit

Members were then provided with the promises for the Regeneration department; that by 2015 the Executive Member will have ensured that the Council has;

- Pennine Reach
- Cathedral quarter
- The former Blackburn market site
- Freckleton Street Link Road
- Reduced the number of vacant shops and market stalls in Blackburn and Darwen town centres
- Reduced the number of roads and street lights that are in need of repair.

Executive Member for Environment

The Executive Member for Environment provided the Committee with an outline on the role of his department, this included, continuing with the downsizing programme in line with the Council's budget, modernise and improve the

efficiency and effectiveness of our services by working smarter and to maintain the image of quality of the built environment as an essential frontline service.

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

- Successfully deliver Network Recovery, LED Retrofit and Pennine Reach schemes.
- Improve quality, productivity and efficiency of services through LEAN and smarter delivery, better trained, motivated, engaged staff, working with procedures and in an environment which promotes good standards of health and safety.
- Modernise customer contact with digital gateways, access to forms and service requests.
- Promote behaviour change through the Your Call agenda, including targeting gateways in 2014/15.
- Effective regulation of the private rented sector through selective licensing and regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation.
- Address impact of environmental crime and hygiene on neighbourhoods.
- Effective use of PCSOs in collaboration with Constabulary to affect a better approach to 'Street Scene'.
- Minimise impact of floods on the Borough.

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

- Managing downsizing of significant front facing services whilst maintaining a level of service quality.
- Delivering Network Recovery and LED programme to a quality, to programme and in the most efficient manner possible.
- Being able to secure long-term improvement to assist in land fill diversion and improvement of recycling rates.
- Risks to not being able to achieve effective Licensing of private rented properties, including regulation of HMOs.
- Sustaining income generation as a key aspect of the assumptions enabling downsizing.

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

- Worked with residents to help them clear up their local areas
- Continued to respond and take action on incidents of fly-tipping
- 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 & Customer Services

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services provided the Committee with an outline of the role of his department, this included, promote housing growth and bringing empty properties back into use, delivery of change through Welfare Reform and strategic role of CCTV in helping manage crime and disorder.

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

- Promote housing growth and bringing empty properties back into use.
- Effective regulation of the private rented sector through selective licensing and regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation.
- Deliver Troubled Families contract and effect integration with the 'Transforming Lives' Agenda.
- Promote behaviour change through the Your Call agenda, including targeting gateways in 2014/15.
- Modernisation of Customer service contact through digital by default.
- Delivery of change through Welfare Reform.
- Address impact of environmental crime and hygiene on neighbourhoods.
- Effective use of PCSOs in collaboration with Constabulary to affect a better approach to 'Street Scene'.
- Strategic role of CCTV in helping manage crime and disorder.

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

- Viability of developments for housing growth and bringing empty properties back into use in the absence of any Government Support for capital investment.
- Welfare Reform pressures, budgetary constraints and partner engagement to modernise customer services to achieve transformation.
- The role of Neighbourhood services in assisting the achievement of early intervention and integrated neighbourhood delivery of 'Transforming Lives'.
- Risks to not being able to achieve effective Licensing of private rented properties, including regulation of HMOs.

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

- By 2015 we will have ensured that the Council has:
- 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
- Ensured the development of over 400 new homes

RESOLVED –

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

5. Committees work programme

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;

- 12 Point Plan
- Image of the Borough
- Highways Asset Management Integrated Services
- LED retrofit projects
- Troubled Families
- Landlord Licensing
- Performance of Environment
- Downsizing budgets for Environment

It was agreed Members would request a report on Troubled Families for the September Meeting and an update report on Selective Landlord Licensing for the October meeting. Members agreed that they would undertake two scrutiny reviews on Performance/downsizing of Environment and Highways, 12 Point plan and image of the borough

RESOLVED –

1. That the Committee agreed 2 task groups on the 12 Point Plan and Image of the Borough and Performance and downsizing of Environment (with highways).
2. That a report be requested on Troubled Families for the September meeting of the Committee.
3. That a report be requested on Landlord Licensing for the October meeting of the Committee.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....