

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**PRESENT** – Councillors *Surve* (Chair), *Casey*, *Entwistle*, *Whalley*, *Whittle*, *Ali* and *Connor*.

**Co-optees** - none.

**Also Present –**

Cllr Smith	Executive Member for Environment
Cllr Jan-Virmani	Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services
Sayed Osman	Director for Housing and Localities
Brian Bailey	Director for Growth and Prosperity
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 Councillor Riley, Hollings, Khonat, Wright and Julie Slater.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 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 2015/15**

The Chair welcomed all the Executive Members to the meeting. Each of the Executive Members were invited in turn to present their priorities and key risks for 2015/16. The Executive Members had also been asked to inform the Committee if they had identified any risks on the Council's Risk Register.

**Executive Member for Regeneration**

The Chair informed the Committee that the Executive Member for Regeneration was unable to attend the meeting and that the Director for Growth and Prosperity would present his priorities and key risks for 2015/16 on his behalf. The Director for Growth and Prosperity advised the Committee that within the departments priorities were:

- To drive economic growth in 3 areas - housing, industry and gateways, and town centres.
- To create more jobs and get more residents into work.
- To complete current major capital schemes and develop a new scheme pipeline to sustain growth.
- To complete the capita review and secure effective, value for money services for the future.
- To maximise income and plan for long term growth in council tax and business rate receipts.

The Director for Growth and Prosperity continued by outlining key risks for his department as:

- Failure to invest in growth i.e. to be ready to plan and invest on a business case basis to deliver long term growth outcomes.
- Failure to secure new service delivery partners following the capita review.
- Completion of capital schemes on time and in budget - including Blackburn bus station - and any resulting impacts.

### **Executive Member for Environment**

The Chair welcomed the Executive Member for Environment and invited him to present his priorities, challenges and promises. Councillor Smith advised the Committee that within his priorities were:

- Successfully deliver network recovery, LED retrofit and Pennine Reach schemes'.
- Improve quality, productivity and efficiency of services.
- Modernise customer contact with digital gateways.
- Promote behaviour change through the Your Call Agenda.
- Address impact of environment crime.

The Executive Member continued by outlining key risks for his portfolio as:

- Managing downsizing of significant front facing services whilst maintaining a level of service quality and maximising income generation.
- Delivering Network Recovery and LED programme at a quality, to programme and in the most efficient manner possible.
- Being able to secure long-term improvement to assist in landfill diversion and improvement of recycling rates.

- The Council not able to achieve effective licensing of private rented properties across the Borough.

### **Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing & Customer Services**

The Chair welcomed the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing & Customer Services and invited him to present his priorities, challenges and promises. Councillor Yusuf Jan-Virman advised the Committee that his priorities were:

- Transforming Lives.
- Volunteer and Asset Based Working.
- Housing Quality.
- Digital First.
- Welfare Reform.
- Community Safety and Public Protection.

The Executive Member continued by outlining key risks for his portfolio as:

- Sufficient market strength and pace of private sector development for housing growth to generate income and inability to bring empty properties back into use in the absence of any Government Support for capital investment.
- Welfare Reform pressures.
- The role of neighbourhood services in assisting the achievement of early intervention and integrated delivery of 'Transforming Lives' as a key element of public sector service reform.
- Risks to not being able to achieve effective Licensing of private rented properties, including regulation of HMOs, thus impacting on not being able to manage demand.
- Inability to develop and generate significant investment of volunteering and community capacity to help build resilient communities.

### **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the Executive Members for Environment, Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services and Officers be thanked for their attendance.
- 2) That the key priorities and risks for 2015/16 for Regeneration, Environment, Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services be noted.

### **5. 2015-16: What Scrutiny means for Blackburn with Darwen**

The Principal Scrutiny Officer provided the Committee with an overview of the authorities' collective responsibilities and alternative scrutiny methodologies. Members referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Handbook 2014 which had been re-written and contained everything that Members and Officers should need to understand what Scrutiny is and the different approaches to Scrutiny and the potential benefits of Scrutiny within the Council.

It was reported that a Collaborative Inquiry in a Local Government setting was loosely based around the Executive Member, Lead Member and Scrutiny Member supported by Officers all working together collaboratively to deliver a common outcome.

Members were also advised of another method, namely; 'Appreciative Inquiry'. It was noted that Appreciative Inquiry was a method which discovers the best things about an organisation, team, community or project. It was becoming increasingly popular as a scrutiny tool and was used very often in an organisational change environment and in community development.

Members were informed that based on the success of reviews last year, Appreciative Inquiry would continue to add depth and value, creating real appreciative scrutiny. Also moving forwards it was noted that Committee's would continue to look at new ways of working and improve on previous successes, focusing on adding value and utilising the media to highlight what the Committee has achieved via methods such as - videos, newsletters and the internet.

#### **RESOLVED –**

That the Committee note the presentation from the Principal Scrutiny Officer.

#### **6. 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;

- Town Centre Parking, looking at provision, free after 3, free weekend and blue badge.
- Capital Schemes – Bus Depo, Cathedral Quarter etc. – ensuring the Council mitigates risks and knock on effects of any delays and costs.
- Delivering LED light programme.
- Volunteer and Asset Based Working.
- Landfill and Recycling – Active Citizenship/ improving recycling rates and long term improvements.
- Council links with Blackburn Collage/role of the University – shared aims, ways to work effectively with Borough employers to develop required skills, University centre and creating a town centre night life.
- Aims to achieve effective licensing of private rented properties across the Borough.
- Welfare reform/universal credit – understanding the impact and implications.
- Street Cleaning – how it is delivered and promoted.

It was agreed that a detailed list of Member deliberations be circulated to the Committee for their comment and that a suggested work programme be

presented by the Chair to the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015.

**RESOLVED –**

That a detailed list of Member deliberation be circulated to the Committee for Members comment by the Principal Scrutiny Officer and that a suggested work programme be presented by the Chair to the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....