

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

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

**Also Present –**

Cllr Bateson	Executive Member for Regeneration
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
Lisa Bibby	Link Chief Officer
Tony Watson	Head of Environmental Services
John Addison	Principal Scrutiny Officer

**RESOLUTIONS**

**6 Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillors Nuttall and F. Hussain.

**7. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 be agreed as a correct record.

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

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

**9. Work of the Executive – Forward Plan and Pre-Decision Scrutiny**

The Chair welcomed the all the Executive Members to the Meeting. Members were reminded that the Executive Members had been asked to present their items on the Forward Plan as well as identifying items that the Committee could collaborate with the Executive Member in relation to pre-decisions.

## Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Yong People

Members were informed that a discussion had taken place outside of the Committee where it had been agreed that at the present time there were no current items of pre-decision Scrutiny for Members consideration. However the Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and Yong People had made a commitment to come back later in the year with an item for pre-decision Scrutiny as the opportunity arose. This was duly noted by the Committee".

## Executive Member for Regeneration

The Executive Member for Regeneration provided the Committee with her items on the Forward Plan, highlighting items that Members may wish to undertake around pre-decision Scrutiny, in particular;

- Bus Lane Enforcement and Enhanced Parking Powers
- Replacement Heating System at BTMC
- Darwen Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal, Management Plan and Development Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document
- Adoption of Housing Delivery Supplementary Planning Document.
- Acquisition of Blackburn Market Perimeter Shop

Members then held a discussion with the Executive Member for Regeneration about replacing the heating system at BTMC and its impact on rent. Members were informed that there would be no impact on the rent of these units, the replacement cost was a one off and it was the Council's responsibility to replace it.

The Executive Member for Regeneration then presented to Members a presentation on Further Improving Road Safety in Blackburn with Darwen as a possible area of pre-decision Scrutiny the Committee Members could be involved in.

The presentation highlighted the following key points and facts;

### Road Safety Landscape

- Council Forum Motion April 2013 –  
'The Council calls upon the Executive Member for Regeneration to produce a report to the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee as soon as possible on the reasons for this (*current road casualty statistics*) and what steps are being taken to further improve road safety in the borough.'
- All road traffic casualties in Blackburn with Darwen have reduced by 37% since 1994-98 & 20% in the last 5 years
- Decline in child casualties in the last 5 years and since 1994-98
- There have been zero child fatalities since 2006

- Number of children injured on roads per 100,000. 3 year average for 2010-2012 shows significant reduction to 2009-2011 figure.
- Key road safety concerns - child pedestrian casualties, particularly in areas of deprivation & young driver casualties

#### Road Casualty Reduction Measures

- Targeted schools programme - including child pedestrians, transition to secondary school, areas of deprivation
- Community education & targeted training E.g. Mosque Marshalling
- Development & support of Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety education projects, including Wasted Lives & NDORS (National Driver Offender Rehabilitation Schemes)
- Your Call Campaign targeting school parking issues
- Annual Casualty Reduction Programme, funded through LTP. Prioritisation model assesses relative need & appropriate resources
- TIA's (Traffic Improvement Applications), enquiries & petitions for traffic calming measures prioritised annually
- Stats 19 casualty data shared by Lancs Constabulary. Close working relationship with divisional road policing sharing information about collisions & areas of concern
- Community Road Watch, Monthly campaigns & Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety

#### 20mph Speed Limit Pilot

- Following Council Forum April 2012 request to prioritise further areas for 20mph speed limits
- Mill Hill area chosen as a pilot
- Predominantly residential areas, with limited existing traffic calming in place
- Large enough area to generate meaningful statistics
- Mill Hill has highest number of children's hospital admissions in Borough (2006-2011)

#### Monitoring & Added Value

- Mill Hill area will be a sign only scheme, in line with guidance from DfT. Pilot area will not be a 20mph zone. 'Zones' refer to areas of 20mph which have associated traffic calming measures.
- Impact on vehicle speed will be measured after 6 months
- Impact on casualties measured after 1 year
- In addition to consultation, road safety training will take place in the schools in the area. (6 Primary schools & 1 Secondary school, with a focus on pedestrian safety.)
- Additional vehicle activated signs funded through developers will be located within the area.

## Executive Member for Environment

The Executive Member for Environment presented his items on the Forward Plan to the Committee, highlighting a number of items that Members may wish to consider in relation to pre-decision Scrutiny, in particular;

- Davyfield Road Depot Transformation and Improvement,
- Procurement for the treatment or processing of residual municipal waste.

In relation to the item on the Forward Plan regarding Waste procurement, the Executive Member presented to Members his response to the Committees recommendations on Waste that the Committee had undertaken last year.

The Head of Environmental Services took Members in detail through the Executive Members response to each of the recommendations, and provided Members with an update on the current position of the procurement of a waste contract.

Members were pleased that each of the Committees recommendations had received a positive response from the Executive Member and that each of the Recommendations had been accepted.

Members held a round table discussion with the Executive Member and Officers and felt that given the continuation of the procurement process and the Committee's involvement last year, Members wished to receive updates from Officers as relevant information became available.

## Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services provided the Committee with his items on the Forward Plan, highlighting a number of items that Members may wish to consider to undertake regarding pre-decision Scrutiny, in particular;

- Sale of Land for Housing Development
- Meeting Needs of Gypsies and Travellers
- Comprehensive Housing Advice & Assistance
- Review of Partnerships with Housing Associations and Delivery of the Affordable Housing Programme
- Development of Empty Property Strategy

Members then held a discussion with the Executive Member for Environment around meeting needs of traveller community and what the Council has to undertake by law and how the Authority works with the traveller community.

Members then held a further discussion with the Executive Member on the Council's property strategy, a recent government grant for housing renovations

and building new homes in the Borough. Members were informed that the Council had been allocated its share of an East Lancashire housing grant to restore empty properties, which was £1.2 million to renovate 100 properties.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the Executive Members for Regeneration, Environment, Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services and Officers be thanked.
- 2) That the Committee note the response from the Executive Member for Environment to the Committee's Waste recommendations.
- 3) That when appropriate updates on the waste procurement process be submitted to the Committee.

**10. 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.

Members agreed that they would work with the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee on Advice Services between July and September 2013. Members further agreed that they would hold a review into the development of the Empty Property Strategy between July and November 2013.

It was further agreed that at the November 2013 Committee Members wished to receive an update on the 20mph pilot in Mill Hill. Members would also agree at the November meeting that they would select a second Scrutiny Topic to run until March 2014.

The Principal Scrutiny Officer reminded Members that at the September 2013 meeting of the Committee, Members would receive feedback on its recommendations from last year (except Waste) and budget information for the Committee's portfolios.

**RESOLVED –**

That the work programme for the Committee until November 2013 be approved.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....