

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 2nd December 2015**

PRESENT – Councillors *Surve* (Chair), *Ali*, *Casey*, *Connor*, *Hollings*, *Khonat*, *Julie Slater*, *Whalley*, *Whittle* and *Wright*.

Also Present –

Cllr Phil Riley	Executive Member for Regeneration
Brian Bailey	Director of Growth and Prosperity
Mebz Bobat	Head of Service Support to the Committee
John Addison	Principal Scrutiny Officer

RESOLUTIONS

19. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Apologies were received by Councillor Entwistle.

20. Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th September 2015

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th September 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

21. Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda

There were No Declarations of Interest received.

22. Work of the Executive

The Chair reminded Members that at the beginning for the year, the Committee had invited all the Executive Members 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.

It was reported that for this meeting, The Executive Member for Regeneration had been invited to present to Members an update on his portfolio's key risks and what progress had been made to mitigate them. Members were reminded of the key risks as presented to the Committee at the June 2015 meeting:

- 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 capital review.
- Completion of capital schemes on time and in budget - including Blackburn bus station - and any resulting impacts.

The Director of Growth and Prosperity informed the Committee that the 3 key risks that had been identified for his portfolio were long term and would if managed correctly would help deliver the Council's key objectives.

Members held a roundtable discussion the Executive Member and the Director around the portfolios key risk, in particular the Council's growth Agenda. It was noted that Members had recently approved a new Local Plan which was vital for the Council, especially around planning, transport and business growth.

RESOLVED –

That the update on the key risks for 2015/16 for Regeneration portfolio be noted.

23. Capital Projects

The Chair invited the Director of Growth and Prosperity to provide the Committee with an update on the ongoing Town Centre Capital Projects including the Pennine Reach scheme and the Cathedral Quarter development.

The Director provided Members with a progress report on the Council's Capital schemes across the borough, in particular the new bus station, the Cathedral Quarter and Pennine Reach.

Members were reminded that Pennine Reach was a complex multi-authority initiative that was being completed on live roads. It was reported that the scheme was designed to be a single system, with all areas becoming active at the same time. The Director indicated that this would be a challenge, therefore collaborative working and good communication was essential to ensuring a successful outcome.

In regards to the Cathedral Quarter it was reported that all building work had been complete and the Council had its first grade A office space that was available to rent at half the cost of similar in Manchester. It was reported that a number of open days had been held to let the accommodation in the Cathedral Quarter with very positive feedback.

Members were also provided with copies of notes taken from the Committees 2 site visits, held on the 9th September and the 18th November. Members reiterated that they had been very impressed with how the town centre capital projects had progressed and were looking forward to seeing the Cathedral Quarter fully let.

RESOLVED –

That the progress made to date on the bus station and Cathedral Quarter development be noted.

24. Car Parking

The Director of Growth and Prosperity provided the Committee with an update on the Council's car parking provision that included free after 3 parking and Blue Badges. The Director reminded the Committee of some of the information he had provided the Committee last year when Members undertook a review of the service.

It was noted that the Executive Member was considering changes to the Council's parking provision and would provide Members with an update when he was in a position to do so.

RESOLVED –

That the Executive Member for Growth and Prosperity be requested to update the Committee if he is to propose changes to the Council's car parking provision.

25. Committees Work Programme

The Principal Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee's work programme report which highlighted the key priorities and risks which had been outlined by the Executive Members at the beginning of the municipal year.

It was noted that at the January meeting, the Committee would be provided with an update on;

- Town Centre Parking, looking at provision, free after 3, free weekend and blue badge;
- The Growth Agenda priority for the Council – which is also included as a key risk for the department.

RESOLVED –

That the Committees Work Programme be noted.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....