



REPORT OF: Chair & Vice-Chair

REPORT TO: Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

ON: 27th January 2016.

RE: Committee Work programme 2015-16

1. Purpose of the Report

For Members of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the progress to date of the work programme 2015-16 and to review the priorities for the remainder of the year.

2. Background

The first meeting of the Committee took place on the 17th June 2015. The Executive Members for Regeneration, Environment and for Neighbourhoods, Housing & Customer Services outlined their priorities and risks for the year.

The main issues highlighted were:

Regeneration

Key Priorities;

- 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.

Key Risks;

- 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.

Environment

Key Priorities;

- 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.

Key Risks;

- 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.

Neighbourhoods, Housing and Customer Services

Key Priorities;

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

Key risks;

- 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.

A detailed list of deliberations has been circulated to the Committee for their comments, and a subsequent discussion to agree the outline of a work programme took place. It was agreed that the outcomes would be reported by the Chair to the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 3rd August 2015.

3. **Work programme 2015/16**

Not including the January meeting, the Committee has one remaining standing meeting in the municipal calendar. This does not include any work the Committee choose to undertake outside of the formal meetings by way of task and finish groups or informal collaborative reviews.

Committee – 15th July 2015

- Achieving Effective Licensing of Private Rented Properties across the Borough

Committee – 16th September 2015

- Partnership working with Blackburn College
- Verbal update on the Capital Projects
- An update on the Selective Landlord Licencing task groups

Committee – 2nd December 2015

- Town Centre Parking, looking at provision, free after 3, free weekend and blue badges
- An update on the Capital Projects task Group

Committee – 27th January 2016

- Growth Agenda; new homes bonus, increased council tax and business rates base and the Local Plan
- Blue Badges

Committee – 16th March 2016

- To be agreed by the Committee

Task Groups

- 19th August 2015 - Ewood Ward Selective Landlord Licencing Consultation and site visit
- 9th September 2015 - Selective Landlord Licencing Handbook task group
- 20th October 2015 – Capital Projects; Town Centre site visit
- 18th November 2015 – Cathedral Quarter Site Visit

Recommendations

That the Committees work programme for 2015/16 be noted.

John Addison
Democratic Services