

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 16th March 2016**

PRESENT – Councillors *Surve* (Chair), *Ali*, *Casey*, *Hollings*, *Khonat* and *Whittle*

Also Present –

Tom Flanagan	Executive Director for Place
David Proctor	Team Leader, Planning Policy
Mebz Bobat	Head of Service Support to the Committee

RESOLUTIONS

31. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to final meeting in the municipal year of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Apologies were received from Paul Lee and Councillors, J Slater, Connor, Whalley, Entwistle, and Wright.

32. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th January 2015

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

33. Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

34. Town Centre Vision

The Executive Director for Place was invited to the meeting to provide Members with a in-depth presentation on key future developments and priority projects for the Borough, focusing around the Council's growth agenda. Members also received an update on the new house bonus calculation and how this impacted on the Council.

The presentation focused on a number of key aspects of the Town Centre Vision, in particular;

- Objectives, approach and output for Town Centre Vision
- Opportunities assessment
- Town centre catchment area both in and out of the Borough
- Future change to the Borough, population, housing etc.

- Excising Town Centre offer and usage
- Blackburn's opportunities and threats
- What the Town Centre needs to deliver its vision
- Extra Dimensions the Council wished to see in the town centre
- Facilities and Town Centre Experience
- Delivering the Town Centre vision

Members held a discussion with the Executive Director for Place around his presentation, Blackburn Town Centre and the vision and strategy to help the Borough grow and be a competitive Borough

Members agreed that as this was the final meeting of the municipal year and given the importance of a successful Town Centre to the Borough's economy and the importance of the Council's growth Agenda, these topics should form a basis of the Committees work programme for 2016/2017.

RESOLVED-

That the Executive Director for Place be thanked for his presentation.

35. Draft Recommendations

The Principal Scrutiny Officer provided Members with a list of draft recommendations on the Committees final work programme topics for the municipal year 2015/2016; Car Parking and the Council's Growth Agenda, which were based on Members deliberations for the Committee's approval.

Members held a discussion around each of the recommendations, following which Members agreed;

RESOLVED –

That the following recommendations for the Growth Agenda and Car Parking work programme topics be agreed:

Growth Agenda

- 1) That the Committee wishes to see at the heart of the Councils growth Agenda a vibrant night time economy for both Blackburn and Darwen Town Centre.
- 2) That the Committee wish to see the Council draw up a comprehensive strategy for the night time economy in the town centre to set out what we would like to see in the town centre in the evening and at night together with a set of actions to achieve it. This should be linked to any new town centre

capital projects and the wider strategy for economic development and growth.

- 3) That the Council, economic partnership agencies, Police and the night time businesses develop robust mechanisms to ensure night time businesses and other key stakeholders are effectively engaged in planning for the future improvements to the town centre.
- 4) That the Council's PR and Communications team and the Regeneration portfolio support the night time economy in the town centre by putting out positive messages to assist in increasing footfall by promoting the existing night time offer in the town centre (to increase footfall and trade).
- 5) That the Council and its partners work together to seek to address the future skill requirements of each sector of the local economy to ensure the whole town benefits and drives the Council's growth agenda.
- 6) That the Council continues to promote the development of the creative industries sector in the Borough; in particular around Blackburn's heritage.
- 7) That business' successes in Blackburn and the Borough are publicised to raise the profile of Borough (and the region) to people locally and more widely.
- 8) That the Council develops user friendly policies and practices which are welcoming and enable a quick response to investor queries.
- 9) That in trying to encourage economic growth the Council takes active steps to make better use of social and digital media by developing a digital media strategy around business and investment issues.

Parking

- 1) That Blue badges provide no more than 3 hours free parking to ensure fairness and availability of parking for all in the Borough.
- 2) That the Council undertakes more publicity (focusing on social media) to ensure that residents and particularly family members and friends of blue badge holders are fully aware of the rules of using a blue badge, as well as the negative impact misuse by able-bodied people has on genuine blue badge holders.

- 3) That an online reporting mechanism for members of the public to report suspected cases of misuse of a blue badge be developed.
- 4) That the Executive Member considers an annual programme of 'mini blitz' enforcement exercises which focus on preventing the misuse and fraudulent use of blue badges be undertaken.

36. Committees Work Programme and End of Year Report

The Principal Scrutiny Officer presented to Members the Committee's completed end of year work programme report for 2015/16. The report demonstrated the progress made throughout the year on the work topics covered.

Members were reminded of some of the key topics undertaken and completed by the Committee throughout the year, these included:

- Selective Landlord Licensing
- Partnership Working with Blackburn College
- Capital Projects
- The Growth Agenda
- Parking

Members considered the work programme and had a brief discussion around each of the topics covered. Members were advised that the end of year report would be presented to the Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting the 21st March 2016.

The Chair of the committee thanked Members and officers for their hard work, support and commitment over the municipal year.

RESOLVED-

That the Committee note its completed work programme for the municipal year 2015/2016.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....