

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**PRESENT** – Councillors *Surve* (Chair), *Shorrocks*, *Khonat*, *Mulla*, *Hardman* and *Neil Slater*

**Also Present –**

Brain Bailey	Director of Planning & Prosperity
John Addison	Principal Scrutiny Officer

**RESOLUTIONS**

**6. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to second meeting in the municipal year of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Apologies were received from Councillors Entwistle, Tapp, Wright and Hollings.

**7. Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

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

There were No Declarations of Interest received.

**9. Growth Agenda**

The Committee received a presentation on the Council's Growth Agenda from the Director of Planning & Prosperity, focusing on; Driving economic growth, Creating more jobs with more residents in work and major capital schemes and develop a scheme pipeline to sustain growth.

Members were reminded that at the January and March 2016 Committee meetings, the Committee had received 2 detailed presentations on the Council's Growth Agenda which had been included with the Agenda papers for Members information.

The director informed the Committee of the Council's growth forecast for the borough, including revenue growth and how this will be achieved. In particular around housing sites in both Blackburn and Darwen.

Members were also provided with a breakdown of commercial and industrial properties/sites in the borough that had the potential for both new business and expansion to business.

Members were then provided with a progress update on a number of town centre projects in the borough and development sites;

## Blackburn

### Cathedral Quarter and Bus Station

- Construction completed – some snagging still underway
- Hotel trading very well – top in region
- First office tenants, Govnet moved in. Capita and local insurance broker to follow once legals complete. Progressing other enquiries
- Cathedral Clergy and staff now living in new residences
- Café Northcote opened in Cathedral Court and trading well
- Premier Inn restaurant unit let subject to completion of contract and strong interest in large unit under office
- Small café/retail unit back on the market
- Bus Station completed and open

### Blakey Moor Townscape Heritage Project

- £3.5 million project for Blakey Moor Area
- Key projects including Blakey Moor Terrace, public realm in front of KGH, KGH frontage, Baroque, Northgate and Lord Street West properties
- Development phase of Delivery started
- On site 2017 with key projects and public realm
- Consultation starts with property owners in October

## Darwen

### 3 day Markets site

- Programme of market traders relocation underway and planned completion before Christmas trading period 2016
- Demolition February/March 2017
- Building to be secured and tidied with hoardings and visuals once empty
- Soft market testing underway to review potential commercial interest
- Darwen Town Centre Partnership Board to lead on further consultation

### Former Frankie's Bar Site, Church Street

- 14 bedroom new hotel development on key corner site with ground floor retail

## Development sites

- Former Waves
- Former Markets Site
- Thwaites site
- Simmons Street
- Eanam

Members then held a round table discussion with the Director, in particular around the Governments new homes bonus and projected new Council tax figures. Members wished to receive a further update on the growth agendas progress at the Committees January.

### **RESOLVED –**

That the Director of Planning & Prosperity be thanked for his presentation.

## **10. Committees work programme**

The Principal Democratic Services 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 its October meeting, the Committee would be provided with an update/presentation on;

- Car Parking Services,
- Selective Landlord Licensing,

Members were also reminded that the Committee would, as part of its work programme for the remainder of the year be looking at the Growth Agenda, Volunteer and Asset Based Working and Capital Programmes.

### **RESOLVED –**

That the Committee's work programme for the remainder of the 2016/17 municipal year be noted.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....