

**REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Wednesday 13th September 2017**

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

Also Present –

Cllr Riley	Executive Member for Regeneration
Brian Bailey	Director for Strategy and Funding
Ian Richardson	Director for Growth and Development
John Addison	Democratic Services Manager

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 Wright, Tapp and Hardman.

7. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2017

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th June 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th June 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

8. Declarations of Interest in items on this Agenda

There were No Declarations of Interest received.

9. Key risk/priority – Growth Agenda – focusing on industry

The Chair welcomed the Executive Member for Regeneration to the meeting to provide Members with a presentation on what the Council was doing to generate growth in the Borough's industry sector. This is a key priority/risk for the Executive Member for Regeneration and was the final part of the growth Agenda the Committee has been looking at, having previously looked at the Boroughs Town Centres and Housing.

The presentation informed Members of the work the Council was doing to bring growth and jobs to the Borough. The Committee was informed that the Council had a plan for investment and growth, which covered:

- Infrastructure and Housing
- Business Investment and Innovation
- Employability
- Quality of Life
- Image and Marketing

The main areas of the presentation focused on:

Infrastructure and Housing

- Council's Growth Programme – creating the conditions for growth
- Growth Team and 171-scheme development pipeline – coordinates support for business by all technical services
- Liaison with developers – shop window offices at Cathedral Square
- East Lancs Transport Masterplan – M65 corridor, Blackburn-Darwen-Bolton rail, orbital route
- Town centres regeneration – Cathedral Quarter, Bus Station, Leisure Centres and Health Centres, Darwen THI and 3-day market site
- Key employment & housing sites pump-priming and development – Furthergate, Freckleton St, Cath Qtr 2, East Darwen Development Corridor
- New Local Plan – 9,400 new homes, housing toolkit
- Core infrastructure – network recovery & LED retrofit, drainage
- Sustainable transport solutions – CONNECT plus with LCC

Business Investment and Innovation

- Business support – Growth Lancashire/Boost
- One stop for business enquiries
- Assistance to Industry Grants
- Local procurement - The Chest, Business to Business support
- Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund – administered by the British Business Bank
- Inward investment – target businesses initiative
- HIVE Ambassadors Network – empowering our businesses in a network of over 360 organisations
- Alliance with Lancaster University - Graduates/ Phds into business, business leadership support (Lancashire Forum)

Assistance to Industry

- Smaller scale support for both industry and town centres
- Annual allocation of £150k run in partnership with Growth Lancashire
- Approx. £200k spent in 2016/17, resulting in the creation of 105 jobs

- Grants awarded so far this year includes £5k for engineering firm Fairbrother & Grimshaw and £10k for Bees Knees (former Lloyds TSB site in Lord Street West – to become sport and music venue)

Employability & Skills

- MoU with Lancaster University and Blackburn College to promote business innovation, leadership and higher level skills
- Hive Business School – linking business and education to address skills gap and prepare and enthuse the future workforce
- Fill current vacancies – employment service
- Offer routes – Traineeships and Apprenticeships – tailored support for SMEs, public sector model of annual guaranteed intake
- Employment and Skills Board
- Target young people (NEETS) and 50+ - Princes Trust pathways, Bootstrap, ESIF Volunteering project
- Promote health & wellbeing - fit for work & fit in work, mental health

Members held a round table discussion with the Executive Member and the Officers present on boasting jobs and skills in the Borough. The Executive Member stated that recent developments from Euro Garages, Chubb and Pet Choice had showed that investments and jobs were being created in the Borough.

10. Town Centre - street begging

At the request of the Chair the Committee received an update on recent activity to reduce the amount of Street begging within the Borough's Town Centres. The Executive Member then updated the Committee on the work that the Council has been undertaking with Charities in the Borough.

RESOLVED –

That the work of the Council with charities in the Borough be noted.

11. Committees work programme

The Democratic Services Manager 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 a presentation on failure to deliver Highways DfT level 3 and Car Parking

Members were also reminded that the Committee would, as part of its work programme for the remainder of the year be looking at topics;

- Community Safety - looking at road safety, Prevent and break down in Community relations. (topic to be scoped further).

- Key risk/priority – Growth Agenda – focusing on industry.
- On line digital Gateway – environment portfolio access to services (topic to be scoped further).

The Committee would also hold Task and finish Groups on the following topics;

- Key Risk – failure to deliver Highways DfT level 3
- Car Parking –income targets (November onwards).

RESOLVED –

That the Committee’s Work Programme for the 2017/18 Municipal Year be noted.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....

DRAFT