

**Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee,**

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Present-Councillor Khonat, in the Chair, Councillors Humphrys, Khan, McFall, Taylor, Casey,**

**Also Present- Phil Riley, Executive Member**

**Martin Kelly, Director of Growth and Development**

**Martin Eden, Director of Place**

**Helen Holland**

**Paul Conlon, Democratic Services**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

**3. Declaration of interests**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

**4. Cemeteries and Burials.**

The Committee looked at the way that the service was seeking to meet the challenges for the future and how demand meant that future provision for an additional cemetery was required.

The Committee were informed that the average 5 year burial rate in Blackburn was 349 per annum (of which 269 are new graves and 80 re-openers). In Darwen the rate was 69 per annum (of which 30 are new graves and 36 re-openers). These figures do not include the burial of cremated remains. Due to the planning and resources required to establish a new cemetery, we aim to identify 2 new sites, one in Blackburn and one in Darwen, to provide burial space for at least 20 years. Investigations into various sites for burial land were continuing, with potential sites in both Blackburn and Darwen being assessed for water courses and private water supplies. Once the land investigations have been concluded, it was intended to commence intrusive land investigations, with trial pits and bore holes on the respective sites planned. Progress would be reported to the Committee in due course.

**RESOLVED-**

1. That the position with regard to burial capacity be noted.

2. That the Committee be kept informed of proposals for development of new cemeteries facilities in the borough.

## **5. Development of a New Household Recycling Centre**

The Committee were informed of progress on the proposed development of a new Household Recycling Centre. The development of a new purpose built HWRC was continuing to be investigated, including Local Plan public consultation (comments reported to Executive Board on 8 July). At present, onsite intrusive land investigations were taking place to identify issues on a potential new site off Goosehouse Lane near to the Suez recycling and recovery plant. Subject to investigations, a business case will be completed with capital and revenue projections. A report will then be presented to the Executive Board later this year, to consider the merits of the project and approval of the funding for a new HWRC.

The Committee also looked at the progress of the waste collection and recycling services. The weekly waste tonnages have on occasion increased by up to 20% due to a significant number of residents being at home during COVID lockdowns, however, since the move to Step 3 in the Government's roadmap, tonnages have returned to average levels. A large percentage of the refuse collection crews have been absent from work due to the need to self-isolate or having tested positive for Covid due to family transmissions. As a result of these absences, ancillary services, such as the waste transfer station at the depot, was closed temporarily with staff redirected on to collection services for waste and recycling. Great credit to our staff who have delivered the Council's waste and recycling services without interruption since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

### **RESOLVED-**

That the work on the replacement Household Waste Recycling Centres be noted and the Committee be kept informed of proposed developments in the service.

## **6. The Economic Recovery of the Borough.**

The Committee looked at the work that was ongoing on the economic strategy for the borough. The economic strategy included development of housing, commercial and town centre projects within the Borough, Disposal of Council's surplus strategic assets for housing and commercial developments and Strategic Planning functions and development of the Council's Local Plan and Policies. One of the parts of the strategy was to Bring Empty Homes back into use through negotiation and enforcement and 1000 had been returned to use in 3 years.

Securing Developer contributions for local infrastructure and engagement with investors and developers was important. There was a Rolling pipeline of over 200 projects, with annual priority projects agreed via the Executive Board. 35 projects had been completed since 2017.

The Committee were informed that there were a number of projects at different stages and that these included the Feasibility / Procurement Stage, Planning / Delivery Stage, Feasibility / Procurement Stage and Planning / Delivery Stage. These stages included the following developments-

### Feasibility / Procurement Stage

1. Haslingden Road, South East Blackburn
2. Griffin (Phase 2), Blackburn
3. Holden Fold, Darwen

4. Queens Park, Blackburn
5. Clarendon Road, Blackburn
6. Land at Branch Road, Mellor Brook
7. Whalley Old Road, Blackburn

#### Planning / Delivery Stage

1. Ellison Fold Way, Darwen (McDermott Homes)
2. Lomond Gardens, Feniscowles (McDermott Homes)
3. Griffin (Phase 1), Blackburn (Seddon and Great Places)
4. Fishmoor Drive, Blackburn (Together Housing / Countryside Homes)
5. Alaska Street, Blackburn (Places for People)
6. Salisbury Road, Darwen (Hearle Homes)
7. Tower View, Darwen (Hearle Homes)
8. Roe Lee, Blackburn (Persimmon)
9. Tower Road, Feniscliffe (Applethwaite)
10. Former Laneside Care Home, Shorrock Lane (Great Places)

#### Feasibility / Procurement Stage

1. Maple Grove Blackburn Ltd (Thwaites / Fmr Markets Sites)
2. Guide Development Site, South East Blackburn
3. Carl Fogarty Way – Development Plots 2,3,5 and 6
4. St Johns Church – Redevelopment Proposals
5. Griffin Lodge & Coach House – Redevelopment Proposals
6. Medi Park Development Site, South East Blackburn
7. Wainwright Way – Development Plots 2, 3 and 6
8. Whitebirk Development Site - Pets Choice Phase 2
9. Chapels South, Darwen (Barnfield Blackburn Ltd)

#### Planning / Delivery Stage

1. Barnfield Blackburn Ltd (Millbank Business Park)
2. Dock Street (Barnfield Construction)
3. Blakey Moor Terrace, Blackburn Town Centre
4. Carl Fogarty Way – Development Plots 1 (Rocstar) and 4 (Inceptum)
5. Plot C, Shadsworth Industrial Estate (GAP)

A member drew attention to the Fishmoor Drive site and the new and refurbishment of homes which would regenerate the whole area. It was requested that a further report be submitted to the committee when appropriate giving details of the proposals. The use of section 106 monies was raised and in response members were reminded that there were restrictions that were in place on the use of this money and use was decided by the Planning and Highways Committee. Attention was drawn to the homes that had been developed for people with special needs incorporating enhanced and additions that met special needs of those moving in. this development of lifetime homes that met individuals requirements was supported.

**RESOLVED-** 1. That the Committee welcomed the work that was being undertaken to protect the Boroughs economy and the potential developments outlined in the growth strategy.

2. That the Committee receive a report in due course outlining the proposals for the development of the Fishmoor Drive area.

Chair at the meeting where the minutes are signed.....

Date.....