

MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 11th July 2022

Present: Councillor Foxcroft (Chair)
Councillors Coogan, McMahon, MacNae (sub), Marriott, Morris, Procter,
Smith (sub) and Thompson

In attendance: Patrick Killeen, Head of Operations
Anne Storah, Principal Planner- Forward Planning
Mandy Lewis, Director of Economic Development
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager
Mia Worrell, Committee Work Experience

Also Present: Councillors Hughes and Lythgoe.
1 member of the public
1 press
By remote access:
Councillors Ashworth and Walmsley
Jacob Landers, Senior Planner, Forward Planning
1 member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillor Eaton, Councillor Johnson (Councillor MacNae subbing) and Councillor Rooke (Councillor Smith subbing).

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2022 be approved as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest were made.

4. Urgent Items of Business

The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent items of business.

5. Question Time

There were no public questions.

6. Chair's Update

6.1 In relation to queries raised at the previous meeting, the information was circulated to members in advance of the meeting which included the following clarification:

- In response to the public question regarding a planning decision made at the Development Control Committee, it has been confirmed that the site is allocated for housing in the Local Plan. The site is located at the very north point of the allocated land and where its development for 6 houses would not constrain or prevent the development of the rest of the area by way of a Masterplan.
- Rossendale along with other districts in Lancashire were waiting for further information from central government following the Environment Act, but it was likely that a food waste collection would commence in 2024.
- Reviews were conducted for litter bin collection frequencies, and routes varied throughout the year. Where possible the Council tried to empty the majority of litter

bins twice a week. A checklist had been introduced for all litter bins to ensure that emptying takes place and was recorded.

- Medical was collected within the general waste collection. If required, residents could apply for extra capacity (additional bins).
- The benches for the Town Square arrived on 16th June and were installed the following weekend.
- At year end, the total cost of the Empty Homes project for 2021/22 was £535,450. The 21/22 costs were within the agreed project budget. The total net cost of the project to the end of 2021/22 was £7.42m. The last leases on properties terminate in December 2024. Each year in the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Council makes provision for the project. In 20/21 the budget provision was £950k. In 21/22 the budget provision was £875k. The Council was defending an upcoming case brought by a local legal firm. If the Council lost the legal case or mediated a settlement it would incur cost in 22/23. By the date of the next public update on the project to the July meeting of the Audit & Accounts Committee, it was hoped to be in a clearer position to provide more detail on this.
- Regarding asset reviews, following the completion of a ward review, a report will be taken to Corporate Management Team and then presented to ward members either by a face to face meeting or Teams session which will be arranged directly. The meeting to present the Worsley ward has been arranged to take place in the coming weeks. The 11 garage sites (circa 71 plots) are those that the Council will be taking over the management of. The sites have always been owned in title by the Council but have been previously managed by Together Housing since the Housing Stock Transfer. This will complete on 1st August and all Together Housing tenants have received communication from the Council regarding this. The sites concern, Earnshaw Road, Greensclough, Fernhill Avenue/Osbourne Terrace and Heathfield Road, Stacksteads, Eden Avenue, Eden, Fairview/Park View and Barnes Avenue, Cribden, Haslingden Old Road and Hall Carr Road, Longholme, Back Chapel Street, Worsley, Weber Street and Woodside Crescent, Hareholme.
- Regarding the Greater Manchester (GM) plans and Climate Change, the consultation for this was done in 2020 prior to the initial start date of the scheme. The Director of Communities and the Leader of the Council had met with Andy Burnham and other Lancashire Leaders that border Greater Manchester to express concerns about the Clean Air Zone and its disproportionate impact on Rossendale businesses, especially taxis. The scheme had since been adapted and the latest proposal to government was for a non-charging scheme. The Council was linking up with the lead engineer in GM to ensure we are updated and tie things together. The new proposed approach would target those areas with the highest pollution. None of these border Rossendale. A commitment had also been given by Greater Manchester Combined Authority to keep us informed of their plans to re-regulate bus services in Greater Manchester, to see if there are any opportunities for ourselves as part of this.
- Regarding plans or strategies to persuade parents to switch their car engines during school drop off/pick up times, leaving engines idling was already an offence under the Highway Code. The Council was developing stronger virtual networks for climate change and I was likely we could use these channels to engage schools in initiatives going forward, but this responsibility would fall mainly with Lancashire County Council as it related to highways and schools.
- Regarding the Manchester airport consultation on flight pathways, an officer attended the stage two phase two Manchester Airport Future Airspace project presentation in early June and although there appeared to be only a small area of Rossendale that could be affected, we have raised relevant concerns over potential noise and disturbance. It is anticipated that there will be more presentations and consultations and the Council are registered as stakeholders to be included.

- In relation to homeworking and flexible working, research undertaken by the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD) showed evidence of increased productivity.

In response to the updates the following was agreed:

- To provide clarity on whether all garage plots were being transferred back to the Council as there were plots not included on the list provided.
- Councillor McMahon would share the research on hybrid and flexible working.
- Councillor Marriott would contact Lucie Greenwood in Property Services regarding the hut at Woodside Crescent regarding a proposal to bring this back into community use.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

7. Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Update

7.1 The Head of Operations provided members with an update presentation on Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing.

7.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- The government legislation and the Lancashire County Council waste plans would inform the future plans for household waste in Rossendale. Members would be kept informed once this information was known.
- It was hoped to grow the commercial business to create extra revenue and the success of this would be known mid-year.
- Volumes of bulky waste was driven by public request, and this was a paid service.
- Issuing fixed penalties and publicising successes assisted in reducing instances of fly tipping and getting the right messages to deter people.
- They were looking at bigger bin capacities when bins were replaced in parks to try to reduce overflowing.
- There were dedicated teams trying to target areas where there was visual impact.
- Residents would be written to where there were hotspots for cars blocking refuse wagon access and there were regular crew meetings where hotspots were discussed. The Council tied in with LCC where help was required on the public highway.
- Statistics on the number of assisted bin collections would be included in the next report update as well as the number of repeated missed bins.
- There were still recruitment challenges and there were still 2 vacancies.
- The work on the roof of the recycling bay was now complete and this would also assist in reducing agency staff.
- The bin cleansing trial had ended and the future use or sale of the equipment would be considered.

Resolved:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the progress update.
2. It was agreed that statistics on the number of assisted bin collections would be included in the next update report update as well as the number of repeated missed bins. Members would also be kept informed of the new government legislation outcome and the Lancashire County Council waste plans.

8. Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

8.1 The Principal Planner- Forward Planning introduced the Climate Change SPD.

8.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- Use of stronger language to require measures be undertaken. The Council would be guided by LCC in relation to cycling plans and would work to identify where

connections were needed. These would be recorded as formal comments on the SPD.

- Rewording road safety figure, from footnote 12 – to be recorded as a formal comment.
- Consultation would go to those consulted on the Local Plan in addition to other groups, and conversations were also taking place with the Communities Team regarding their contacts. It would also go on the website, press release and out on social media.
- Energy efficiency covered commercial builds as well as residential.
- The SPD was expected to go to Cabinet in December following the analysis of the consultation feedback.
- Extending the consultation to 6 weeks would be possible.
- Any formal developments still needed to be aware of ground conditions e.g. emissions from contaminated land.

Resolved:

1. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee reviewed the Draft Climate Change SPD and recommended it to go out for consultation for at least 6 weeks over summer 2022.
2. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended that any amendments to the Draft Climate Change SPD prior to the consultation be delegated to the Head of Planning and Portfolio Holders.

9. Housing Strategy

9.1 The Director of Economic Development provided members with a presentation on the Housing Strategy.

9.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- Members needed to consider housing choice and need to inform the strategy.
- It would include what the Council had a duty to undertake but members needed to consider any additional priorities and affordability.
- More clarity would be provided on what was meant by affordable housing.
- Members were asked to consider and provide feedback on the 3 headings which would be circulated.
- A survey would also be going out to the communities and a wide range of people in terms of the strategy.
- Members could feed through their comments as individuals as well as joint feedback from the political groups.
- The work of the consultants could be shared when it was ready.

A request was made to consider more detail to be included on domestic abuse and rogue landlords.

Resolved:

1. Members would discuss the strategy with their groups and provide feedback to the Director of Economic Development by 22nd August.
2. The Director of Economic Development would circulate copies of other housing strategies as examples of what they looked like and what could be included.

10. The Forward Plan

10.1 Members were updated on the Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for September.

Resolved:

The Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme items were noted.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.10pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date