

MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 24th June 2024

Present: Councillor S.Barnes (Chair)
Councillors Ashworth, Belli, McMahon, Neal and S.Smith.

In attendance: Samantha Sandford, Chief Executive, Rossendale Leisure Trust
Rob Huntington, Chief Executive
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager

Also Present: Councillors A. Barnes and M.Smith
1 member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting on 5th February 2024 be approved as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

The following non-pecuniary interest were declared:

- Councillor S.Smith was a Rossendale Leisure Trust Board Member (minute 11).
- Councillor Belli's family members had Rossendale Leisure Trust membership passes (minute 11).
- Councillor S.Barnes volunteered at Park Run and ran one of the walks (minute 11).

4. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

5. Question Time

Questions were asked regarding the Valley Plan Update and the Chair agreed to take these during the item. These related to housing number and net zero streets partnership funding.

6. Chair's Update

6.1 The 2024/25 Council Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy and Capital Programme had been approved by full Council on 28th February following review at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6.2 At the February meeting clarity had been sought regarding the missed bins system. It was clarified that:

- Missed bins were logged against the individual address, unless the resident states that the street was missed.
- If the crew report no access, it is logged against the street.
- Separate maps/tickets are produced in adverse weather for the catch up crews.
- If we are notified of a resident moving into a property we write to the resident(s) and include a map/calendar regarding bin collection.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

7. Valley Plan Update Report 2023-24 (Annual)

7.1 The Head of People and Policy introduced the Valley Plan update. This was the third update detailing the progress against the 2021/25 priorities and the final report would be going to Cabinet in July for approval.

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

- The annual report detailed the progress in delivering the priorities, the arrows and RAG rating system was included in the quarterly performance reporting to allow members to see the direction of travel.
- The Programme Board monitored the Council's key projects which were listed at 3.7 of the report. Relevant managers attended the meetings to provide updates on their projects, report on progress, track delivery and keep the projects on target. This was best practice and part of the governance arrangements and enabled risk management.
- Last year 66 economically inactive individuals were supported, compared with 110 this year.
- The Head of People and Policy would find out how the target was calculated.
- There had been due diligence with the appointment of the Haslingden market contractor, but issues had arisen since. No money had been paid in advance and the Council were satisfied with the works to date.
- In relation to the masterplan and feedback from the Chamber of Commerce, the Council would work with LCC to review all the compiled responses, which had been positive from most businesses. There was a need to be clear about how we can accommodate as many needs as possible.
- Most issues raised by the traders were regarding the level of works and the tight timescales which would cause business disruption.
- There was a need to work closely with LCC on the scheme.
- In relation to bringing buildings back into use, such as the former Yorkshire Bank, the list of buildings was not cast in stone. This used revenue funding from Historic England.
- The Council was still in touch with Sport England regarding the different Leisure challenges and the Council was keen to see the Leisure Strategy delivered.
- There were several layers to the strategy and it was good to see the football side of things moving forward.
- The housing figures looked short of the target but this was owing to the figure only including housing completions recorded by the Council's Building Control section and not all housing completions in the area. Actual figures had to be submitted to government in September and last year the Council had exceeded the target.

The Leader of the Council noted it was a good document demonstrating the activity and ambition of the Council. There had been a tremendous amount of work connected to the document and she thanked all those who had contributed.

Resolved:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the Council's Annual Valley Plan Update and associated achievements for 2023-24.

8. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report and Work Programme

8.1 The committee were asked to consider the Annual Report for 2023/24 and draft Work Programme for 2024/25, which would be going to Council for approval in July.

- 8.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:
- Information would be distributed as early as possible, however some reports might not be available until the day of publication owing to the tight timescales in relation to the reporting process for committees.

Resolved:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended Council to approve the Annual Report 2023/24 and Work Programme 2024/25.

9. Forward Plan

- 9.1 Members were updated on the Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. Members were encouraged to submit their questions in advance in relation to items on the next agenda and suggest services to attend future meetings in relation to the performance report which would be distributed when it had been published for Cabinet.

Resolved:

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

10. Exclusion of Public and Press

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

11. Rossendale Leisure Trust Annual Report and Annual Update

- 11.1 Members discussed the annual update from the Leisure Trust.

11.2 Resolved:

The committee noted the update.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust for providing the update. Members noted their appreciated of the data provided.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.55pm)

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date