

Minutes of: POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 1 October 2007

**Present: Councillor Cheetham (Chair)
Councillors L Barnes (substitute for Lynskey), Hewlett and Pilling**

**In Attendance: George Graham, Executive Director of Resources
Heather Moore, Committee and Member Services Manager
Jon Cook, Independent Housing & Homelessness Consultant**

Also Present: 1 member of the public

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Resolved:

That Councillor Cheetham be appointed as Chair for the meeting.

2. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair provided an update on the actions which had been agreed at previous meetings as detailed below.

Information had been received from the Executive Director of Regulatory Services in respect of the Employment Land Study. It was highlighted that the detail of the report related to the findings of the study and as such it was proposed that this be submitted direct to Cabinet for consideration. This approach was agreed by the Committee.

In respect of the BME Housing Strategy it was reported that the Housing Market Renewal Manager would incorporate a policy statement within the next revision of the Housing Strategy which was due to be completed by the end of 2008 rather than developing a specific BME Strategy.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Haworth, Lynskey and Steen.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th August 2007 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

5. URGENT ITEMS

There were no items of urgent business.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were raised under this item.

8. LOCALITY PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which outlined details of a Locality Plan which had been jointly developed by officers of the Borough and County Councils as part of the development of enhanced two tier working in Lancashire.

The Executive Director of Resources reported that the Sustainable Community Strategy had been used as the framework to develop the Plan and the work was a pilot for the whole County.

The Committee raised a number of questions in respect of the provision of services and acknowledged that the project was an excellent initiative which would develop the relationship between the two Councils.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet be recommended to approve the Locality Plan.

9. SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY

The Committee welcomed Jon Cook, Independent Housing & Homelessness Consultant who presented information on the development of the Supported Housing Strategy.

The Committee received a comprehensive update on how the Strategy was being developed and the intended outcomes for Rossendale. It was reported a draft Strategy would be available in May 2008 and the Committee requested that it be submitted to them for consideration prior to Cabinet.

The Committee recommended that the results of the survey being undertaken by Green Vale Homes be included in the Strategy.

It was noted from the initial findings that there was no emergency accommodation in Rossendale for families, young people or domestic violence victims and concerns were raised in respect of this.

The Committee thanked Jon for his attendance at the meeting.

Resolved:

That the Committee supports the development of the Supported Housing Strategy.

10. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee and Member Services Manager reported on the key decisions within the Forward Plan for the period 1st October 2007 to 31st January 2008.

It was agreed that should Members wish for particular Policies to be submitted to the Committee prior to approval by Cabinet they would inform the Committee and Member Services Manager by the end of the week.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.50pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date