

Minutes of: PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 21 November 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (Chair)
Councillors L. Barnes, Dickinson, Lamb, Morris
and Neal
B Divine, Co-opted Member

IN ATTENDANCE: Leanne Dixon, Performance Management Officer
Philip Mepham, Interim Environmental Health Manager
Hayley Robinson-Mitchell, Principal Environmental Health
Officer
Carolyn Law, Committee and Member Services
Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder, A Well Managed
Council
Councillor Tickner, Quality Services to Customers
Councillor Ruddick
1 Member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Forshaw and Nick Molyneux, Communications Manager (owing to personal circumstances).

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for discussion.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A member of the public asked if Waste Management was going to be discussed at the meeting. In response to the question the Chair confirmed that this was not an agenda item.

6. CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee, and informed Members that a letter of thanks had been received from the Ombudsman who attended the last meeting.

The Chair provided an update on the Litter Bin Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group. The report was accepted by Cabinet on the 14th November, and Cabinet agreed with all the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny. The Chair expressed thanks to everyone involved in the surveys and the production of the report.

The Chair clarified a point raised at the previous meeting in relation to item 9 of the minutes (Equalities Update). The Head of People and Organisational Development had checked the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) guidance in relation to Employment Monitoring per Race. This confirmed it was currently appropriate and acceptable to not ask in relation to Welsh and Scottish White. Councillor Tickner further clarified that monitoring categories were likely to be expanded on by the time of the 2011 census.

The Chair informed the Members that there were two items to be followed up by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following the Full Council Meeting on the 7th November:

- The first item is to arrange a meeting with the Road Safety Partnership to investigate concerns about road traffic accidents and speeding incidents in the Whitworth area. Councillor Neal confirmed that a meeting had already been set up with Whitworth Town Council in December. It was recommended that someone also needs to follow up from Scrutiny.
- The second item is to discuss the Returning Officer's proposals relating to Polling Stations and report back to the Returning Officer.

The Chair reminded Members that Rossendale's Overview and Scrutiny was hosting the Lancashire Scrutiny Partners Forum this Friday at Haslingden Community Link, and invited members to attend and show their support. The theme for the forum would be Community Involvement and Engagement and the Chair thanked the Democratic Services Team for their hard work on the presentations and workshop tasks.

The Chair informed Members that confirmation had been received that the Clinical Assessment Treatment and Support Service had now been cancelled, and that East Lancashire Hospital Trust will meet with Scrutiny in December.

Resolved:

1. That members agree to follow up the road traffic accidents in Whitworth, following the meeting with Whitworth Town Council, and that the Committee Services Officer check the scrutiny work plan to see if anything is included regarding road traffic throughout Rossendale.
2. That Members agree to scrutinise the Returning Officer's proposals relating to Polling Stations and report their recommendations to the Management Committee.

7. Quarter 2 – Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) Performance Report

Councillor Essex Portfolio Holder for A Well Managed Council introduced the report by explaining that rather than looking at targets annually the purpose of this report was to review targets mid-year to identify performance above and below target.

Councillor Neal asked if it could be noted that Priority 2 – Regeneration across the borough was fed through to Development Control and that it was not just referring to regeneration in key areas. In response, the Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council explained that whilst the priority was across the borough, there were regeneration issues in key areas of the borough.

The Performance Management Officer informed the Performance Scrutiny Committee of indicators below target, performance in relation to LAA measures, and the progress made in implementing the actions contained in the Council's Corporate Plan.

It was noted that BV12 Working Days Lost Due to Sickness Absence was below target and the Head of People and Organisational Development would be invited to report to the next meeting. The Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council asked Members to note that as the organisation was small any long-term absence had a significant impact on sickness absence figures.

BV156 Building Accessible to People with a Disability was below target and the Performance Management Officer explained that stand alone toilets had been included, however on further clarification they should not have been, but toilets in swimming pools should have been included. Since these had not been taken into account it meant that the required target could not be fully achieved. The Committee expressed their disappointment in the way the data had been submitted and would like reassurance that it would be correct in future.

It was noted that whilst there was a target to maximise use of brown bins/ garden waste, there was nothing to measure the amount of home

composting undertaken. The Committee asked for clarification of the data in relation to BV82ai and ii percentage and tonnes of household waste recycled. To get a more accurate picture of the amount of recycling taking place an action was requested for the Portfolio Holder for a Clean and Green Rossendale and Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhood Services to find out how many composting bins had been distributed by Lancashire County Council across the borough.

The Performance Management Officer referred the Committee to data in Appendix 1 page 21 onwards which lists the LAA measures. In response to a question on why some data was not being collected/reported on, the Environmental Health Manager confirmed that the measuring criteria for the indicators had not been agreed, therefore it was not possible to collect data or report on these measures.

The Performance Management Officer identified that for the next report the scope would be widened and it would be just the one report which would include complaints to the council.

The Performance Management Officer identified that BV183b Length of Stay in Temporary Accommodation (Hostel) was below target. However, this was a target under the control of Greenvale Homes. A question was asked relating to whether this target should be reported on by the Council. In response, it was identified that this needs to be followed up in discussion with Greenvale Homes.

The Performance Management Officer identified that a new system was being implemented in Planning that would improve BV205 Quality of Planning Service Checklist. The Committee requested that an update be provided in February once the new system was fully implemented.

Councillor Neal asked for it to be noted that the collection of Council Tax had improved and made steady progress since Capita took over last year.

Resolved:

1. That the Performance Scrutiny Committee notes the level of performance detailed in the report.
2. That the Performance Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor performance of BV 11b (top 5% of earners: ethnic minorities), BV2a (Equality standard for Local Government) and BV156 (building accessible to people with a disability), which were under-achieving targeted levels of performance, and the Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council together with the Head of People and Organisational Development and the Head of Finance be requested

to attend the next meeting to provide an explanation on how improvements could be made.

3. That the Executive Director of Regulatory Services provide an update at the February Performance Scrutiny meeting on the new system introduced in Planning and what improvements could be made to BV205 Quality of Planning Service Checklist.
4. That the Performance Scrutiny Committee approve the content, style and format of the performance reports produced by the Policy and Performance Team.
5. That the Performance Scrutiny Committee approve the widening of the scope of the performance reports in relation to Data Quality for future meetings.
6. To note that training is available for all Members on the Covalent System on a one to one basis with the Performance Management Officer.
7. That the policy and performance team be requested to discuss the homelessness issue with Officers at Greenvale Homes, and also to discuss whether the Council should be reporting on this measure as one of their targets.
8. That the Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhood Services be requested to provide an update on the number of compost bins distributed by the County Council.

8. Public Water Supply in Rossendale 2006

The Principal Environmental Health Officer informed members of the quality and sufficiency of the Public Water Supply in Rossendale in 2006. United Utilities undertake extensive sampling of the water supply in Rossendale against a list of prescribed parameters and reports back to the Council. The Council undertakes sampling of private water supply and the Principal Environmental Health Officer notified the Committee that there would be changes to this next year. In addition, the Principal Environmental Health Officer notified the Committee that the Environmental Agency monitors the river water.

Councillor Neal asked a question in relation to the lead pipe replacement programme. The Committee agreed to follow up by requesting an update to be circulated by the Environmental Health Team.

Councillor Neal asked that the Committee agree to send a request to Development Control that all new builds consider the possibility of using grey waste systems.

It was also suggested that water butts were a worthwhile expenditure and it was suggested to take forward setting up a partnership with the County Council and United Utilities to look at water saving measures.

Resolved:

1. That the Performance Scrutiny Committee notes the quality and sufficiency of the public water supply in Rossendale.
 2. That the Performance Scrutiny Committee receive a further report in twelve months, if there is any significant changes to the water supply in Rossendale.
 3. That the Performance Scrutiny Committee receive an update on the lead piping replacement issue.
 4. That the Performance Scrutiny Committee request that Development Control consider grey waste systems on all new builds.
 5. To take forward partnership working with the County Council and United Utilities to supply Water Butts at reduced cost.
- 9. Analysis of the Communications Section of the General Household Survey**

The Portfolio Holder for Quality Services to Customers updated the Committee on issues raised by the communications section within last year's General Household Survey and informed members of the work being done to address these. A key theme running throughout the survey was how to get involved in local decision making, and a key point for under 25's was how and where to register to vote.

In response to the issues identified it was suggested that more work be carried out in schools. Councillor Lamb also identified that Polling Station closure did not promote voting and requested that all Members put forward their ideas for the Task and Finish Group to consider in the report back to the Returning Officer.

Resolved:

1. That a further report be presented to the Performance Scrutiny Committee in twelve months time to ascertain if any improvements had been made in relation to Communications within the Council.
2. That a document is circulated to Members to put down their ideas on Polling Stations for consideration at the Task and Finish Group.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and finished at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date