

Minutes of: **PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 16 October 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (Chair)
Councillors L Barnes, Crawforth, Lamb, Morris (substituting for Stansfield), Neal, H Steen (substituting for Thorne)
Bernard Divine, Co-opted Member

IN ATTENDANCE: Liz Murphy, Head of People and Policy
Joanne Smith, Elections Manager
Jason Foster, Operations Manager
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Councillor Brian Essex, Portfolio Holder
Councillor Peter Steen, Portfolio Holder

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Farrington

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stansfield and Thorne.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2008 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

No declarations were made.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance.

6. CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the Committee of the following information.

At the last meeting members requested an update on BVPI 156 – Disabled Access. The Property Services Manager had prepared a briefing paper which indicated that three properties were not compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Work was currently being undertaken on Rawtenstall Market and Whitworth Pool to make them compliant, which would be completed by the end of the financial year, at which time a total of 96% of the Council's buildings which were open to the public would be DDA compliant.

The only property which would not be compliant was Marl Pits Pavilion, which was likely to be redeveloped in the foreseeable future.

Councilor Essex informed Members that due to financial changes within the Council a working group had been set up to look at the Capital expenditure for the rest of the year. At the present time the scheme had not been given the go ahead, although it was a high priority.

The Chair indicated that the Scrutiny Officer had circulated information requested in relation to the National Indicators for Community Safety. Liz Murphy agreed to discuss later in the agenda.

The Chair confirmed that a response had been sent by the Council in relation to Congestion charges.

The Elections Manager confirmed that a response had been sent by the Council to the Ministry of Justice Consultation on weekend voting. The response group along with the Chief Executive agreed that they would not support weekend voting due to budget implication and there was also no evidence to show that turnout would improve if weekend voting was implemented.

7. Number of Attainers on the Electoral Register

The Elections Manager circulated a briefing paper highlighting the number of attainers on the Electoral Register within the Borough.

Where electoral forms were not returned, trained canvassers were sent to households and they ask householders if there are any 16/17 year old attainers to be included on the form, as they would be eligible to vote if the following year they become 18 years old. Information was also sent to secondary schools in the Borough so that children were aware of the canvass.

Members raised the following questions, to which the Elections Manager responded:

- Alternative ways of contacting people, with a suggestion that social networking websites be used

- Contact with youth groups – the Elections Manager confirmed that this is something the Council already do.

The Elections Manager explained the process for those who attend University, but live in the Borough.

The Elections Manager asked members to contact her if they had any additional ideas of how they could attract young voters.

Resolved:

- 1) That the information be noted.
- 2) That Members submit their ideas for attracting young voters to the Elections Manager.

8. Progress Update – N191 (Residual household waste per household) and N192 (Household waste reused, recycled and composted)

Councillor Peter Steen, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, presented an update on N191 and N192 which were new indicators.

He explained that although the Council were within the targets set by Government, residual household waste was not something that the Council could control and that 85% of waste was packaging and therefore there was a need to target suppliers. Whilst targets were easy to set they were hard to reach and there was a need to educate suppliers and the public to dispose of waste appropriately.

Councillor Steen indicated that prior to September, recycling was costing the Council £36 per ton, now the Council are generating income of £2 per ton.

The meeting discussed waste recovery centres and the Operations Manager reported that the Waste Transfer Station in Huncoat would open in 2012, and the actual disposal of waste would be to Leyland.

A number of questions were raised and the Operations Manager responded, including the different types of plastic which could be recycled. The Operations Manager indicated that there would be further discussion on this with all Members shortly.

The Chair thanked the Operations Manager and Portfolio Holder for the presentation.

Resolved:

1. That the information be noted.

2. That information be sought as to how the Council could put pressure on suppliers to reduce packaging.

9. Local Area Agreement National Indicator Set

The Head of People and Policy presented information on the group of Indicators which would be monitored by Overview and Scrutiny.

The Head of People and Policy explained that the Council under the Local Authority Agreement (LAA35) would take the lead on NI 155 - Number of affordable homes delivered (gross) and would contribute on others as identified in the report. The report also detailed those National Indicators that the Council were contributing towards.

The Head of People and Policy indicated that it was important for Overview and Scrutiny to monitor all Indicators and that there needs to be a 'lead' to pull together information from across all of Lancashire.

Other Indicators which would be included were

- Team Lancashire Indicators
- Pennine Lancashire Multi-Area Agreement
- Sustainable Community Strategy

The Head of People and Policy explained that future quarterly reports would see more performance around these indicators, which would provide a bigger picture of how the Council was performing.

In relation to the Team Lancashire Indicators, this would provide for Overview and Scrutiny to monitor performance against other authorities.

There was further discussion on the amount of scrutiny that was needed to monitor all the indicators. The Chair indicated that it may be beneficial to monitor the Team Lancashire Indicators on a Pennine Lancashire-wide basis to establish a working group with representatives from each Borough's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Resolved:

That the Committee notes the content of the Report.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.10pm

Signed
(Chair)

Date:

