

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

Date of Meeting: 20 November 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (Chair)
Councillors L Barnes, Crawforth, Lamb, Stansfield and Thorne

IN ATTENDANCE: Liz Murphy, Head of People and Policy
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance
Janice Crawford, Finance Manager
Lee Birkett, Performance Officer
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Councillor Brian Essex, Portfolio Holder

ALSO PRESENT: 1 Member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Neal and Bernard Divine, Co-opted Member.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 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

A member of the public asked the Council to define what information the public can receive and what would need to be done to receive information.

Councillor Essex provided information on the newly updated Freedom of Information Scheme, which would be on the Council's website soon and explained that any information which was commercially sensitive or confidential was exempt from the press and public, in line with the Council's Constitution.

6. CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the Committee that, as requested at the last meeting, a letter was sent to MPs asking for the Government to put pressure on suppliers to reduce packaging.

Responses had been received from Greg Pope MP and Janet Anderson MP informing the Council that their concerns would be forwarded to the appropriate Government Officer and they would let the Committee know of the outcome when they had received further information.

7. BENCHMARKING (2006/07 DATA)

Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources informed members that benchmarking was a way in which to compare the Council with other Authorities in terms of its efficiency and it also enabled the Council to make decisions to enable it to provide Value for Money.

The Head of Finance informed Members that in June 2007 the Council published its 'Strategic Approach to Value for Money in Service Delivery'. Part of the Council's action plan for delivering value for money was the completion of a number of service benchmarking exercises which were Finance, Human Resources, Information and Communication Technology, Property and Procurement.

The Finance Manager gave an overview of the report and explained the improvements that had taken place since the 2006/07 data.

Resolved:

That the information be noted.

7. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 2

The Head of People and Policy presented the integrated Performance Report for July to September 2008.

The report informs the Council of where they are in the delivery of services and how they are delivering on the targets they have set.

In relation to the achievements of targets against performance indicators, Members were pleased to note that 81% were on target, 11% marginally below target and 8% below target.

Priority 3 – Keeping our Borough Clean and Green and Priority 4 – Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit were both achieving 100%.

Priority 2 – Delivering regeneration across the Borough was 25% below target and Priority 5 – Improving health and well being across the Borough was 33% below target.

Members again expressed concern that some note sections of the report were still incomplete. It was agreed that an email would be sent to Managers and Officers asking them to ensure that all sections of the report are completed before the report is published.

Members were pleased to note the ongoing improvements within the Planning Department.

In relation to LI 156- Buildings Accessible to People with a Disability, which was now 78% compliant, Members would like assurance that the work needed on Rawtenstall Market and Whitworth Pool be undertaken as soon as possible, which would make the Council 96% compliant. The Chair asked that consideration be given to reducing this target to 96%, until the redevelopment of the Marl Pits site.

The Head of People and Policy explained the changes to the Equality Standard and the process of assessment, which could be undertaken on a Lancashire- wide basis, with local authorities monitoring each other.

Resolved:

That the Integrated Performance Report for July to September 2008 be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.15pm

Signed
(Chair)

Date: