

Minutes of: PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 22 June 2010

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

Irene Divine (co-opted Member)

IN ATTENDANCE: Liz Sandiford, Head of People and Policy
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance and Property Services
Gina Fletcher, Development Officer, Culture
Fiona Meechan, Director of Customer and Communities
Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Martin Kay, Rossendale Leisure Trust
Norman Hauserman, Rossendale Leisure Trust,
Alan Billingsley, CLAW
Christine Ashcroft, CLAW
Edgar Oldham, Rossendale Transport Ltd
Matthew Parkes, Rossendale Transport Ltd
Alistair Nuttall, Rossendale Transport Ltd
Brendon O'Reilly, Rossendale Transport Ltd
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources
Councillor Gledhill, Portfolio Holder for Leisure
Councillor Cheetham, Chair and Independent Director of
Rossendale Transport

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Crawforth

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minute of the meeting held on 8 March 2010 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

Councillor Thorne declared a personal interest as an Independent Director of Rossendale Transport.

Councillor L Barnes declared a personal interest as an Independent Director of Rossendale Transport.

Councillor Essex declared a personal interest as an Independent Director of Rossendale Transport.

Councillor Cheetham declared a personal interest as an Independent Director and Chair of Rossendale Transport.

Councillor Gledhill declared a personal interest in Marl Pits.

Councillor Aldred declared a personal interest during the Leisure Trust item.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Members of the public present.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair introduced the new Members to the Committee, Councillor Oakes and Irene Divine, Co-opted Member. She then informed the Committee of the following information.

- A revised Scrutiny toolkit would be sent to Members once the Petition Scheme had been approved at Council
- A Training workbook was available to anyone who could not attend the Overview and Scrutiny training session
- Noise nuisance – the Community Safety Manager would discuss this at the MAPS meeting. A variation Agreement was with the legal department at the moment
- At the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting in September there would be presentations from Accrington and Rossendale College and Alder Grange School
- A visit had been arranged to the Rehabilitation Unit at Pendle Community Hospital for 27 July at 3pm

7. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 4 (Jan 2010 – March 2010)

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources introduced the report and indicated that Members were offered training on the use of Covalent and could, if they wish, have the software put on their PC. He explained that the report was an evolving document and asked for feedback from Members on how the information was being presented to ensure it was 'user friendly'.

The Head of People and Policy presented the Quarter 4 Integrated Performance Report for January 2010 to March 2010.

The report highlighted the following information:-

- Current performance against the Council's priorities
- Current performance against Local Performance Indicators and National Indicators including the associated action plans
- Position of identified risks
- Financial Position
- Complaints
- Compliments

Currently 88% of actions identified within the Corporate Plan were on track to be delivered.

The following indicators were not achieving:-

LI 12 - Working Days Lost Due to Sickness – The Head of People and Policy highlighted what action the Council would be taking to address the fall in performance in relation to sickness absence from 1 April 2009 to 31st March 2010.

When benchmarking other Lancashire Area Authorities, Rossendale in 2008/09 achieved the 5th lowest sickness figures and in 2009/10 achieved 7th lowest sickness figures out of 15 Lancashire Authorities.

The Head of People and Policy presented D2, Sickness Absence Management which was incorporated into these discussions. The explained the measures currently in place to support the management of sickness absence which included; Occupational Health Services, Phased Return to Work, Reasonable adjustments and Preventative Health Initiatives.

A number of questions were raised in relation to sickness absence which the Head of People responded.

LI 156 – Buildings Accessible to People with a Disability

LI 82a (ii) – Tonnes of Household Waste Recycled

NI 156 LAA Number of household living in temporary accommodation

Action plans had been produced for each of the above targets and Members agreed that some of those static red levels were beyond the Council's control.

The Committee were pleased to note a number of positive improvements in the Performance Indicated, which were as follows:-

LI 82a (ii) – Tonnes of household waste recycled was back on track after being identified in quarter 3 as not achieving its target.

The Director of Customer and Communities indicated that the Council would be implementing food waste recycling by 2012 and is currently developing a Recycling Strategy with the aim of increasing the percentage of waste that is recycled, which the Council gets paid for, and reducing waste sent to landfill, which costs the Council money.

A question was raised in relation to how composting and recycling was assessed and the Head of Customer and Communities agreed to provide details.

NI 16– There had been a reduction of 22% serious acquisitive crime which equated to 177 fewer crimes

NI 20 – Assault with injury crime had reduced by 14.2% which equated to 53 fewer crimes this year

Ni 191 – Residual Household Waste per household – this remains in the top quartile at 507kg per household, based on NI Quartile data for 2008/09 provided by the Audit Commission compared to Rossendale's 2009/10 data

There were also a number of indicators that had shown consistent improvements over the long term period of 5 years. Overall the report highlighted a very positive picture on how the Council has set out its targets to be delivered.

The Chair asked that the Project & Performance Improvement Officer be thanked for ensuring that all data quality objectives were being achieved in relation to the Performance Report.

In relation to LI 78a – speed of processing new Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit claims, due to the current economic climate the service still managed to exceed its target and the Chair asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the Head of Customer Services and ICT.

With regard to LI 218a - % of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24 hours and LI 218b - % of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours of required time, it was suggested that these targets need to be combined

Members asked that future cover reports include the corresponding page number from the actual report next to each indicator which was highlighted for discussion, to make it easier for Members to understand.

Resolved:

1. That the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the action being taken to address sickness absence.
2. That the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the level of performance detailed within the report.

3. That due to the very positive report, no Officers are requested to attend the next meeting.
4. That thanks be sent to those areas detailed above that were exceeding target levels.

8. LEISURE DEVELOPMENT

The Chair welcomed representative from Rossendale Leisure Trust.

The Service Development Officer for Culture provided an update on the progress and projects implemented as part of the 2009 Leisure Review, including funding agreements relating to Rossendale Leisure Trust and Community Leisure Association Whitworth (CLAW).

She then gave a further update on each of the following:

- Bacup Leisure Hall – agreed time-limited period for hybrid and community option
- Ski Rossendale – evaluated and notification of third partner by end of July
- Haslingden Pool and Marl Pits Development – following a competitive process Mouchel were named as the company to take the project forward. The Communities Manager agreed to bring a timeline to the next meeting
- CLAW and the Riverside – The Committee were pleased to note that regular meetings are now taking place with the Council

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure indicated he was pleased that the implementation of the Leisure Review was on track and that the Council were considering risks which could occur. He informed the Committee that Rossendale Leisure Trust were now well within their budget.

Alan Billingsley, CLAW, informed the Committee that they asked the Council for an extra £25,000 to try this year to balance their books and take actions forward. They are in discussion with the Council to determine the feasibility of improved income stream at the Riverside and the cost of implications to the business.

He highlighted the future actions they would be taking which would be presented to the meeting in November.

Members were impressed the improved figures for customer usage of leisure facilities in Whitworth.

The Chair of Rossendale Leisure Trust highlighted the financial information within all the Trust's facilities and informed the Committee that next year the Leisure Trust will fall in line with the Councils financial

year (April – March) and therefore next year they will have 15 month trading year.

The General Manager of Rossendale Leisure Trust presented a number of reports which highlighted progress to date within their facilities.

The General Manager indicated that all staff were being supported closely and letter had been sent to all necessary staff.

Sickness absence within the Leisure Trust had reduced from 4.3% in 2008/9 to 3% in 2009/10.

The Committee received a report which highlighted the number of complaints/comments received for each facility. It was suggested that future reports should include compliments.

The representatives from CLAW and the Leisure Trust were thanked for their presentations and look forward their next presentation in September.

Resolved:

That members note the contents of the report and progress made to date in implementing the recommendation of the 2010 Leisure Review.

9 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the 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 and information which is subject to any obligation of confidentiality as defined in Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

10 ROSSENDALE TRANSPORT LIMITED

The Head of Finance and Property Services outlined the Committee report and the recommendations contained therein.

Councillor Cheetham, as Chair of Rossendale Transport outlined further information and the representatives from Rossendale Transport answered questions raised by Members and provided additional information.

Resolved:

That Members note the contents of the report and that the Committees comments be presented to Cabinet.

11. ANNUAL PLAN

Members considered the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Plan 2010/11, which highlighted details of reports which would be presented to the Committee during the next 12 months.

The Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that a revised Annual Plan had been circulated at the meeting to include the Budget Efficiency Savings meetings on 19th July and 3rd August. Other reports could also be subject to change during the year.

Resolved:

That the action plan be approved.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm at finished at 9.35pm

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: