

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

Date of Meeting: 16 November 2010

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

Irene Divine, Co-opted Member

IN ATTENDANCE: Liz Sandiford, Head of People and Policy
Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Martin Kay, General Manager, Rossendale Leisure Trust
Norman Hauserman, Chair, Rossendale Leisure Trust
Christine Ashcroft, CLAW
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources
Councillor Gledhill, Portfolio Holder for Leisure

2 Members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for discussion.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Morris declared a personal interest as a member of the Leisure Trust Board.

Councillor Gledhill declared a personal interest in Marl Pits.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair agreed to deviate from the Procedure for Public Speaking and allow members of the public to ask questions as the reports were discussed.

A member of the public raised an issue of the Council's finances which he felt did not reflect their actual position. The Chair responded by indicating that the Council's finances are audited in accordance with procedures and examined by both internal and external auditors.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair informed Members of the following:

- The Scrutiny Support Officer had circulated updated activity figures from the Leisure Trust which had been requested at the last meeting
- Overview and Scrutiny had received a response from the Leader of the Council confirming that a Task and Finish Group would not at the present time need to be continue to look at the funding for main recipients of grants, but may need to reconvene at a later date
- A briefing would be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in December on the visits to Olive House, Accrington and Rossendale College and the Primary Health Care Centre
- A visit had been arranged to the Rossendale Primary Health Care Centre on 19th November at 1pm to talk to rehabilitation patients
- Any Member with any issues relating to health service provision should contact the Scrutiny Support Officer who would record any concerns which would be forwarded to the Rossendale Locality Commissioning Lead to follow up and respond

7. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2

The Head of People and Policy presented the Quarter 2 Integrated Performance Report.

The report highlighted that currently there were over 85% of actions identified within the Corporate Plan that were on track to be delivered. Also, financial savings had been highlighted within the report.

The following indicators were not achieving:-

LI 156 – Buildings Accessible to People with a Disability

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 the static red levels were beyond the Council's control.

Improvements and positive outcomes had been achieved from the following Indicators;

- LI 218a - % of abandoned vehicles investigated within 24 hours is back on track after being identified in quarter 1 as not achieving its target.
- LI 8 - % of invoices paid on time has seen good improvement exceeding the annual target of 97.50%.
- LI 79a - Accuracy of processing - HB/CTB claims has also seen good improvement exceeding the annual target of 93.00%.
- There was a 41% increase in the number of Compliments received for Quarter 2 (48) compared to Quarter 1 (34)

The Head of People and Policy indicated that Local Area Agreements (LAA) were coming to an end in March 2011 and some indicators would be scrapped.

In respect of LAAs being discontinued, it was agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group would not now continue with this piece of work.

There were to be 10-15 new national indicators but it was uncertain at the present time whether these would be upper tier, local, health or Police.

Local Strategic Partnerships would be refreshed into a new Rossendale Forum and would focus on areas which local neighbourhoods had highlighted as a priority.

Members would be consulted on what indicators they would like to continue to scrutinise.

Members were pleased to note that report was very positive and both Officers and staff were to be complimented.

Resolved:

1. That the Committee notes the level of performance detailed in the report.
2. That the Committee continues to monitor performance of those indicators that were under-achieving targeted levels of performance.
3. That the Committee compliment staff for this very positive report.

8. LEISURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Communities Manager presented an update on the progress of projects implemented as part of the 2009 Leisure Review, including funding agreements relating to Rossendale Leisure Trust and Community Leisure Association Whitworth.

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

Bacup Leisure Hall – which had now transferred to a private owner, with use of the building restricted to community leisure use and for a financial office. Leisure use would be for not less than 30 hours per week at times when the building or parts of it were not were not being used by the owner, or the property is not closed for repair or refurbishment.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure confirmed that £120,000 had been ring-fenced for Bacup, with the Neighbourhood Forums identifying how money would be spent.

Ski Rossendale – A sustainable and acceptable outcome for the site was being pursued. The Head of Regeneration and the General Manager of RLT were in the process of developing a feasibility option for the site, which should be available by end December 2010.

Haslingden Pool and Marl Pits Development – Meetings had been held to refine outline plans for both new facilities. Verification of the plans were accepted as a valid application on 15th October and the outline planning application would be considered at the Development Control Committee meeting on 13th December 2010. The Pool Panel would continue until the end of the review.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure indicated that both CLAW and the Leisure Trust were performing within their respective grant allocations. He indicated that the report continued to provide good news.

Martin Kay, General Manager of the Leisure Trust presented an update on progress of the GP referral scheme. The issues of cross boundary referrals were being discussed as take up of the scheme from areas like Healey and Whitworth were quite low, with people going to Rochdale and Helmshore residents to Bury.

A member of the public raised a number of questions which the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and the General Manager of the Leisure Trust responded.

The General Manager provided information on the skill set of new Board of Trustees which had recently been appointed to the Leisure Trust Board.

Members commended the impressive figures and constant improvements being made.

Christine Ashcroft, Chair of CLAW, gave Members an update on actions/progress to date, indicating that there was an Operations review to determine the most effective strategy for the business.

Globe Consultants had been chosen to review the possible income improvements at the Riverside, which commenced in October. A new Business Plan would be instigated following the review.

The Consultants had taken copies of leases, accounts for the last 3 years and up-to-date management accounts. The final report was due in December and would be presented to the Committee in February.

A number of questions were raised by members in relation to marketing the facilities and costs for room hire for charity events, which the Chair of CLAW clarified.

Members were also informed by the Chair of CLAW, that Alan Billingsley was working on a voluntary basis 2 days a week to identify areas of weakness and improve income streams to make them more viable. She went on to explain the staffing issues they are encountering, indicating that the CLAW trustees were undertaking the work of a Manager and this was becoming difficult.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure commented that the Globe report would produce a range of options to be considered in consultation with CLAW and the Council, with a report being presented to the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee for them to monitor future progress.

Resolved:

That the Committee note the work carried out to date in relation to the leisure projects.

Signed
(Chair)

Date