

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

Date of Meeting: 14 March 2011

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

Irene Divine (co-opted Member)

IN ATTENDANCE: Liz Sandiford, Head of People and Policy
Phil Seddon, Head of Finance
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources

Edgar Oldham, Rossendale Transport Ltd
Matthew Parkes, Rossendale Transport Ltd
Alistair Nuttall, Rossendale Transport Ltd
Councillor Cheetham, (for the confidential item)

2 Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Thorne.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minute of the meeting held on 7 February 2011, 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 Essex declared a personal interest as Vice-Chair of Rossendale Transport.

Councillor L Barnes declared a personal interest as a Board Member of Rossendale Transport.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were raised under the item.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Scrutiny Support Officer had circulated information requested at the last meeting from Green Vale Homes. Also, in relation to Green Vale Homes, the Chair confirmed that a letter had been sent to the two local MPs in relation to concern about the potential impact of the proposed introduction of universal credit and the ending of direct payment of housing benefit to social housing providers. The Chair indicated that once a response had been received, the Scrutiny Support Officer would circulate it to Members.

As this was the last meeting in the Municipal year, the Chair thanked all Members for their contribution.

Councillor Stansfield responded by thanking the Chair and Scrutiny Support Officer for their hard work and support to the Committee.

7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Head of People and Policy presented a report which members were asked to consider in relation to a review of current and future Performance Management arrangements and proposals of Performance Management arrangements to be carried out in 2011/12.

The new Government had announced a number of changes to the way Local Government Authorities produced and published performance management data. The new arrangements called for more transparency of data as well as the abolition of National Indicators. The Use of Resources and CPA inspection regimes had also been removed.

A new single dataset had been published to be used by local authorities as a guideline of what needs to be recorded and reported to Government departments across Whitehall. In addition, Local Authorities needed to ensure they had robust arrangements in place, so they could measure if they were providing high quality value for money services.

As part of the development of the new arrangements the Principal Policy Officer had met with Heads of Service to review the current extent and content of performance indicators within each of their service areas for future priority needs.

The Head of People and Policy indicated that it was an opportunity for Members to reduce, amend or add to the indicators, another option was to consider adding in other performance reporting arrangements. In

addition, other partners including Lancashire County Council were reviewing which indicators would need to be maintained.

There was general agreement that this was an opportunity to streamline performance reporting and incorporate some of the Council's major partners into the performance report and there was an agreement that due to sensitive information partners such as Rossendale Transport and some aspects of the Leisure Trust should be kept separate.

The Council was linking into other local authorities to agree some areas for data comparison to enable them to benchmark against each authority.

Members discussed the list of Performance Indicators and agreed that some of the indicators which were proposed to be deleted were important and linked into both health and housing. Therefore, the Head of People and Policy agreed to produce 'clusters' of indicators which embraced those themes which Members had prioritized including health, housing, and economy etc.

Members discussed the role of elected Members as Champions, indicating the need to receive reports on their work as Young People's Champion and Older People's Champion. There was also a suggestion that the Council look into having a Disability Champion. It was agreed that the Young People's Champion and the Older Person's Champion report back to a future Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was agreed that a further report be brought to the next meeting in June with the additional comments made by Members to be incorporated into the report.

Resolved:

1. That Performance Overview and Scrutiny note the Performance Management Position Paper.
2. That Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree the list of performance indicators each team had suggested, but with amendments as agreed at the meeting to be reported to a future Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
3. That Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to the reduction of registered users of Covalent.
4. That Performance Overview and Scrutiny agree to changes in the way performance was currently reported in the Quarterly Integrated Report, to include major partners such as Capita and Green Vale Homes, but that Rossendale Transport and Leisure be reviewed separately.

8. 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.

NB: Councillor Cheetham, Alistair Nuttall, Matthew Parkes and Edgar Oldham joined the meeting for the following item.

9. ROSSENDALE TRANSPORT LIMITED

Matthew Parkes, Finance Director, presented information on their budget figures to 22 February 2011, together with their assumptions and also provided an up to date budget and assumptions as at 14th March 2011.

Members raised questions to which the Directors of Rossendale Transport present responded.

Resolved:

That Members noted the budget reports and assumptions presented to them at the meeting and requested more detailed information including their 3 year Business Plan to be presented to the meeting on 25 July 2011.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm at finished at 8.40pm

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: