

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Present:** Councillor A Lythgoe (Chair)  
Councillors, Bromley, Kempson, Kenyon, Johnson, McMahon,  
Roberts, Robertson and Steen (substituting for Eaton)

Zadia Ali, Co-opted Member

**In Attendance:** Katie Gee, Media and Engagement Officer  
Councillor Lamb, Portfolio Holder, Operations and Development  
Control  
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer

2 members of the public

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### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Janet Eaton and Lynda Barnes.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be agreed as a correct record signed by the Chair.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

### 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

### 6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair informed the Committee that the Scrutiny Support Officer had received an email from CLAW indicating that she would let the Committee know shortly on whether the CLAW would accept a Councillor onto their Board.

The Chair also confirmed that Mr Anderton had been sent a response in relation to his query about confidential minutes and at what stage would they be exempt from

publication.

## **7. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 1**

The Media and Engagement Officer presented the Q1 Integrated Performance Report and highlighted the key areas.

Members were informed that 84% of actions were Green in status at the end of Quarter 1, which was a decrease on Quarter 1 last business year (by 12%). No actions finished this Quarter red in status.

There was a very slight decrease in the number of Green performance indicators compared to this quarter last year (down 1%). However, the number of red PIs had increased compared to the same quarter last year.

In relation to Risks, whilst these are recorded within the Integrated Performance Report, this was now looked at by the Audit and Accounts Committee.

Key achievements identified within the report include:

- Spinning Point funding has now been agreed to enable the project to progress.
- Benefit processing accuracy remains on target
- All planning application indicators performed above their targets
- The Disabled Facilities Grants scheme progresses well and the service is well used

Seven PIs were identified as not achieving their targets at the end of Quarter 1 and action plans had been completed by the relevant officer.

A question was asked about how much had been spent on the website. The Media and Engagement Officer indicated that it was part of a bigger project connected to the £100k Haslingden Task Force fund work. It was agreed to provide an update to Members for the next meeting.

In relation to Action EGO2 - Work with business leaders, networks and agencies to strengthen business support, skills and growth initiatives including: asking how many businesses had taken up. A question was asked how many businesses had taken up this support. It was agreed to ask the Officer in charge and report back to the next meeting.

A further question was asked about Ski Rossendale and whether they still receive funding from the Council. Clarification would be sought and reported back to the next meeting.

Members and the public raised further questions, which the Media and Engagement Officer responded.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Quarter 1 Integrated Performance Report be approved.

**8. ANNUAL EQUALITY REPORT 2015/16**

Members considered the Annual Equality Report 2015/16 which was presented by the Media and Engagement Officer.

The report provided factual data which members were asked to note. The Council publishes this factual equality data in line with the current legislative and best practice requirements to ensure it is operating transparently, fairly and equitably.

From a qualitative perspective, the report highlights that despite some difficult financial challenges and changes, the Council had been able to continue to support a range of projects and support services with the community, with some real positive results.

Whilst the Council will continue to ensure it is compliant with its required duties, it was noted that as financial challenges and changes within the Council continues this could impact on the extent of the Council's involvement in this agenda in future years.

Staff within the Council consists, 162 full-time, 6 part-time and 1 casual. Equality monitoring is undertaken at selection and periodically thereafter and the council is shortly going to be undertaking a review to update their equality monitoring data. Further information was provided within Appendix A of the report.

A number of questions were raised which the Media and Engagement Officer responded.

A question was raised about Equality Impact Assessment and what processes are in place to ensure these are available. The Media and Engagement Officer explained that all new policies do include an EIA.

Concern was expressed that it appeared that there were some under-represented groups working within the Council. The Media and Engagement Officer indicated that this was a factual report which provides equality data about the Council's workforce. It was agreed that the HR Manager attends a future meeting to explain the process from advertising for a job to the selection process.

The Media and Engagement Officer explained the numerous channels where a job vacancy was advertised, which include the Job Centre, Council's website, local press.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the HR Manager be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to explain the selection process to ensure that the Council do not discriminate any group from applying/being selected for a position within the Council.
2. That the Committee notes the Annual Equality Report 2015/16.

**9. CABINET RESPONSE TO THE DOG FOULING TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT**

The Committee were asked to consider the Cabinet's response to the Dog Fouling Task and Finish Group report.

The task and finish group met 5 times between October 2015 and February 2016. The report was presented to Cabinet Agenda Setting in June 2016.

The Portfolio Holder for Operations and Development Control gave a brief overview of the recommendations from Cabinet and indicated that whilst some of the recommendations were already in place, other would be looked at and it was agreed to provide a further update to the Committee in six month's time.

**RESOLVED:** That the Cabinet response be noted and an update on the recommendations be given to the Committee in 6 six months time.

**10. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL**

The Portfolio Holder for Operations and Development Control outlined her role and responsibilities as a Cabinet Member.

She explained the work of the Operations Team which helped the Committee have a better understanding of how they work which include the following statistical information.

- 57,000 bins/bags were emptied every week
- 1051 properties requiring assisted collections
- One vehicle to cover 279km of roads and it takes 9 weeks to sweep the full road network. Main roads are swept every 3 weeks
- Two vehicles to clean 355km of pavements
- 654 litter bins of which 115 are monitored daily and emptied as and when required, with others being emptied twice a week
- 10,000 seasonal bedding plants planted per year
- 1,353 tons of general waste collected and 311 tons of glass, cans and plastic

Members were informed that the Council would lose £600k cost share money from LCC by 2020 and therefore the Council were looking at ways to claw back some of this.

East Lancashire has no waste transfer facility and the Council use Hyndburn tip. Operations make 2 trips a day but this means they are losing almost 3 hours per day with travelling time. Apparently Burnley and Pendle have a 'transfer pad' which enables them to 'tip off and go away'. This is being looked at for Rossendale.

A cross-party working group has recently been established to look at a number of options for future work within Operations which would include options for the garden waste service.

One of the main challenges were the local markets which were underused and the Council are in the process of looking at best ways to attract people to these.

At present the Council store plant equipment at Whitaker Park, but if they are successful with their lottery bid the equipment would have to be stored elsewhere – ideally a new depot was needed.

The Portfolio Holder explained the process for recycling which goes to Rakehead in Stacksteads. The Council received £16 per ton for paper and cardboard, but nothing for plastic and glass.

A member of the public asked who would be the statutory authority when Rossendale became part of the Combined Authority. The Scrutiny Support Officer agreed to ask the question and report to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Portfolio Holder for Operations and Development Control was thanked for the informative presentation.

## 11. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee noted the information within the Forward Plan and agreed that there were sufficient items on the agenda for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the information be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

**Signed**.....

**Date** .....