

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 11th March 2019

Present: Cllr Lythgoe (Chair)
Cllrs L. Barnes, Gill, Haworth, Johnson, Kempson, Morris,
Procter and Robertson
Zieda Ali, Co-opted Member

In attendance: Sam Plum, Director of Communities
Andrew Buckle, Head of Customer Services & ICT
Mick Coogan, Strategic Housing Manager
Jenni Cook, Committee and Member Services Officer
Alex Hornby, Transdev

Also Present: Cllrs A. Barnes, Lamb and Walmsley
0 press
1 public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS

1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Kenyon.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2019 be approved as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

4.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent items of business.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

5.1 The Chair noted that he would allow questions to be asked on each item as it was discussed.

5.2 A member of the public raised a query regarding the Statement of Community Involvement. This would be taken to a future council meeting.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

6.1 Holiday Hunger Task and Finish Group – the Chair and Director of Communities were meeting with Heads to discuss a pilot project focussing on the two most

deprived areas. A further meeting would take place toward the end of April. The Leader noted her thanks to the Task and Finish Group for their work.

7. TRANSDEV UPDATE

7.1 Alex Hornby of Transdev provided members with a short update on services since the sale of Rosso in January 2018:-

- The depot had been given back to the council and services had moved to the Burnley, Blackburn and Rochdale depots. 90% of staff preferences for location had been accommodated.
- There had been a 9% uplift in bus travel.
- 6 brands were within Rossendale including 464, Lakeline and the Irwell Line.
- £3m had been invested in new buses for the 464 trunk route with Wi-Fi and charging points. The 464 was a talking bus and the voice of the bus had been provided by a blind passenger.
- Growth figures were noted and the Tottington Line's figures were extremely high due to First Bus withdrawing the service in that area.
- General statistics were noted including:-
 - 50% reduction in accidents
 - 40% improvement in 'loss mileage'.
 - 35% less complaints
 - 100% MOT pass rate
 - 96% staff attendance (higher than the industry average).
- Investment in new Witch-Way vehicles was planned for 2020.
- Ticket ranges had been integrated, mobile payments were available and an App was also available for passengers to track their buses.

7.2 Members and members of the public commented on the update, and clarification was provided by Transdev:-

- Thanks were expressed for the Rosso bus named after Barry Drelincourt.
- Double decker buses, which were older fleet, were still in use and these were required for the school services.
- Charges had risen under the annual fare review, however this was done using the same formula used by Rosso to reflect rising costs.
- Various tickets were available and Transdev operated a 'no quibble' young person's fare policy up to the age of 19.
- The Euro 6 bus emitted less emissions than the average diesel car and technology had been fitted to the older fleet. Discussion took place on electric vehicles. It was anticipated that the new bus station should have the provision to install charging points.
- Transdev provided employment opportunities for young people and there were currently 3 apprentice engineers. More opportunities for office-based apprenticeships were being considered.
- The idea of the new bus station was supported.
- Rosso had been purchased with a view to investing in the current network and growing the network.
- The potential for a rail link and its impact was noted.

Resolved:

The update was noted and Transdev was thanked for their attendance.

NB: Alex Hornby left the meeting.

8. ADOPTION OF A TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION POLICY

8.1 Strategic Housing Manager introduced the report which was proposing the adoption of a Temporary Accommodation Policy and key points were outlined:-

- The policy was required following a Supreme Court judgement for *Nzolamesco v City of Westminster*. Each local authority was required to have a policy for the allocation and procurement of temporary accommodation.
- The policy was split into two parts. Part A covering allocations and Part B covers procurement of accommodation.
- Three houses for families were available via Calico and a project was in the pipeline to increase temporary accommodation options.
- The aim of the policy was to minimise the use of temporary accommodation.
- The stage 1 Equality Impact Assessment was noted.

8.2 Members and members of the public commented on the report as follows:-

- Provision for veterans was clarified. Under last year's Local Authority Housing Statistics return there were 2 households out of 1,426 who were former members of the UK armed forces in housing need.
- Calico accommodation and priority/provision within Lancashire was noted. The maximum stay was 2 years with a typical stay being 3-6 months. It would take around 3 months to successfully complete a support plan.
- The duties, rights and challenges around asylum seekers and refugees was discussed and noted.
- Social housing properties were available through B-with-us for all the Registered Providers of social housing in the borough with general needs (non-supported) housing, and some advertised low demand properties on their websites.

Resolved:

1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends the Temporary Accommodation Policy to the Cabinet.
2. That all future minor amendments to the Policy are to be delegated to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

9. PENNINE LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

9.1 The Director of Communities introduced the report which outlined the statutory duty for the Pennine Community Safety Steering Group to identify community safety priorities for 2018-21 in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

9.2 The Plan was in draft format and would require ratification by Cabinet in July 2019.

9.3 Members and members of the public commented on the report as follows:-

- Success measures would follow as this was a draft report.
- This was a strategic document and issues such as building out crime and public realm would be addressed under more local action plans.
- This was an officer led group, however the terms of reference were being considered to alternate officer/member meetings for 2019/20.
- CCTV and beat officers were discussed.
- The council tax precept was noted and discussed.
- Proceeds of crime were discussed and an example was given of how the Credit Unions had benefitted from a scheme. The strategy could allow the Pennine Community Steering Group to bid for schemes like this.

Resolved:

1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends the Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Plan to the Cabinet.
2. That all future minor amendments to the strategy are to be delegated to the Director of Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

10. ADOPTION OF RBC MEMBERS SOCIAL MEDIA, INTERNET & EMAIL ACCEPTABLE USE & MOBILE PHONE POLICY

- 10.1 The Head of Customer Services & ICT introduced the report which outlined three policies which applied to members:-
1. Rossendale Borough Council Members Social Media/Networking Policy
 2. Member Internet & Email Acceptable Use Policy
 3. Rossendale Borough Council Members Mobile Telephone Policy.
- 10.2 The policies had been amended to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) EU 2016/679 and the Data Protection Act. Some of the amendments to the policies were noted as follows:-
- The mobile phone contract had been renewed with more text, minutes and data provision.
 - Damage/loss/stolen phones – this would be picked up by the council, as long as the correct reporting procedures had been followed.
 - A volumetric analysis of data had resulted in 3GB data being provided, with more available if a member consulted with Group Leaders or the S151 Officer.
 - Usage abroad was also available, with consultation with Group Leaders or S151 Officer.
 - Information should not be stored on SD cards and should be on council servers to ensure security.
- 10.3 Members and members of the public commented on the report as follows:-
- The Digital Strategy supported a move to paperless working and also digital inclusion.
 - The Council's firewalls were secure and held 27001 status.
 - The Council had a secure shredding policy for confidential waste.
 - Clarification was given regarding blocking individuals.

Resolved:

1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended the following policies to the Cabinet:-
 - a) Rossendale Borough Council Members Social Media/Networking Policy.
 - b) Member Internet and Email Acceptable Use Policy.
 - c) Rossendale Borough Council Members Mobile Telephone Policy.
2. That all future minor amendments to the policies listed above are delegated to the Head of Customer Services & ICT in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

11. THE FORWARD PLAN

11.1 The Forward Plan had been published with the agenda and noted.

11.2 This was the last meeting of the municipal year.

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____