

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

HELD: 8 MARCH 2011

START: 7.30PM

FINISH: 9.55PM

PRESENT

Councillor Kay (Chairman)
Mee (Vice Chairman)

Councillors	Mrs. Atherley	M. Pendleton
	Cotterill	R. Pendleton
	Gagen	Mrs. Pollock
	Mrs. Keane	Pryce-Roberts
	Lea	Mrs. Stephenson
		Tattersall

In Attendance Councillor Furey

Officers Assistant Chief Executive (Ms K Webber)
Head of Leisure & Cultural Services (Mr J Nelson)
Access to Services and Performance Manager (Mr S Walsh)
Estates & Valuation Manager (Ms R Kneale)
Environmental Protection & Community Safety Manager (Mr A Hill)
Strategic Housing Manager (Mr S Jones)
Housing Operations Manager (Ms L McGarry)
Assistant Solicitor (Mr M Hynes)
Tenant Participation Officer (Ms T Berry)
Principal Member Services Officer (Mrs S Griffiths)

45. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bailey and Vickers.

46. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of membership of Councillors Gibson and Mc Kay and the appointment of Councillors Pryce-Roberts and Cotterill for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

47. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

49. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a party whip.

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 25 November 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51. MINUTES OF THE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

During consideration of the above-mentioned minutes, a Member raised a question in relation to minute no. 15 (Individual Training Needs Assessments, Individual Training Plans and Training Records).

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Member Development Commission held on 22 February 2011, be noted.

52. COMMUNITY SAFETY

A presentation was received from the Council's Environmental Protection and Community Safety Manager on the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership.

In introducing his presentation he referred to the responsible authorities that were represented on the partnership and its relationship to the Borough Council. He explained the vision of the partnership; its funding stream and how this funding is allocated and highlighted a number of successes arising from Partnership initiatives. In referring to performance he indicated a reduction in:-

- Anti social behaviour complaints to the Police
- Criminal damage
- Burglary dwelling
- Accidental dwelling fires

together with a consistent number of domestic violence arrests

To conclude his presentation he indicated that 75% of respondents of the WL Citizens survey had agreed that West Lancashire was a safe and secure place to live and that 66% had indicated that investing in community safety contributed to improving the quality of residents lives. In referring to the future of the partnership he reported upon forthcoming reductions in funding, namely 30% in 2011/12 and 60% in 2012/2013.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised questions/queries in relation to:-

- Impact of forthcoming reduction in funding
- Future of the post within the Womens Refuge
- CCTV capital bid

The Environmental Protection and Community Safety Manager responded to Member's questions.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted and the Environmental Protection and Community Safety Manager be thanked for his attendance.

53. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - Q2 2010/11 (JULY 2010 TO SEPTEMBER 2010)

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive as circulated and contained on pages 347-376 of the Book of Reports which advised Members of the performance monitoring data for the quarter ending 30 September 2010.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised questions in relation to:-

BVPI 12 – Performance Improvement Plan (sickness absence)
WL 85c - Number of online payments

RESOLVED: That the overall good performance shown by the performance indicator data for the quarter ended 30 September 2010 be noted.

54. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS Q3 2010/11

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive as circulated and contained on pages 377-400 of the Book of Reports which advised Members of the performance monitoring data for the quarter ending 31 December 2010.

During the ensuing discussion a Member raised questions on the performance improvement plan (the percentage of calls to the contact centre) in particular referring to the increased call volume over the severe winter weather period and the relationship between the winter weather strategy and the emergency planning contingencies.

RESOLVED: That the Council's overall good performance against the indicator set for the quarter ended 31 December 2010 be noted.

55. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS - TENANTS SERVICES REVIEW

Consideration was given to the following items in relation to the review undertaken by the Committee "Governance Arrangements – Tenants Services" as circulated and contained on pages 429-484 and 543-556 of the Book of Reports.

56. VISIT TO SALIX HOMES, SALFORD, MANCHESTER

Consideration was given to the notes of the visit to Salix Homes undertaken by the Committee on 23 November 2010.

RESOLVED: That the notes of the visit to Salix Homes be noted.

57. WORKSHOP - 12 JANUARY 2011

Consideration was given to the notes of the workshop session held on 12 January 2011.

RESOLVED: That the notes of the workshop session held on 12 January 2011 be noted.

58. PROJECT PLAN

Members reviewed the project plan.

RESOLVED: That the review of the project plan be noted.

59. DRAFT FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the draft of the final report and recommendations of the Committee's in-depth review 'Governance Arrangements – Tenants Services'. The draft final report and recommendations represented the process and the work undertaken by the Committee in its review. Members were circulated with the results of the tenant consultation – local offers, monitoring scrutiny & governance arrangements.

Following discussion, minor amendments were noted and a series of recommendations to Cabinet and Council were agreed.

RESOLVED: A. That the draft final report and recommendations be approved and, subject to any amendments, be submitted to the Cabinet on 15 March 2011.

B. That the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the recommendations contained in the report in March 2012.

*At the request of the Chairman the Committee undertook a five minute recess prior to consideration of the following items of business.

60. ITEMS AT THE REQUEST OF A MEMBER/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

The following items were placed on the agenda at the request of a Councillor as circulated and contained on pages 485-492 of the Book of Reports.

61. DALTON PARK PLAY AREA

This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Gagen who explained in the notice to the item that she had requested it to be placed on this agenda to seek re-assurance that appropriate replacement play equipment would be erected if the existing equipment was removed from the above-mentioned site.

The Head of Leisure & Cultural Services provided an update in relation to the purchase of the land and funding applications and he undertook to keep Ward Members updated in relation to developments on this site.

62. MANAGEMENT OF TAWD VALLEY PARK

This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Cotterill who explained in the notice to the item that he had requested this item to be placed on this agenda due to concerns over the environmental management of the above-mentioned Park and sought a report to a future meeting of this Committee in this regard.

The Head of Leisure & Cultural Services reported upon actions undertaken in relation to the issues raised in the notice in particular to the problems of the depositing of shopping trolleys within the Park. At this point the Chairman suggested that a visit by two Members and a Ward Councillor to Tawd Valley Park and Asda Supermarket be arranged in the near future.

- RESOLVED: A. That a report be submitted to a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the future environmental management of Tawd Valley Park.
- B. That the Head of Leisure & Cultural Services organise a visit to Tawd Valley Park and to Asda Supermarket by one Member from each political group plus a Ward Member in order to witness the problems and discuss the depositing of shopping trolleys at this site.

63. CCFA - REVIEW OF PROCESS

This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Cotterill who explained in the notice to the item that he had requested this item to be placed on this agenda seeking a review on the CCFA process.

In this regard the Council Secretary & Solicitor circulated a report contained on pages 557-563 of the Book of Reports outlining the existing protocol for dealing with items of this nature.

- RESOLVED: That the Council Secretary & Solicitor be requested to prepare a formal protocol on the CCFA process to be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

64. COUNCIL POLICY & PROCEDURES

The item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Pryce-Roberts who explained in the notice to this item that she had requested this item to be placed on the agenda due to concerns that imminent changes in the application of Competition Law in relation to land agreements, including leases, had not been taken into account in relation to a recent case and sought clarification of the Council's policy and procedures in this regard.

The Estates & Valuation Manager responded to the points raised within the notice and the Assistant Solicitor confirmed that there was fluid dissemination of information in respect of current and future legislation and evolving caselaw between Council Divisions.

65. ITEMS REFERRED FROM THE MEMBERS UPDATE

The following items have been referred from the Members Update by Councillor Cotterill, as circulated and contained on pages 495-536 of Book of Reports.

66. MINUTES OF LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

In referring to the County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recent minutes, Councillor Cotterill raised concerns over cuts affecting adult social care in Lancashire and in particular the effects on vulnerable residents in West Lancashire and how unmet needs are going to be reflected in pressure on Borough Council services and what can be done to meet these challenges.

In responding to the item the Strategic Housing Manager referred to new commissioning framework in relation to the 'supporting people' service which provides housing related support services and advised that this will be presented to Members by way of a Members Update item. It was also noted that LCC would be undertaking a review of the FACS banding for each service user and that as part of this welfare advice would be a key element.

The Assistant Chief Executive reported upon the close working relationship between the Borough and the LCC Welfare Rights Service.

67. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT THEMATIC GROUP (BUILT ENVIRONMENT) - 11 MARCH 2010

Councillor Cotterill raised queries in relation to "zoned" collection of waste in the context of overall waste management plans. In response to this item it was reported that the Street Scene Manager would be inviting Members to a presentation in the near future in this regard.

68. MAKING DIFFICULT DECISIONS ABOUT FUNDING ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

Councillor Cotterill referred to Council procedures in relation to responses to consultation documents and in relation to the above consultation sought a retraction of the Council's response.

RESOLVED: That no action be taken on this item.

69. WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Chief Executive as circulated and contained on pages 537-542 of the Book of Reports on the work programme for this Committee for 2011/2012.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That arrangements be put in place to request items for the Work Programme for 2011/12 from Members, Corporate Management Board, Community Safety Partnership and by inviting members of the public to submit topics via a press release and by the inclusion of an article on the Council's web site.
 - B. That all potential topics be published on the Council's web site for Members of the public to comment or make suggestions on any future topics.
 - C. That following the deadline for receipt of potential topics the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson be requested to score each of the topics using the agreed selection criteria set out at Appendix A to the report.
 - D. That a report on the Work Programme for 2011/12, together with the results of the scoring exercise, be considered at the first meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2011/12 and the Committee select one topic for review.

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CHAIRMAN