

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

HELD: 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 10.25pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Kay (Chairman)
Mee (Vice Chairman)

Aldridge	Mrs. Houlgrave
Mrs. Atherley	S. Jones
Cheetham	Lea
Gartside	Mawdsley
Gibson	R. Pendleton
Griffiths	Pratt
Hodson	

Officers: Director of Transformation (Ms K Webber)
Transformation Manager (Mr S Walsh)
Strategic Housing Manager (Mr S Jones)
Assistant Solicitor (Mr M Hynes)
Principal Member Services Officer (Mrs S Griffiths)

In attendance: Councillors Furey, Greenall and Westley

16. APOLOGIES

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

17. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised Members that notice had been received of an intention to audio record Part 1 of the meeting.

18. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of membership of Councillors Fillis and Mrs. Pollock and the appointment of Councillors Gibson and Gartside for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

19. URGENT ITEMS

There were no items of urgent business.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillors Mrs. Atherley, Cheetham, Gartside, Hodson, Mrs. Houlgrave, Kay, Mee, Pratt & Westley declared personal interests in item no.8 (Review Topic for 2011/12 and Confirmation of Work Programme) in view of them being members of Parish Councils (and, where appropriate, Lancashire Association of Parish & Town Councils, NALC).
2. Councillors Aldridge and Westley declared personal interests in item nos. 11(c) and (d) (Items at request of a Member) in view of them being Members of Lancashire County Council.
3. Councillor Aldridge declared a personal interest in item no. 10 (Housing Service Improvement Plan) as a tenant and a member of his family are tenants of rented garage sites/Council accommodation.
4. Councillor S. Jones declared a personal interest in item no. 10 (Housing Service Improvement Plan) as a recipient of minor house adaptations.

21. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a party whip.

22. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 23 June 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23. MINUTES OF THE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING OF 14 JULY 2011

A Member raised a question in relation to future provision of member training following cessation of the current HR/client arrangements to which the Transformation Manager provided a response.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Member Development Commission meeting held on 14 July 2011 be noted.

24. REVIEW TOPIC FOR 2011/2012 AND CONFIRMATION OF WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Transformation as circulated and contained on pages 155-166 of the Book of Reports containing the results of the scoring exercise on topics submitted for review in 2011/12.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the summary of the results of the scoring exercise (Appendix 1) be noted and endorsed.
 - B. That the topic entitled “The role of Parish and Town Councils and the impact of the Localism Bill” be put forward as the priority topic for review by this Committee.
 - C. That the Project Plan (Appendix 2) be agreed, and it be noted that this review work will need to be completed by March 2012 and therefore the scale of the review adapted accordingly.
 - D. That the Committee’s work programme as set out below, be confirmed and included on the Council’s website.

25. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (APRIL 2011 TO JUNE 2011)

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Transformation as circulated and contained on pages 167-188 of the Book of Reports which advised Members of the performance monitoring data for the quarter ending 30 June 2011.

During the ensuing discussion a Member raised concerns in relation to:-

- WL19B(ii) – 10 day unavailability of call logging system
- NI 157a – processing of planning applications (major)
- NI 157b – processing of planning applications (minor)
- WL 18 – not meeting target

The Transformation Manager undertook to provide further information to the Member on target no. WL19B(ii) and that the relevant officers would provide a response in relation to the remaining targets.

A Member raised a question on the effect of the proposed JVC arrangements in relation to NI 181 (processing housing/council tax benefit new claims and change events) to which the Transformation Manager responded that monitoring arrangements were in place to ensure performance levels were maintained.

RESOLVED: That the Council’s overall good performance against the indicator set for the quarter ended 30 June 2011 be noted.

26. HOUSING SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Director of Transformation circulated the above-mentioned report (contained on pages 185-236 of the Book of Reports) to facilitate Members scrutiny of the Housing Improvement Plan in order to ascertain whether the Council is meeting all of the requirements of the Tenants Services Authority.

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

- B5-02 (provision of adaptations) – concern over this milestone not being met/reliance on Lancashire County Council/Council policy
- Role of critical friend
- B1-02 (tenders for priority 1&2 DDA works) – concern that works are behind schedule
- The role of elected members/Landlord Services Committee

The Strategic Housing Manager reported that in relation to B5-02 further meetings were ongoing with Lancashire County Council in order to look at how improvements could be established. He went to summarise the Council's adaptations policy and also to explain the role of Helena Partnerships as critical friend. Officers undertook to provide a presentation or report on options in relation to the HRA Business Plan to an appropriate Committee at an appropriate time.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

27. 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 237-244 of the Book of Reports.

28. DE-COMMISSIONED SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION

This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor R. Pendleton who explained in the notice to the item that he had requested it to be placed on this agenda to review the policy and to assess the impact on resident amenity/quality of life in relation to the de-commissioning of sheltered accommodation.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised concerns over:-

- Lifestyle clashes and relocation of elderly people
- Warden service
- De-classification of sheltered accommodation

The Strategic Housing Manager responded that the two issues that had been received were dealt with quickly and that the warden service was available for people who had opted to receive it.

RESOLVED: That the response be noted.

29. POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNITY-WIDE BENEFIT FROM 'FEED-IN TARIFF' ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES

This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor R. Pendleton who explained in the notice to the item that he had requested it to be placed on this agenda for the Council to consider the potential for community-wide benefit from 'feed-in tariff' energy efficiency measures.

It was noted that a report would be submitted to Cabinet on 15 November 2011.

RESOLVED: That the response be noted.

30. THAT A PEDESTRIAN (ZEBRA) CROSSING SHOULD BE LOCATED IN WESTHEAD VILLAGE

This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Greenall who explained in the notice to the item that he had requested it to be placed on this agenda for the Committee to consider making representations to Lancashire County Council for the installation of a pedestrian (zebra) crossing in Westhead village.

A Member highlighted traffic issues in relation to Pinfold Lane School, Scarisbrick and requested that representations be made to Lancashire County Council for the installation of a pedestrian crossing at this location.

RESOLVED: That the appropriate officer write to Lancashire County Council making representations for the installation of a pedestrian (zebra) crossings in Westhead village and on Southport Road Scarisbrick.

31. THAT THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT THE WIGAN ROAD / KNOWSLEY ROAD / MOOR STREET JUNCTION AND THE MOOR STREET / ST HELENS ROAD JUNCTION BE UPGRADED TO INCLUDE A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING (I.E. PELICAN TYPE) FACILITY

This item had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor Greenall who explained in the notice to the item that he had requested it to be placed on this agenda for the Committee to consider making representations to Lancashire County Council for the installation of traffic lights at the Wigan Road/Knowsley Road/Moor Street junction and the Moor Street/St. Helens Road junction be upgraded to include a pedestrian crossing (i.e. pelican type) facility.

RESOLVED: That the appropriate officer write to Lancashire County Council seeking the installation of traffic lights at the Wigan Road/Knowsley Road/Moor Street junction (Ormskirk town centre) and the upgrade of the Moor Street/St. Helens Road junction (Ormskirk) traffic lights to include a pedestrian crossing.

32. ITEMS REFERRED FROM THE MEMBERS UPDATE

The following item has been referred from the Members Update by Councillor R. Pendleton as circulated and contained on pages 243-250 of Book of Reports.

33. MINUTES OF THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MEETING 12 JULY 2011

Councillor R. Pendleton indicated that he had brought this item on to the agenda in order to:-

- “be informed/influence the way services are provided in the community, look at what impact service changes will have on housing stock
- to provide rest bite accommodation for carers within reasonable distance of those that they care for

Lancashire County Council as the unity planning authority bring forward planning policy that requires developers to provide respite care in development of 20 or more units”.

The Strategic Housing Manager outlined the process for provision of support in the community and indicated that there was no impact on Council housing stock.

RESOLVED: That the appropriate officer advise Lancashire County Council of the Committee’s comments in relation to respite care.

34. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business only, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act, as set out on the agenda, and as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

35. ITEM AT THE REQUEST OF A MEMBER/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

MAJOR SERVICE REVIEW ITEM NOS. 1,4,5,7,9,10,11,14,16,17,20,21,22,30,61 & 64

This item (Private & Confidential Report entitled “Major Service Review” – Appendix B) considered by Council on 20 July 2011, had been included on the agenda at the request of Councillor R. Pendleton who explained in the notice to the item that he had requested it to be placed on this agenda to assess the impact on front line services.

During Councillor Pendleton's address on the item clarification was sought over whether the item should be considered as it was the subject of a further report to Council in October. The ensuing discussion highlighted issues relating to the protocol for Members Items/CCFA, circulation of private and confidential papers and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure rules in relation to the call in procedure.

At this point the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

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CHAIRMAN