

PRESENT

Councillor Ashcroft (Chairman)

Councillors	Blane	J Hodson
	Baldock	Jones
	Bell	Kay
	Cheetham	Moran
	Cropper	O'Toole
	Mrs R Evans	Pendleton
	Fillis	Pope
	Gagen	Savage
	Gibson	

Also in attendance: Councillor M Forshaw Portfolio Holder: Planning and Development

Officers: Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration (Mr R Livermore)
Shaun Walsh (Transformation Manager)
Deputy Borough Planner (Mr I Gill)
Deputy Borough Treasurer (Mr M Kostrzewski)
LDF Team Leader (Mr P Richards)
Assistant Solicitor (Mrs J Williams)
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence. Councillor Moran apology for late arrival was noted.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no changes to membership of the Committee.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor J Hodson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 8 relating to the Local Plan Preferred Options stating that if during consideration of that item the River Douglas Linear Park formed part of the discussion he would leave the meeting.

5. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2012 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. PETITION REVIEW REQUEST - SOCIAL INCLUSION OF DISABLED RESIDENTS

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor advising that a review had been requested of the steps that the Council had taken in response to a petition on Social Inclusion of Disabled Residents, submitted by the Petition Organiser, Mr A Lenton. The report, as circulated and contained on pages 7 to 20 of the Book of Reports, set out the steps taken to respond to the petition and included the Council's response to the Petition's Organiser (Appendix B) and the Petition Organiser's request (Appendix C) for a review of that response.

The Petition Organiser did not attend the meeting.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- The Council's consultation processes, procedures and sample size.
- The arrangements effected by the changes to Concessionary Travel from April 2011, and the funding responsibilities of the County Council in relation to discretionary travel.
- The Council's current and future funding of Dial-a-Ride.

RESOLVED: That the steps taken by the Council in response to the petition are adequate.

8. LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS (LPPO) - FEEDBACK REPORT AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The Committee considered the report of the Borough Planner which set out the Local Plan Preferred Options (LPPO) Feedback Report and Consultation Responses received as a result of consultation during the period in January/February 2012.

Members considered the report and comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- The enormity of the task over the past few years to develop the Local Plan.
- Access to supporting documentation.
- Effect of future development in Burscough and the impact on infrastructure including the:
 - waste water treatment and partnership working;
 - role of United Utilities and the Environment Agency in managing and developing improvements to the waste water treatment network;
 - impact of development near to a major road (A59), addressing traffic and transport issues, including traffic management and effective solutions to highway issues.

- Effect of future proposals in Up Holland including the:
 - proposed development at Chequer Lane and highway issues in the vicinity.
 - proposed development at Mill Lane, particularly traffic and access issues.
- Issues raised by Sefton MBC in respect of proposals at Moss Lane.
- General concerns regarding highway network, capacity and improvements to junctions across the Borough.
- The use and application of planning policies to control developments and apply appropriate terms and conditions.
- Consultation processes with developers and landowners.
- Green Belt boundaries review and the Plan B sites – the alternatives should housing targets not be met.

The Deputy Borough Planner and LDF Team Leader were in attendance and responded to questions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the Officers be thanked for their work.

9. PUBLICATION LOCAL PLAN DOCUMENT

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Planner which sought approval to publish the Local Plan Publication document and seek representation from the public over an 8 week period in August to October 2012 prior to the Submission of the document to the Secretary of State for Examination in Public at the end of October 2012.

The Deputy Borough Planner who was in attendance explained the wide variety of methods that would be used during the consultation period.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- The proposed drop-in sessions, the unmanned exhibitions, location and Officer availability.
- The contents of the Local Plan Publication document going forward for consideration during the period of representation.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development who was in attendance, with the permission of the Chairman, addressed the Committee and made an undertaking to extend the provision of drop in sessions to Up Holland.

RESOLVED: That the recommendation to Cabinet to publish the Local Plan Publication document be endorsed.

10. KEY DECISION FORWARD PLANS - 1 MAY 2012 TO 31 OCTOBER 2012

There were no items under this heading.

11. RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 12 June 2012. Questions and comments were raised in respect of the following items:

Minute 8 (Use of 106 Monies in Burscough) – land identified at Pickles Drive.

Minute 10 (CCTV – New Locations) – types/styles of surveillance equipment to be used; locations; protection against vandalism; consultation process re. locations; advantages and disadvantages of CCTV as a deterrent.

In relation to CCTV it was proposed that a report be prepared giving details of the use and effectiveness of CCTV in the Borough and that Ward Councillors be consulted in respect of the proposed new locations of CCTV in their Wards.

Minute 12 (Findon/Firbeck Revival) – Re. energy efficiency phase of the project – the types of alternative energy efficiency measures being proposed.

Minute 13 (Appropriation of Land at Furnival Drive and Pickles Drive Burscough) – Size/capacity of land being appropriated.

Minute 16 (The Future of Skelmersdale Sports Centre) – reduce hours of operation.

- RESOLVED: A. That in relation to consideration of Minute 10 CCTV – New Locations (Cabinet 12 June 2012) that the matter be referred to Cabinet with a request that a report be prepared on the operation of CCTV to include details on its use and effectiveness and that Ward Councillors be consulted on the proposed CCTV locations being considered in their Wards.
- B. That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 12 June 2012 be noted.

(Note: Subsequent to the meeting the Head of Leisure & Cultural Services circulated the requested information to Members of the Committee in relation to Skelmersdale Sports Centre reduced hours of operation).

12. CALL IN ITEM - HIGH STREET INNOVATION FUND

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor which advised that a decision in relation to the above item (minute 15 refers) had received a call in requisition signed by five members of the Committee. The report set out the reason given for the call in, together with a different decision put forward by the five Members concerned on the requisition notice.

In the ensuing discussion the following comments/questions were noted in relation to:

- Involvement of local businesses.
- Utilisation of the £100,000 grant funding on developing the schemes proposed.
- Potential for funding through the LEP and other programmes/partners.
- Wider issues including employment opportunities and further investment opportunities.

RESOLVED: That the Committee does not wish to ask for a different decision.

13. PUBLIC LAND AUCTION PILOT - ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET TO EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor which reported on the above-mentioned report to the Committee for information following previous consideration of the item called-in at its meeting on 29 March 2012.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

14. 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 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 (Financial/Business Affairs) of Schedule 12A to the Act 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.

15. CALL IN ITEM - OUTCOME OF THE ASSET REVIEW - REPORT OF CONSULTANTS DTZ

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor which advised that a decision in relation to the above item (minute 21 refers) had received a call in requisition signed by five members of the Committee. The report set out the reason given for the call in, together with a different decision put forward by the five Members concerned on the requisition notice.

In the ensuing discussion comments and questions were raised on the reasons put forward for a different decision.

RESOLVED: That the Committee does not wish to ask for a different decision.

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Chairman