

**CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

HELD: 5 JULY 2012

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 9.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Bailey (Chairman) Houlgrave (Vice Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs Atherley G Hodson
Mrs Baybutt L Hodson
Mrs Blake Mrs Kean
Coyle McKay
Croppre Nolan
Delaney Oliver
Dereli Mrs Stephenson
Mrs C Evans Wright
Griffiths

Officers: Assistant Director Community Services (Mr D Tilleray)
Strategic Housing Manager (Mr S Jones)
Assistant Solicitor (Mrs T Sparrow)
Policy and Performance Officer (Ms A Grimes)
Planning Officer (Mr D Carr)
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence. Councillor Mrs C Evans apology for late arrival was noted.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillor Ms Melling and the appointment of Councillor Cropper for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Group.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

Councillor Blake asked that her thanks to Members of the former Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the work undertaken on reviews and the Officers who had supported that work, be noted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

During the course of the discussion on the review 'Cycling in West Lancashire' reference was made to cycling at Edge Hill University and Councillor Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest because of his employment by the University and Councillor Bailey also declared a non-pecuniary interest on this item as his wife is employed by the University.

5. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a Party Whip.

6. MINUTES

The following minutes were considered.

**7. MINUTES OF MEETING OF CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 1 MARCH 2012.**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 March 2012 be noted.

**8. MINUTES OF MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2012.**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 February 2012 be noted.

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor as contained on pages 65 to 75 which gave details of the outstanding work associated with the work previously undertaken by the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committees and proposals in respect of the Work Programme for this Committee for 2012/13.

Members raised comments/questions in relation to:

- Processes and timetable for topic selection.
- Outstanding work associated with the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- Advantages/disadvantages and time available to undertake an in-depth study during the current year.

RESOLVED: A. That the Terms of Reference of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee, attached at Appendix 1, be noted.

B. That the Terms of Reference of the Member Development Commission, attached at Appendix 2, be noted.

C. That the Committee endeavours to conclude the review entitled 'Cycling in West Lancashire' by December 2012.

D. That the Work Programme timetable for the Committee be noted with the proviso that the Committee will re-consider its option to undertake an in-depth study at a later date.

10. 'GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS - TENANTS SERVICES' REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration which gave details on progress since the review entitled 'Governance Arrangements – Tenant Services' undertaken by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, concluded in March 2011.

The Strategic Housing Manager attended the meeting and outlined progress since the conclusion of the review in relation to the new tenant scrutiny arrangements.

Members discussed, raised questions/comments particularly in relation to tenant involvement including:

- Tenant selection/representation on the Tenants' and Residents' Association and Forum.
- Various approaches used and undertaken to engage with the wider tenant base.
- Processes to engage in places in the Borough with a smaller proportion of Council owned property.

The Strategic Housing Manager responded to questions, making reference to the Tenant Involvement Structure detailed in the report and outlined some of the processes being used to involve and engage with tenants across the Borough including the use of an exhibition trailer and newsletter.

RESOLVED: A. That the progress report be noted.

- B. That it be noted that the Landlord Services Committee (LSC) will continue to monitor the arrangements on a regular basis.

11. DRAFT FINAL REPORT - 'THE ROLE OF THE PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS AND THE IMPACT OF THE LOCALISM BILL'

Members considered the draft final report of the review entitled 'The Role of the Parish and Town Councils and the Impact of the Localism Bill' as contained on pages 25 to 44 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED: That the draft final report and recommendations therein be approved and, subject to amendment as noted, the final report be submitted to Council for endorsement.

12. CYCLING IN WEST LANCASHIRE

Members considered the following two items.

13. CYCLING IN THE BOROUGH

Consideration was given to the information provided on behalf of the Borough Planner that gave an overview of the project and updated Members on the current position in relation to the review. The Planning Officer (DC) presented the information detailing achievements to date including how the objectives set had been met and updated Members on the work that was currently being undertaken in relation to on-going projects related to cycling in the Borough.

The update gave details on:

VISIT Sefton and West Lancashire project – including the improvements being undertaken in the cycling network across the Borough, citing improvements to the tow path in Burscough and utilisation of 106 monies.

The continuing work to improve cycle links between Edge Hill University and Ormskirk Town Centre and the promotional work being undertaken with West Lancashire College and other local schools.

Links established with other organisations - including Edge Hill University; West Lancashire Recycling Ltd.; West Lancashire College; private companies through the Local Strategic Transport Fund (LSPF). Reference was made to the cycle hire facilities established at the Morris Dancers in Scarisbrick and other links with neighbouring local authorities; hospital trusts and West Lancashire Cycle Action Group.

Information was also provided on initiatives considered during the course of the review in respect of Safe Cycling in West Lancashire including free cycling training to residents in the Borough and the establishment of new “family friendly” cycle routes, for example, the link from Rufford Hall, along the canal tow path to the railway station.

As a result of the update Members raised/question/comments in relation to:

- The improvements to aid safe cycling between Edge Hill University and the Bus/Train Stations in Ormskirk.
- Working in partnership with Edge Hill University and other education establishments to increase the use of cycles as an alternative mode of transport and encourage safe cycling and linked with this, the opportunities available to undertake cycling proficiency courses.
- Plans for the Linear Park at Skelmersdale.
- Establishment of cycling lanes on/next to footpaths and the possibility to link cycle paths from the Borough to those already established.
- Safety implications associated with busy main roads including opportunities to segregate road traffic from cyclists and pedestrians and the improvement of junctions, pavements and main travel routes to encourage cycling as an alternative form of transport.
- Safety issues associated with rural roads, for example, narrow lanes often with no footpaths and little signage.
- Maintenance of road surfaces to remove hazards such as potholes.

- General highway code issues, including observance of the rules by both motorists and cyclists on public highways.

The Planning Officer (DC) responded to questions, making reference to initiatives within the VISIT Sefton and West Lancashire Project; the Local Transport Plan and the opportunities, where resource permitted, to segregate cyclists on the road network and explore routes that had the potential to be segregated. He also made reference to the introduction of interactive maps and the additional promotional material available to assist cyclists travelling in the Borough.

RESOLVED: A. That the presentation be noted.

14. PROJECT PLAN

Members reviewed the Project Plan. It was agreed that the project was now nearing completion and that a draft final report on the review should be prepared with a view to it being submitted for consideration by the Committee at the next scheduled meeting in October 2012.

RESOLVED: A. That the review of the Project Plan be noted.

- B. That arrangements be made for the draft final report of the review 'Cycling in West Lancashire' to be prepared for consideration at the meeting of the Committee scheduled to take place on 25 October 2012.

15. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Q4 2011/12)

Consideration was given to the report of the Transformation Manager which detailed performance monitoring data for the quarter ended 31 March 2012, as contained on pages 49 to 64 of the Book of Reports.

In discussion Members raised questions and comments in respect of the following performance indicators:

- NI 151 – Overall Employment rate (working-age) – age of data
- NI 153 – Working age people claiming out of work benefits in worst performing neighbourhoods – reason for deletion of PI for 2012/13.
- NI 191 to NI 195d – No. of specific indicators related to waste and cleanliness. Methodology for the collection of associated data.
- BV66a - % Rent collected (including arrears brought forward) – collection of data.
- N195 – Improved street and environmental cleanliness – PI for grass cutting.
- Overall performance in the period under consideration.

A discussion ensued in relation to issues associated with grass cutting in the Borough including schedules and availability to Members of the scheduling information on grass cutting in their Wards. It was agreed that this would be a good topic to consider further.

RESOLVED: A. That the Council's performance against the indicator set for the quarter ended 31 March 2012 be noted.

B. That the Assistant Director Street Scene be requested to put in place arrangements for a presentation to be made on 'Grassing Cutting in the Borough' to the October meeting of the Committee.

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

Members discussed the processes for placing items for discussion on the agenda for consideration by the Committee.

As agreed previously, the first choice of topic would be 'Grass Cutting in the Borough' with a presentation to the October meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: A. That the process for submitting items at the request of a Member be noted.

17. ITEMS FROM THE MEMBERS UPDATE

There were no items under this heading.

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Chairman