

## CABINET

**HELD: 12 JANUARY 2016**

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 7.50pm

## PRESENT:

Councillor: I Moran (Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

Councillors:

### Portfolio

T Aldridge	Older People
Y Gagen	Deputy Leader of the Council & Leisure
J Hodson	Planning
J Patterson	Housing and Landlord Services
K Wilkie	Street Scene
K Wright	Health and Community Safety
C Wynn	Finance

In attendance: Pendleton  
Councillor

Officers:  
Managing Director (Transformation) (Ms K Webber)  
Managing Director (People & Places) (Mrs G Rowe)  
Assistant Director Community Services (Mr D Tilleray)  
Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration (Mr B Livermore)  
Assistant Director Planning (Mr J Harrison)  
Borough Treasurer (Mr M Taylor)  
Transformation Manager (Mr S Walsh)  
Principal Member Services Officer (Mrs S Griffiths)

## 70. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence

## 71. SPECIAL URGENCY (RULE 16 ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES)/URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of special urgency.

## 72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

1. Councillor Patterson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in items 5(a) 'Sale of High Value Council Houses' and 5(j) 'Housing Account – Revenue and Capital Programme' but she was entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption as nothing in the report related particularly to her respective tenancy or lease. \*

2. Councillor Aldridge declared an interest in relation to agenda item 5(h) 'General Revenue Account Budget 2016/17' and item 5(i) 'Medium Term GRA Capital Programme', as a Member of Lancashire County Council, as did Councillors Gagen as an employee of Lancashire County Council.\*
3. Councillors Moran declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 5(c) 'Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding Programme 2016/17' and a pecuniary interest in item 5(h) 'General Revenue Budget 2016-17' and item 5(i) 'Medium Term GRA Capital Programme' in relation to Parish Council matters, in view of his membership of a Parish Council.\*
4. Councillor Aldridge declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to item 5(j) 'Housing Account – Revenue and Capital Programme' as a Tenant of a Council garage, but he was entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption as nothing in the report related particularly to his respective tenancy or lease.\*
5. Councillors Aldridge and Wright declared non-pecuniary interests in relation to 5(a) 'Sale of High Value Council Houses' and item 5(j) 'Housing Account – Revenue and Capital Programme' as they have a connected person who is a tenant of rented Council accommodation. Insofar as that interest becomes a pecuniary interest (as it would affect the financial position of their relative and a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard this as so significant that it is likely to prejudice their judgement of the public interest) they declared that interest but considered that they were entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption as nothing in these reports related particularly to their relevant tenancy or lease.\*
6. Councillor Wynn declared an interest in relation to item 5(h) 'General Revenue Budget 2016-17' in relation to the reference to Policy Options, as he is employed by Essential Fleet Services Ltd to maintain Council vehicles and works at the Robert Hodge Centre and indicated he would not participate in any detailed discussions which affected his employer or employment.\*

\* By virtue of a dispensation granted by the Standards Committee all Councillors who have disclosable pecuniary or pecuniary interests in relation to relevant lines in the budget may participate and vote in the budget debates but not engage in detailed discussions about matters which affect those interests.

**73. MINUTES**

RESOLVED                      That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 10 November 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

**74. MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS**

Consideration was given to the report relating to the following matters requiring decisions as contained on pages 1397 – 1700 and 1719 – 1761 of the Book of Reports.

**75. SALE OF HIGH VALUE COUNCIL HOUSES**

Councillor Patterson introduced the report of the Borough Solicitor which advised Members of the comments that had been made by the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 28 November 2015 in respect of the above-mentioned report, which had been referred to it by Cabinet at its meeting on 10 November 2015.

She went on to introduce the report of the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration which provided an update on Government proposals to force Councils to sell "high value" Council houses upon them becoming empty and sought authority to progress with sales prior to the legislation being introduced. The Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration's response to the comments of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee were also included within the report.

Minute no. 35 of the meeting of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) on 7 January 2016 was circulated at the meeting.

A Motion from Councillor Patterson was circulated at the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the minute of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group), the motion from Councillor Patterson and the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That this item be deferred and a report be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet following receipt of the detail of the levy within the Housing and Planning Bill. The report to include a range of options including the sale of property, other assets and raising necessary funds via other methods from within the Housing Revenue Account.
  - B. That the call-in procedure is not appropriate for this item as the report had been considered by the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 28 November 2015.

**76. FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY & OTHER ORGANISATIONS WORKING GROUP**

This item had been withdrawn from the agenda by the Transformation Manager.

**77. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING PROGRAMME 2016/2017**

Councillor Hodson introduced the report of the Assistant Director Planning which provided feedback on the consultation on the options for the CIL Funding Programme 2016/17 and proposed a final CIL Funding Programme for 2016/17 based on the CIL monies anticipated to have been collected by the Council by 31 March 2016.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the consultation feedback report and updated Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (IDS) provided at Appendices A and B be noted.
- B. That the allocation of CIL monies be approved for the delivery in 2016/17 of the following projects:
- New Allotments in Skelmersdale (£20,000)
  - Improvements to Public Open Space and associated car parking at Station Approach, Ormskirk (£15,000)
  - Haskayne Cutting Nature Reserve (£8,000)

#### **78. SKELMERSDALE & UP HOLLAND (RE)CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME**

Councillor Hodson introduced the report of the Assistant Director Planning which provided an update on the performance of the (re) Cycle to Work Scheme, and sought approval to increase the grant offered and to provide the scheme providers with a springboard grant to improve stock availability.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the report be noted.
- B. That the funding provided to the nominated supplier to cover the cost of each cycle together with associated safety equipment (helmet and lights) be increased in value from £50 to £100, and that a repayable springboard grant of £800 be provided to the nominated supplier to improve stock availability.
- C. That delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director Planning to negotiate terms and enter into an agreement with the nominated supplier and, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make any necessary further changes in the future to the value of the cycle grants.
- D. That delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director Planning, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to decide whether to continue with the scheme should uptake remain low.

#### **79. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Councillor Hodson introduced the report of the Assistant Director Planning which sought approval for consultation on the draft West Lancashire Statement of Community Involvement 2016.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the draft West Lancashire Statement of Community Involvement 2016 attached at Appendix A be approved for public consultation, subject to any amendments made by the Assistant Director Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, following consideration of the Statement of Community Involvement by Planning Committee, as per resolution B. below.
  - B. That the Assistant Director Planning be authorised, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make any necessary amendments to the Statement of Community Involvement in the light of agreed comments from Planning Committee, before the document is published for consultation.

#### **80. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Q2 2015-16)**

Councillor Moran introduced the report of the Transformation Manager which presented performance monitoring data for the quarter ended 30 September 2015.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the Council's performance against the indicator set for the quarter ended 30 September 2015 be noted.
  - B. That the call-in procedure is not appropriate for this item as the report is being submitted to the next meeting of the Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 18 February 2016.

#### **81. REVISED EQUALITY OBJECTIVES 2015/18**

Councillor Moran introduced the report of the Transformation Manager which sought approval of the new Equality Objectives 2015-18 which included plans for the future monitoring of these objectives.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- That the revised Equality Objectives for 2015-2018, as realigned to the Council Plan 2015-18, at Appendix 3 be approved.

**82. GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2016-17**

Councillor Wynn introduced the report of the Borough Treasurer which provided a summary of the current General Revenue Account budget position.

The Appendix to the report was circulated by prior e-mail and at the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and the Appendix circulated and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the financial position for 2016-17 and later years be noted.
  - B. That the Portfolio Holder for Finance be given delegated authority to submit firm proposals to Council on 24 February 2016 to enable the budget to be set.
  - C. That call-in is not appropriate for this item as it is to be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 January 2016.

**83. MEDIUM TERM GRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Councillor Wynn introduced the report of the Borough Treasurer which set out details on the GRA medium term capital programme position for the next 3 years.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the medium term financial position be noted.
  - B. That the Portfolio Holder for Finance be given delegated authority to submit firm proposals to Council on 24 February 2016 to enable the capital programme to be set.
  - C. That call-in is not appropriate for this item as it is to be submitted to the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 January 2016.

**84. HOUSING ACCOUNT – REVENUE AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Councillor Patterson introduced the joint report of the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration and Borough Treasurer which provided a summary of the budget position for the Housing Account for the next financial year.

Minute no. 37 of the meeting of the Landlord Services Committee held on 7 January 2016 was circulated at the meeting.

Appendix B to the report was circulated by prior e-mail and at the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the minute of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group), the details set out in the report before it and Appendix B to the report and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the financial position for 2016-17 be noted.
  - B. That the use of the delegated authority of the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration in relation to rent and service charge changes be noted.
  - C. That this report be used for consultation purposes prior to the Council considering this matter in February 2016.
  - D. That the Housing Portfolio Holder be given delegated authority to submit firm proposals to Council on 24 February 2016 to enable the budget to be set.
  - E. That call-in is not appropriate for this item as it is to be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 January 2016.

## **85. RICHMOND PARK**

Councillor Gagen introduced the joint report of the Assistant Director Community Services and Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration which considered a request from Burscough Richmond Football Club for revised arrangements for the club's use of changing rooms and a football pitch at Richmond Park, Burscough.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the Assistant Director Community Services be authorised to enter into a new 25 year lease with Burscough Richmond Football Club in relation to the changing pavilion at Richmond Park, Burscough (shown edged red on the plan at Appendix 1 to the report).
  - B. That the existing licence with the club on the football pitch at Richmond Park be extended to run concurrently with the new lease.
  - C. That a community use agreement for the changing pavilion and pitch area be developed as part of the lease/licence process.

- D. That to give effect to the arrangements at A. B. & C. above, the Assistant Director Community Services be authorised to conclude the termination of the existing lease and negotiate the terms of, and complete, the grant of a new lease and community use agreement with Burscough Richmond Football Club, subject to any necessary statutory consultations being undertaken and consents being obtained. This authorisation to include the advertising of the disposal of the public open space to enable the licence to proceed.

**86. COUNCIL TENANTS' FINANCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY (HOUSING & REGENERATION)**

Councillor Patterson introduced the report of the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration which sought approval of the Council Tenants' Financial Inclusion Strategy.

Minute no. 36 of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) was circulated at the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the minute of the Landlord Services Committee (Cabinet Working Group) and the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the Council Tenants' Financial Inclusion Strategy at Appendix 1 be approved.
- B. That the results of the consultation exercise and the revisions to the draft Council Tenants' Financial Inclusion Strategy be noted.

**87. LAND TRANSFERS IN HESKETH BANK**

Councillor Moran introduced the joint report of the Assistant Director Community Services and Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration which gave consideration to a request from Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council for the transfer of 3 areas of open space Borough Council land and a potential fourth area, should this be adopted by the Council in due course, to their ownership together with the transfer of any commuted sums negotiated from developers for the management of these sites.

The report also gave consideration to the sub-contracting of maintenance works on a further piece of land to the Parish Council.

Revised recommendations were circulated at the meeting by the Assistant Director Community Services.



In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the revised recommendations and the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the transfer of land at Ashbrook Close, Becconsall Gardens (when negotiations with the developer are completed) and Glen Park Drive in Hesketh Bank be approved as shown on the plans attached (Appendix 1) to Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council subject to any necessary statutory consultations being undertaken and considered.
  - B. That negotiations be completed with the developers for the commuted sums of £35,000 for Ashbrook Close and £3,500 for Becconsall Gardens and these sums be transferred to the Parish Council subject to completion of the land transfers.
  - C. That negotiations continue with Morris Homes as developer of the Poppyfields site regarding the adoption of the open space and play area, and upon conclusion to the Council's satisfaction, the transfer of the facilities and commuted sum to the Parish Council be completed subject to any necessary statutory consultations being undertaken and considered.
  - D. That the request from the Parish Council for them to be sub-contracted to maintain land at Sydney Avenue be refused.

## **88. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 & 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that 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.

## **89. MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS**

Consideration was given to the report relating to the following matters requiring decisions as contained on pages 1701 – 1718 of the Book of Reports.

## **90. STRATEGIC ASSET PURCHASES FUND**

Councillor Moran introduced the report of the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration which sought authority to establish a Strategic Asset Purchasing Committee to purchase land and property for the Council if considered prudent to do so and the timeframe precludes the normal process.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the report be noted.
  - B. That the establishment of a Strategic Asset Purchasing Committee be agreed and supported.

**91. SKELMERSDALE LAND AUCTION AND DELIVERING PUBLIC REALM IN THE TOWN CENTRE**

Councillor Moran introduced the report of the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration which gave consideration to the best approach in order to ensure the receipt of maximum return from the land auction sites at Whalleys, Skelmersdale and to develop proposals for the funding of public realm infrastructure for Skelmersdale Town Centre.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration to enter into formal discussions about the purchase of the remaining land auction sites at Whalleys, Skelmersdale, from the HCA at the base values identified in the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
  - B. That delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration, in consultation with the Borough Treasurer, Leader and Finance Portfolio Holder to determine whether there is a positive business case to purchase up to three of the remaining land auction sites, at Whalleys, Skelmersdale, (as shown at Appendix 1 to the report) prior to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 deadline, and, if so, to proceed to purchase taking all necessary steps to do so.
  - C. That a future report be brought back to Cabinet and/or Council, as appropriate, to give consideration to how any Whalleys sites purchased by this Council will be brought forward for development and on any additional resources required to deliver this development.
  - D. That temporary borrowing be used, if necessary, to fund the delivery of public realm in Skelmersdale Town Centre alongside the St Modwen Scheme, should sufficient funds from the Land Auction not be in place at the relevant point in time.
  - E. That call-in is not appropriate for this item as the Council wish to be in a position to proceed urgently with development opportunities outlined in the report and the matter has been considered at a meeting of Council.

**92. LEADER'S CLOSING REMARKS**

The Leader announced that it was the last meeting to be attended by Gill Rowe, Managing Director (People & Places) and expressed his thanks for her long service to the Council.

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LEADER



**CABINET****HELD: 2 FEBRUARY 2016**

Start: 4.30pm

Finish: 4.35pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: I Moran (Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

Councillors:

Portfolio

T Aldridge

Older People

Y Gagen

Deputy Leader of the Council &amp; Leisure

J Hodson

Planning

J Patterson

Housing and Landlord Services

C Wynn

Finance

Officers:

Acting Chief Executive (Ms K Webber)

Interim Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)

Interim Borough Transformation Manager (Mr S Walsh)

Service Accountant (Mrs K Samosa)

Principal Member Services Officer (Mrs S Griffiths)

In attendance:

Councillors

Owens, D Westley

**93. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Wilkie and Wright.

**94. SPECIAL URGENCY (RULE 16 ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES)/URGENT BUSINESS**

The Leader advised that, in accordance with Rule 16 Access to Information Procedure Rules, he had obtained the agreement of the Chairman of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider a joint report from the Interim Borough Solicitor and the Interim Director Housing and Regeneration in relation to "Request for Funds – Opposition To Extension of Whitemoss Landfill Site, Skelmersdale" as this item could not reasonably be deferred due to a request for funding that had just been received to enable representation at an imminent Court hearing on 16 February 2016.

This item was considered at minute no. 98.

**95. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**96. MATTERS REQUIRING DECISIONS**

Consideration was given to the report relating to the following matters requiring decisions as contained on pages 1765 – 1797 of the Book of Reports.

**97. FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY & OTHER ORGANISATIONS WORKING GROUP**

Councillor Gagen introduced the report of the Interim Borough Transformation Manager which advised on the recommendations of the Funding of Voluntary and Other Organisations Cabinet Working Group in relation to the applications received from the voluntary organisations for one year revenue funding from 1 April 2016.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the recommendations arising from the scoring of the applications received from voluntary organisations for one year revenue funding from April 2016 onwards by the Funding of Voluntary and Other Organisations Cabinet Working Group at its meeting on 14 January 2016 be endorsed as detailed in the minutes of the meeting attached at Appendix 4.
  - B. That the call-in procedure is not appropriate for this item as the recommendations of the Working Group form part of the considerations when the Council's budget is finalised on 24 February 2016.

**98. REQUEST FOR FUNDS - OPPOSITION TO EXTENSION OF WHITEMOSS LANDFILL SITE, SKELMERSDALE**

The Leader introduced the joint report of the Interim Borough Solicitor & Interim Director of Housing & Regeneration which considered a request for a contribution of £4,000 towards the cost of funding a challenge to the Secretary of State's decision to allow planning permission to extend the Whitemoss Landfill Site, Skelmersdale.

A motion from the Leader was circulated at the meeting.

In reaching the decision below, Cabinet considered the motion from the Leader and the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED
- A. That the Interim Director Housing & Regeneration be authorised to make a contribution of £4,000 from the Major Projects Reserve towards the funding for a challenge to the Secretary of State's decision to allow planning permission to extend the Whitemoss Landfill Site, Skelmersdale.
  - B. That the call-in procedure is not appropriate for this item as the request for funding has just been received to enable representation at an imminent Court hearing on 16 February 2016.

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LEADER





**CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD: 3 DECEMBER 2015**

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 8.35pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Dowling (Chairman)      West (Vice Chairman)

Mrs Atherley	G Hodson
Barron	Hudson
Mrs Blake	McKay
Blane	Oliver
Delaney	O'Toole
Greenall	Westley

Officers:      Assistant Director Community Services (Mr D Tilleray)  
                 Deputy Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration (Mr I Gill)  
                 Head of Leisure and Cultural Services (Mr J Nelson)  
                 Technical Services Manager (Mr C Brady)  
                 Economic Regeneration Manager (Ms P Huber)  
                 Arts Development Manager (Ms H Juste)  
                 Assistant Solicitor (Mr N Astles)  
                 Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

In attendance: Councillor J Hodson (Portfolio Holder for Planning)

**35. APOLOGIES**

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

**36. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillor Mrs Marshall and the appointment of Councillor D Westley, for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the political group.

**37. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

**38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**39. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15 October 2015 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**40. A MARKET STRATEGY FOR ORMSKIRK REVIEW**

The following three items, as part of this review, were considered.

**41. REGENERATION, LEISURE AND THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY**

Consideration was given to the presentation by the Economic Regeneration Manager and Arts Development Manager which was supported by a series of slides as contained on pages 207 to 220 of the Book of Reports.

Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy

The Economic Regeneration Manager provided an update relating to the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy, the draft of which had been approved by Cabinet at its meeting in September 2015 and reported that partner endorsement was being secured. She informed Members that four sub-groups had now been established namely, Market and Car Parks; Building and the Public Realm; BID and Marketing.

She then went on to explain the projects that the Marketing Sub-Group would be tasked with, to include: visitor profiling; shopping habits; perceptions; competitor analysis and the unique selling point (USP). It was envisaged that these would underpin the branding and subsequent marketing of Ormskirk.

An update in relation to events previously reported during the course of the review was provided. Actions delivered in the latter part of 2015 had included the Events Marquee and the expansion of events at the Chapel Gallery to include a vintage/handmade fair and the introduction, for Christmas 2015, of a "storyteller" narrating the Fairy Tale of Ormskirk, through banner and illuminated installations in empty shops.

It was acknowledged that the High Street was changing from the traditional shopping only purpose and its potential was now seen as more of a leisure destination.

The Arts as a tool for Regeneration

The Arts Development Manager explained that by looking at the experiences of other towns and cities who had explored an alternative approach, through innovative arts programmes, a quality experience for visitors could be achieved. It was explained that by drawing on a town's local heritage as an inspiration for an event the outcome could bring positive memories and encourage revisits.

Cultural Tourism – West Lancashire

Members heard of the great potential in Ormskirk to attract visitors. Examples included the changes proposed at Chapel Gallery, as part of its exhibition and events programme and the potential of the High Street as a leisure destination.

In relation to the “High Street”, the various options to accomplish a change, through animating and improving the environment were referred to including: the introduction of visual sculpture; creating opportunities for animation (the festive displays in empty shops were an example of this); through the performing arts (street entertainers; drama; dance and storytellers) and exhibitions, arts and craft markets (Ormskirk Handmade and Vintage Fair).

It was emphasised that the provision of quality experiences within town centres for its visitors was likely to encourage revisits. The impact of the annual Motofest in Ormskirk town centre was cited as evidence of this.

Reference was also made to the success of the Sunday Summer Vintage and Handmade Fairs piloted in 2013/14 that saw an increase in visitor numbers to Chapel Gallery from 29,000 to 37,000, despite the small exhibition space.

In conclusion, the Arts Development Manager referred to potential ideas /actions for the future. These included the development of an annual fairy tale event; arts and crafts; vintage and handmade stalls alongside the more established traders on the Market, with an outcome, through the provision of a mix of activities, of an increase in the footfall across the town, including Chapel Gallery, thus attracting more visitors and adding to their overall experience of Ormskirk.

Thanks was expressed to the Economic Development Manager and Arts Development for their informative presentations.

RESOLVED: That the presentations be noted.

## **42. THE MARKET AND MOOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS**

The Technical Services Manager gave an oral update on the Market and Moor Street Improvements, including an update on the refurbishment work undertaken by Lancashire County Council on the gullies, an issue identified at the previous meeting.

### The Market and Moor Street Improvements

It was reported that resurfacing had been completed; bins installed and installation of the benches and lit street trees were scheduled to be completed during December.

In relation to improvements to the gullies, bonded aggregate had now been inserted and colour-matched to the channels. It was understood that Lancashire County Council (LCC) would be monitoring the effectiveness of the aggregate.

Comments and questions were raised in relation to:

- Moor Street Improvements – effective drainage / performance of the gullies.
- Ormskirk Town Centre traffic management in the pedestrian area – methods to restrict vehicle access / indiscriminate vehicle movement; the effectiveness of enforcement; advantages/disadvantages and types of more physical solutions; restrictions for heavy goods vehicles.

- Derby Street Railway Bridge – proposed works; vehicle restrictions; impact on business deliveries; diversion of traffic.

In relation to questions raised on vehicle enforcement orders in force in the Town Centre, Members were informed that issues affected by these were regularly raised with Lancashire County Council (LCC), as the responsible highway authority.

During discussion on traffic management safety in the pedestrian area, solutions to deter misuse of vehicle access in / through the town centre were put forward including: narrowing the access points to the area; installation of gates; installation of automated barriers or rise/fall bollards. It was acknowledged that any proposals for more permanent “solutions” would need to include measures to allow access by the emergency services and delivery vehicles.

It was agreed that traffic management safety in the pedestrian area was an issue requiring further consideration and the Technical Services Manager was asked to provide further detail in relation to ideas raised and information on the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) covering the Town Centre.

In answer to a Member question relating to maintenance of the gullies and the drainage problems that had been referred to, the Technical Services Manager undertook to raise the issue with LCC.

In relation to the Market, the Technical Services Manager stated that, since the provision of trade/stall data, earlier in the review, the popularity of stall trading on “Thursdays” had risen with a larger variety of goods now being made available. The demand for stalls by traders on Saturday remained high. The monitoring of the performance of the two market days would continue.

It was further reported that the wet weather had had an impact on some improvements. However, with the provision of the new canopies, a re-launch of the Market was planned for Spring 2016.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the presentation be noted.
  - B. That a further update on The Market and Moor Street Improvements be provided to the next meeting.
  - C. That information on Traffic Management Safety in the Pedestrian Area of Ormskirk Town Centre be sought in relation to issues raised for consideration at the next meeting.
  - D. That clarification in relation to the maintenance of the refurbished gullies be sought from LCC.

**43. NEXT STEPS**

Consideration was given to the timetable, as set down in the Project Plan for the Review.

The date and the proposed content, as put forward by the Deputy Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration, of the Workshop in January 2016 was considered.

RESOLVED: A. That arrangements be put in place for the Workshop to be held on 19 January 2016.

B. That, in relation to the next steps of the review, the proposals for the next meeting, to be held on 18 February 2016 be confirmed and the Project Plan be amended to include consideration of Traffic Management Safety in the Pedestrian Area of Ormskirk Town Centre.

**44. ITEMS FROM THE MEMBERS' UPDATE**

There were no items under this heading.

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Chairman



**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD: 28 JANUARY 2016**

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 8.15pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Furey (Chairman) Savage (Vice Chairman)

Ashcroft	Nixon
Bullock	Oliver
Cotterill	Pendleton
Delaney	Pope
Greenall	D Westley
Mrs Houlgrave	Whittington
Kay	

Officers: Assistant Director Planning (Mr J Harrison)  
Deputy Borough Treasurer (Mr M Kostrzewski)  
Assistant Solicitor (Mr N Astles)  
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

**36. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

**37. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2, Members noted the termination of membership of the Committee of Councillor Davis and the appointment of Councillor Oliver for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups. The permanent appointment of Councillor Pope was also noted.

**38. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

**39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. Councillors Ashcroft, Mrs Houlgrave, Kay, Pope and Whittington declared an interest in item 9 'General Revenue Account Budget 2016-17' and item 10 'Medium Term GRA Capital Programme' in relation to Parish Council matters, in view of their membership of the Parish Council.\*
2. Councillor D Westley declared an interest in relation to agenda item 9 'General Revenue Account Budget 2016-17' and item 10 'Medium Term GRA Capital Programme' as a Member of Lancashire County Council (LCC) as did Councillor Furey as his wife works at a school in Skelmersdale.\*

## EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD: 28 JANUARY 2016

3. The following Members declared disclosable pecuniary interests/pecuniary interests in relation to item 11 'Housing Account – Revenue and Capital programme for the reasons indicated:
  - Nixon and Pendleton (relative is a tenant of rented Council accommodation)
  - Delaney and Nixon (tenant of a Council flat/house)but were entitled to speak and vote by virtue of an exemption.\*
4. Councillors Bullock declared an interest in relation to relevant lines in item 9 'General Revenue Account Budget 2016-17' and item 10 'Medium Term GRA Capital Programme' in view of his appointment by the Council to West Lancashire Community Leisure Trust Board.\*
5. Councillor Pendleton declared an interest in relation to relevant lines in items 9 'General Revenue Account Budget 2016-17', item 10 'Medium Term GRA Capital Programme' and 'item 11 'Housing Account – Revenue and Capital Programme' in respect of his role in relation to Tanhouse Community Enterprise.\*
6. Councillor Whittington also declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to relevant lines in item 9 'General Revenue Account Budget 2016-17' due to his wife being a Trustee of Lancashire West Citizens Advice Bureau.

\*By virtue of a dispensation granted by the Standards Committee all Councillors who have disclosable pecuniary or pecuniary interests in relation to relevant lines in the budget may participate and vote in the budget debates but not engage in discussions about matters which affect those interests.

### 40. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a Party Whip.

### 41. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2016 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 42. RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Cabinet held on 12 January 2016.

Questions and comments were raised in respect of the following items:

Minute 76 (Funding of Voluntary & Other Organisations Working Group) – deferred item – scrutiny / call-in arrangements.

Minute 78 (Skelmersdale & Up Holland (Re)Cycle to Work Scheme) – nominated supplier grants; advantages/disadvantages of scheme; wider advertisement.



## **EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD: 28 JANUARY 2016**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 January 2016 be noted.

### **43. CALL IN ITEMS**

There were no items under this heading.

### **44. GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2016-17**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer that provided a summary of the current General Revenue Account budget position.

The Deputy Borough Treasurer attended the meeting, provided an overview and clarification on issues raised referencing details as set down in the report.

In discussion questions were raised in respect of:

- New Homes Bonus and long-term empty properties brought back into use - analysis
- Business Rates – future proposed changes.

The Deputy Borough Treasurer made an undertaking to provide additional information in relation to the analysis of the New Homes Bonus, referred to in the report, to the Member who had raised it.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

### **45. MEDIUM TERM GRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer which set out details on the GRA medium term capital programme position for the next 3 years

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

### **46. HOUSING ACCOUNT - REVENUE AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Assistant Director Housing & Regeneration and Borough Treasurer which provided a summary of the budget position for the Housing Account for the next financial year.

In discussion questions were raised in respect of:

- Longer term projections – overstated figure (30 year HRA business plan period); impact on HRA of welfare reform proposals / capital programme decisions.
- Government proposals – sale of “high value” properties.

The Deputy Borough Treasurer attended the meeting and provided clarification on the issues raised. He also provided additional information in relation to accountancy practices and the rigorous audit process.

RESOLVED: As a consequence of the discussion on this item the agreed comments to be submitted to the Housing Portfolio Holder in advance of the Council meeting to be held on 24 February 2016 be:

1. In relation to the cumulative impact of the overstated figure over the 30 year HRA business plan period:  
“how has this arisen and that it is ensured that this does not happen again.”
2. In relation to the “proposals that Government will introduce measures that require the Council to sell off “high value” properties when they become vacant, that it be noted that it has not been possible to assess the impact of this issue at this time due to a lack of detail on how this will be implemented.”
3. That “when further information as regards the levy on “high value” housing and “pay-to-stay” is available that this comes forward for consideration.”

.....  
Chairman