

**CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

HELD: 18 FEBRUARY 2016

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 9.20pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Dowling (Chairman)

S Bailey	G Hodson
Barron	Hudson
Mrs Blake	McKay
Blane	Ms Melling
Delaney	Oliver
Mrs C Evans	Savage
Furey	Mrs Westley
Greenall	

Officers: Interim Director Community Services (Mr D Tilleray)
Interim Director Planning (Mr J Harrison)
Environmental Protection & Community Safety Manager (Mr A Hill)
Technical Services Manager (Mr C Brady)
Performance Officer (Ms A Grimes)
Assistant Solicitor (Mr N Astles)
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

In attendance: Councillor Cotterill

45. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor L Hodson.

46. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillors Mrs Atherley, Mrs Marshall, O'Toole and West and the appointment of Councillors Mrs C Evans, Mrs Westley, Ms Melling and Furey, respectively, 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

Councillor Barron declared a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) in item 12, Members' item as an occupier of an agricultural dwelling and left the Chamber during consideration of this item.

49. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a Party Whip.

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 3 December 2015 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

51. CRIME AND DISORDER PRESENTATION

A presentation was received from the Environmental Protection and Community Safety Manager on behalf of the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The presentation was supported by a series of slides as contained on pages 295 to 303 of the Book of Reports.

In his presentation, the Environmental Protection and Community Safety Manager gave an overview of the CSP structure; its funding streams and performance 2015/16; the multi-agency approach to manage key local priorities, referencing 'Fresher's Week as an example of an effective multi-agency delivery and looking to the future, the CSP work streams for 2016/17.

During discussion comments and questions were raised in respect of:

- Operation Nemesis – outcomes; injunction orders awarded.
- CSP funded projects – Bright Sparx; 'Crossing the Line'; Respect Project and funding allocated in relation to child sexual exploitation; Divert Group – interaction with schools.
- Other anti-social behaviour issues (support throughout the year; funding).
- Closure of Magistrates Court (Ormskirk) and Custody Suite (Skelmersdale) – impact of transfer to Preston.
- Community Action and Engagement Days – environmental improvements; community interaction; rubbish removed (volume / type).

The Environmental Protection and Community Safety Manager responded to questions and provided clarification on issues raised.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

52. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Q2 2015-16)

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Borough Transformation Manager, as contained on pages 229 to 243 of the Book of Reports, which detailed performance monitoring data for the quarter ended 30 September 2015. The report had previously been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 January 2016.

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

- WL01 (missed bins per 100,000 collections) – reasons for missed target (impact on "local knowledge"); remedial action (introduction of in-cab communication system).

The Performance Officer attended the meeting and provided clarification on issues raised. In relation to a request for further details on the proposed introduction of an in-cab communication system, she made an undertaking to seek an explanation on its wider benefits from the Interim Director Street Scene and to circulate the details to the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Council's performance against the indicator set for the quarter ended 30 September 2015 be noted.

53. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS Q3 - 2015-16

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Borough Transformation Manager, as contained on pages 245 to 258 of the Book of Reports, which detailed performance monitoring data for the quarter ended 31 December 2015. The report was scheduled for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 15 March 2016.

It was reported that the estimated data, as set down at Appendix A, in relation to Q3 for Performance Indicator WL18 had now been provided as confirmed below:

WL18 (Use of leisure and cultural facilities (swims and visits) – outturn 215,442.

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

- WL108 (average waiting time for callers to the Contact Centre – seconds) – balance of target against no. of calls taken; 'call-waiting' systems – use of advances in technology; proposed improvements to telephone system.

The Performance Officer attended the meeting and provided clarification on issues raised.

RESOLVED: A That the Council's performance against the indicator set for the quarter ended 31 December 2015, to include the revised figure of outturn of 215,442 for PI - WL18, be noted.

54. A MARKET STRATEGY FOR ORMSKIRK REVIEW

The following five items, as part of the review, were considered.

55. A MARKET TOWN STRATEGY FOR ORMSKIRK - WORK UNDERTAKEN IN 2015/16

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Borough Solicitor, attached at Appendix A, in relation to the review 'A Market Town Strategy for Ormskirk' on the Committee's findings and work undertaken in 2015/16.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to:

- Improvement works undertaken in the Town Centre – visual results.
- Events in the Town Centre (Ormskirk Motorfest; Christmas Lights Switch-on) – Support from local businesses.

- Promoting/encouraging visitors to the Town Centre – “promotional offers”; involvement of bus/tour operators/local businesses / town centre traders.

RESOLVED: A That the report, attached at Appendix A, be noted and its contents form part of the draft final report of the review for consideration by the Committee at its conclusion.

B. That, it be recommended, that businesses located within the Town Centre be encouraged to contribute towards events, for example, the annual Motorfest and Christmas Lights “Switch-on”.

C. That, it be recommended, that the promotion of Ormskirk as a visitor destination to encourage bus and tour operators into West Lancashire be taken forward, as appropriate.

56. WORKSHOP SESSION - 19 JANUARY 2016

Consideration was given to the Notes and feedback from the Workshop held on 19 January 2016. The Chairman thanked everyone who had attended and made reference to the themes discussed. It was indicated that the notes would assist the compilation of the final report of the Review.

RESOLVED: That the Notes of the Workshop Session held on 19 January 2016, be noted.

57. THE MARKET AND MOOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS

The Technical Services Manager gave an update on the Market and Moor Street Improvements, including a further update on work undertaken by Lancashire County Council on the gullies.

The Market and Moor Street Improvements

It was reported that, as referred to at the Workshop Session, the branding and marketing of the Town Centre as part of the actions within the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy was under consideration. In relation to the “branding” of the Market, the inclusion of the visual “sails” to enhance the street scene were welcomed by the traders.

Other areas currently being looked at by the Council and traders were the influence of social media and smart phones as promotional tools.

In relation to Moor Street it was reported that the planting of mature trees and the installation of bespoke benches in Moor Street had now been completed. The lighting that adorned the trees would be lit in the evenings.

In relation to the maintenance of the “gullies” it was reported that maintenance checks had been undertaken by LCC. Maintenance / cleanliness of the area would continue to be monitored.

The revised layout of the stalls (Thursdays and Saturdays) was also circulated.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to:

- Facilities for coaches – long-term parking; pick up and drop off points.
- Catering truck (clock tower) – update on repositioning.
- Aughton Street – completion of refurbishment work to tie-in with Moor Street Improvements.

It was reported that negotiation with the coach tour operators was on-going with a view to providing a designated drop-off / pick up point in the Town Centre, with the coaches then parking up long-term on the former Hattersley' site.

RESOLVED: A That the presentation be noted.

- B That it be recommended that consideration be given to refurbishment of Aughton Street to tie-in with the Moor Street improvements.

58. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SAFETY IN THE PEDESTRIAN AREA OF ORMSKIRK TOWN CENTRE

The Technical Services Manager provided details in relation to the management of traffic particularly in the pedestrian area of the Town Centre.

Traffic Management Safety in the Pedestrian Area of Ormskirk

It was reported that the control of traffic in the pedestrian area was part of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) the details of which were related to the Committee.

Following a request from Members at the last meeting for further information, the Technical Services Officer circulated the results of a desktop exercise undertaken in relation to three possible traffic management solutions. The three options included: Option 1 - the provision of Gates (to Aughton Street, Church Street and Burscough Street with a "lift assist" bollards to Moor Street/Moorgate. Option 2 – Hydraulic "lift assist" Bollards in Church Street, Aughton Street, Burscough Street and Moor Street/Moorgate. Option 3 – Automatic Rise and Fall Bollards – in the same areas. However, it was reported that currently there were no budget allocations identified for any works in relation to these options and funding would therefore need to be approved by Cabinet for any proposed future works.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to:

- Traffic management solutions - provisions for emergency vehicles.
- Practicalities associated with any proposed options
- Current TROs "signage" – Visually strong signage to alert drivers.
- Use of CCTV to assist enforcement.
- The impact of heavy goods traffic on the refurbished area.

RESOLVED: A. That the presentation be noted.

- B. That it be recommended that when considering any future solutions relating to traffic management safety in the pedestrian area of Ormskirk that provisions for emergency vehicles are also considered.

59. PROJECT PLAN

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

It was agreed that as the in-depth review was now nearing completion that the draft final report and final recommendations come forward to the July meeting of the Committee and, if agreed, that the final report be submitted to Cabinet and Council, if applicable, in September 2016.

RESOLVED: A. That, in relation to the next steps of the review, the Project Plan be amended and the draft final report and recommendations be considered by the Committee at its July meeting and if agreed, that the final report be submitted to Cabinet and Council, if applicable, in September 2016.

60. WORK PROGRAMME - PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Borough Solicitor as contained on pages 283 to 286 of the Book of Reports. The report provided an update of the current position of the Work Programme for the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the way forward for 2016/17,

RESOLVED: A. That progress against the Work Programme for the Committee for 2015/16 be noted.

B. That work in relation to the in-depth review 'A Market Town Strategy for Ormskirk' be concluded and arrangements be put in place for the draft final report and recommendations to be brought forward for consideration by the Committee at the first meeting in 2016/17.

C. That the Work Programme 2016/17 for the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee be considered at the first meeting of the Committee 2016/17.

**61. MEMBERS ITEM/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION (CCFA)
ITEM FROM COUNCILLOR COTTERILL**

Consideration was given to the report of the Interim Borough Solicitor as contained on pages 287 to 294 of the Book of Reports that advised that an item had been submitted by a Member.

The item had been included on the Agenda at the request of Councillor Cotterill who explained in the notice to the item (Appendix 1) that he had requested the item on the subject “the suitability of using Annexe A of previous PPS7 to reach decision pertaining to current NPPF para 55, and suitability person/agency to engage in financial test under Annexe A of previous PPS7.”

Councillor Cotterill attended the meeting and at the request of the Chairman spoke in relation to the submitted item explaining his reasons for the request and why/how he would wish the issue to be pursued by the Committee.

The Interim Director Planning, who was in attendance, at the request of the Chairman provided information in relation to the issue raised.

A discussion ensued as to whether the item should / should not be considered further by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That, as a consequence of the discussion on this item is was agreed:

- A. That the Member’s Item detailed at Appendix 1 be noted.
- B. That the Committee does not wish to consider the item submitted at Appendix 1 further for the following reason:

“that scrutiny of the issues is unlikely to result in improvements for local people.”

(Note: Councillor Barron, having declared an interest, was not present during consideration of this item)

64. ITEMS FROM THE MEMBERS UPDATE

There were no items under this heading.

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Chairman