

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 6(1)
HELD: 16 APRIL 2008

Start: 7.30pm
Finish: 9.20pm

PRESENT:

Councillor	Hammond (Chairman) Mrs. Atherley (Vice-Chairman)	
Councillors	Aldridge Mrs. Blake Mrs. Colling Cotterill Dereli Fowler Gartside Hanlon	Jones Ms. Melling O'Toole R.A. Pendleton Swiffen Tattersall Vickers
In attendance Councillors:	G.M. Roberts Grant Rice	Leader Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder (Regeneration and Planning) Leader of Labour Group
Officers	Assistant Chief Executive Private Sector Housing Manager Legal Services Manager Senior Member Services Officer (SG)	

78 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor J. Roberts.

79 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

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

80 URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

81 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It is noted that the Code of Conduct in relation to personal and prejudicial interests of Cabinet Members when they have taken a decision is overridden by Section 21(13) of the Local Government Act 2000.

The following declarations of interest were received:-

Item No.	Title	Councillor	Interest	Reason
10	Housing Renewal Assistance Policy	Aldridge	Personal not prejudicial	Rent garage from Council
13	Capital Programme Monitoring	Mrs. Atherley Mrs. Blake Mrs. Colling Dereli Fowler Grant G.M. Roberts Vickers	Personal not prejudicial " " " " "	Members of a Parish Council

82 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a party whip.

83 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 7 February 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

84 CALLED IN ITEMS

There were no called in items.

85 RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of Cabinet meetings held on 12 February and 1 April 2008.

Members raised questions/comments on the following minute items:-

12 February 2008

- Min. 153 (Draft Skelmersdale Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document and Masterplan) - NHS Dentist in Skelmersdale not directly consulted.
Min. 153(C) (Draft Skelmersdale Town Centre Supplementary Planning Document and Masterplan) - meetings of LDF Cabinet Working Group.

1 April 2008

- Min. 163 (Voice Recognition Software) – costs/software/installation
Min. 165 (Market Towns Initiative – Results of Consultation) – traffic management impact study in Ormskirk Town Centre; provision of relief road Park Road/County Road, Ormskirk
Min. 168 (Introductory and Demoted Tenancies) – tenant & residents consultation; Appeals process; consequences of anti social behaviour by owner/occupiers.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 12 February and 1 April 2008 be noted.

86 KEY DECISION FORWARD PLANS 1 MARCH - 30 JUNE 2008 & 1 APRIL - 31 JULY 2008

There were no items placed on the agenda from the above-mentioned Key Decision Forward Plans.

87 HOUSING RENEWAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

Consideration was given to the above-mentioned report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services as circulated and contained on pages 571 – 612 of the Book of Reports on which he sought the Committee's comments.

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

- Appeals procedure
- Defaulting on loans
- Interest rates

In particular Members sought clarification on the following paragraphs within the policy document:-

- 6.2 – Child tax credit
- 6.6 – Explanation of type of security measures e.g. burglar alarms
- 6.6 – Rationale behind ineligibility of accredited landlords of houses of multiple occupation
- 6.6 – Ineligibility of Council tax banding F-H which could have adverse affect on older people living in a property for a long period that do not have resources for home improvements
- 8.11 – specify loan products

The Private Sector Housing Manager indicated that research and investigation by the project team had found that there was little interest from private organisations in administering a loans service and that the public sector were offering a variety of loan products which would be explored.

- RESOLVED: A That the Committee support the policy in principle.
- B That the above-mentioned comments be submitted to the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services.
- C That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services be requested to submit a progress report to this Committee on 4th December 2008.

88 DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LANCASHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Consideration was given to the above-mentioned report of the Assistant Chief Executive as circulated and contained on pages 613 – 629 of the Book of Reports in which she updated Members on the process for agreeing the new Lancashire Local Area Agreement.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

89 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE PLAN AND SUITE OF PUBLISHED INDICATORS 2008/09

Consideration was given to the above-mentioned report of the Assistant Chief Executive as circulated and contained on pages 631 – 672 of the Book of Reports on which she sought the comments of the Committee to be submitted to Council for consideration.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised the following questions/comments:-

BV199a – Household items deposited in gardens

BV199a – How percentages were calculated

BVP109a }determination of planning applications

BVP109b }

BVPI64 – (Number of private sector vacant dwellings returned into occupation or demolished as a direct result of action by the Local Authority)

Wish to see this indicator remain

The Assistant Chief Executive responded to the questions raised on the above items and indicated that the comments in relation to BVPI64 would be forwarded to Council on 23 April 2008 for consideration.

RESOLVED: A That the report be noted.

B That Council be requested to consider the retention of BVPI64.

90 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2007/2008

Consideration was given to the above-mentioned report of the Executive Manager Financial Services, as contained on pages 673 - 682 of the Book of Reports, providing an overview of progress on Capital Schemes at the end of January 2008.

During the ensuing discussion Members raised questions on the following items:-

- Electrical upgrades – Additional programme
- Affordable housing – when re-profile to commence
- TV Aerials - Update

RESOLVED That the report be noted and the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services provide a response to the above questions to be forwarded to all Members of the Committee.

91 REVENUE MONITORING 2007-2008

Consideration was given to the above-mentioned report of the Executive Manager Financial Services as circulated and contained on pages 683 – 689 of the Book of Reports in which he provided a projection on the financial position of the General and Housing Revenue Accounts to the end of the financial year.

During the ensuing discussion a Member raised a question in relation regarding the Planning and Development Division, to which the Chairman invited the relevant Portfolio Holder to respond.

A Member sought further information in relation to the Public and Community Transport Improvement Fund and how it relates to the LSP Transport Study.

RESOLVED That the report be noted and the Executive Manager Planning and Development Services provide a response to the above question to be forwarded to all Members of the Committee.

.....
CHAIRMAN