

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 6
HELD: 8 APRIL 2009

Start: 7.30pm
Finish: 9.10pm

PRESENT:

Councillor	Bailey (Chairman) Hammond (Vice Chairman)	
Councillors	Cotterill Cropper Mrs. Evans Furey Gartside Griffiths Mawdsley	Ms Melling O'Toole R A Pendleton Pope Pratt G.M. Roberts Vickers
In Attendance Councillor:	Forshaw	Portfolio Holder- Planning and Transportation
Officers	Executive Director Housing and Property Maintenance Services LDF Project Manager Group Accountant Principal Solicitor Strategic Manager (Homelessness) Member Services Manager	

76. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Nolan.

77. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillors Baldock, Mrs Blake and Rice and the appointment of Councillors Pratt, Ms Melling and R A Pendleton for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

78. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

79. 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.

There were no declarations of interest.

80. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of Party Whip

81. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 February 2009 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

82. CALLED IN ITEMS

Consideration was given to the following called in item, as circulated and contained on pages 1021 – 1084 of the Book of Reports.

83. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL PROVISION WITHIN NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)

Consideration was given to the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor advising that a decision of the Cabinet in relation to the above item (minute 138 refers) had been called in by 5 five members of this Committee. The report set out the reasons given for the call in, together with an alternative decision put forward by the 5 members concerned.

RESOLVED: That this Committee does not wish to ask for a different decision in relation to this item

84. MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 March 2009.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 March 2009 be noted.

85. KEY DECISION FORWARD PLANS - 1 MARCH - 30 JUNE 2009 & 1 APRIL - 31 JULY 2009

Members noted that no items had been placed on the agenda from the Key Decision Forward Plan for the abovementioned periods.

86. FORMAT OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Consideration was given to the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor, as contained on pages 903 to 907 of the Book of Reports, prepared following the request at the previous meeting of the Committee that the names of officers attending meetings, rather than the job titles, be recorded in the minutes.

The report gave a brief outline of the purpose and style of minutes prepared at meetings of the Council, its Cabinet and its Committees, together with details of the practice at other authorities in Lancashire, and advised that changes to the arrangements for the minuting of meetings was outside the remit of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to agree that the names and telephone contact details of officers attending meetings be recorded in addition to their job titles.

87. WEST LANCASHIRE HERITAGE STRATEGY - UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor, as contained on pages 909 to 1084 of the Book of Reports, advising that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 24 March 2009, had considered arrangements for consulting on a proposal to update the Council's Heritage Strategy. In this respect the Committee was invited to submit comments to the Interim Policy Services Manager for consideration prior to the draft Strategy being prepared for public consultation.

During the discussion on this item, members referred to the following issues:

- possible damage to the structure of listed buildings, buildings in Conservation Areas and other "heritage" buildings arising from the use of heavy machinery in the close vicinity of such buildings;
- the use of materials inappropriate to Conservation Areas etc to reinstate the highway following works by utility companies, such as the use of tarmac within areas of stone setts or flags;
- the provision of a glossary of the terms used within the draft strategy, to widen the reader's understanding of the subject area;
- the provision of detailed costs involved in the preparation of promotional materials related to the Heritage Strategy.

In relation to the issue of a glossary of terms, the LDF Project Manager undertook to draw this to the attention of the Heritage and Conservation Manager with a view to such a glossary being provided as part of the draft Strategy when it is distributed for consultation.

RESOLVED: That comments be forwarded to the Interim Policy Services Manager for his consideration in the preparation of the revised Heritage Strategy in relation to the following areas:

- damage caused to structures; and
- inappropriate use of materials used as part of reinstatement works by utility companies within Conservation Areas etc.

88. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services, as contained on pages 949 to 1004 of the Book of Reports, in which he advised the Committee of a review of the Council's Housing Allocations Policy to ensure it takes account of recent changes in case law and revised Government guidance. He reported that it was his intention to bring the matter before Cabinet in June 2009 and in this respect sought comments from the Committee on the draft policy.

The Executive Manager also circulated an addendum to his report (contained on pages 1085 to 1092), advising of a recent Court ruling and commenting on its implications for the Council's policy.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet be informed that this Committee has no comments to make in relation to the draft Policy.

89. CAPITAL MONITORING 2008/2009

Consideration was given to the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor, as contained on pages 1005 to 1012 of the Book of Reports giving details of Capital Programme expenditure for the first three quarters of 2008/09 and reminded members that the Cabinet had considered the report at its meeting on 24 March 2009.

Officers undertook to examine the possibility of including additional information relating to items of capital expenditure that had been committed but not yet incorporated in the information in the monitoring report.

RESOLVED: That the position set out in the report be noted.

90. REVENUE MONITORING 2008-09

Consideration was given to the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor, as contained on pages 1013 to 1020 of the Book of Reports giving details of projected expenditure at the end of the 2008/09 financial year on the General and Housing Revenue Accounts.

The report noted that general revenue expenditure was forecast to be approximately 0.9% below the revised budget figure and that in relation to the Housing Revenue Account it was likely that, due to the reductions in interest rates, reserves of £151,000 would be required to prevent the account showing a deficit.

RESOLVED: That the financial position on the Revenue Accounts be noted.

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- CHAIRMAN -