

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD: 3 OCTOBER 2013

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 8.50pm

PRESENT: Greenall (Chairman)

Mrs Atherley	Gagen
Baldock	Kay
Mrs Baybutt	Moran
Bell	Oliver
Blane	O'Toole
Cropper	Pendleton
Delaney	Pope
Mrs R Evans	Savage
Furey	

Officers: Deputy Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration (Mr I Gill)
Deputy Borough Treasurer (Mr M Kostrzewski)
Assistant Solicitor (Mr M Hynes)
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

15. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

16. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillors Cheetham, Jones and Wilkie and the appointment of Councillors Mrs Baybutt, Mrs Atherley and Delaney, for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

17. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a Party Whip.

20. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2013 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21. RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Cabinet held on 17 September 2013. Questions and comments were raised in respect of the following items:

Minute 28 (Community Infrastructure Levy - Draft Charging Schedule) - use of funds raised and accountancy arrangements.

Minute 32 (Abbey Lane Playing Fields - Transfer to Community Sports Club) - leasing arrangements; fee structure and hire charges; inspection regime; impact on community accessing the facilities; current arrangements with local junior football clubs.

Minute 34 (Sustainable Energy Strategy) - support to the private sector, including financial assistance.

Minute 37 (Licensing Act 2003 - Early Morning Restriction Order) - scrutiny of money being spent and evidence from Counsel to take forward; processes and parameters.

Minute 38 (Risk Management) - terminology used; timescales relating to affordable housing schemes.

Minute 46 (Skelmersdale Town Centre Regeneration - Progress Update) - progress to date.

RESOLVED: A That as a consequence of the discussion on Minute 32 and Minute 37 respectively, it was agreed that the following comments be referred to the relevant Portfolio Holder:

1. That it be recommended, in relation to fee setting for Abbey Lane Playing Fields Community Sports Club, that the charges for use should be in line with other West Lancashire leisure hire charges.
2. That it be recommended, that this Committee scrutinise the evidence based funds for the work being done on the project before a decision to introduce an Early Morning Restriction Order (EMRO); and work is authorised.

B. That the minutes of the Cabinet held on 17 September 2013 be noted.

22. CALL-IN ITEMS

There were no call-in items.

23. REVENUE BUDGET POSITION

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 147 to 156 of the Book of Reports which set out the key features on revenue budget performance for both the General Revenue Account (GRA) and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

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

- Outturn position relating to shared service arrangements with One Connect Ltd.
- Contract details relating to WLBC/LCC/One Connect Ltd.

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The Deputy Treasurer attended the meeting and responded to questions referencing details in the report. In response to a question on the Contract details relating to the shared service arrangements referred to, it was confirmed that the Council's contract for this service is with Lancashire County Council (LCC).

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

(Note: Councillor O'Toole asked, in relation to the discussion on One Connect Ltd., that it be noted that he did not use any Officer's name)

24. CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2012/2013

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 157 to 170 of the Book of Reports which provided a summary of the capital outturn position for the 2012/2013 financial year.

- Capital Expenditure against Budgets.
- Outturn Programme - monitoring of quality of refurbishments throughout period of contract.
- Allocation of maintenance charges and related concerns - Civic Hall.

The Deputy Treasurer attended the meeting and responded to questions referencing details in the report.

RESOLVED: That the final position on the Capital Programme for the 2012/2013 financial year be noted.

25. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2013/2014

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 171 to 178 of the Book of Reports which provided an overview of the current progress on the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: That current progress on the Capital Programme be noted.

26. TENANTS CASHBACK SCHEME

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration that advised on the outcome of the three pilot schemes: Together Housing Group; Home Housing Group and Bromford Housing Group.

Members raised comments and questions in relation to:

- The number of participants involved in the pilot schemes.
- Outcome of the Tenant's Task Group work.
- Skills training for tenants.

The Deputy Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration attended the meeting and responded to questions referencing details in the report. He reported that report would be considered by Cabinet on 12 November 2013.

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RESOLVED: A That as a consequence of the discussion on this item it was agreed that the following comments be referred to Cabinet:

1. The recommendation to Cabinet, as set down at 3.2 of the report, “That a Tenant Cash Back Scheme is not introduced” be supported.

- 2.. The recommendation to Cabinet, as set down at paragraph 3.3 “That the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration work with Tenants to explore further how a scheme could be developed which offered skills training to tenants as outlined in paragraph 5.3 of the report”, be deleted.

B. That the report be noted.

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Chairman