

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD: 30 JANUARY 2014

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 9.15pm

PRESENT: Greenall (Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs Atherley J Hodson
Baldock Jones
Bell Kay
Blane Moran
Cropper Oliver
Mrs R Evans O'Toole
Furey Pope
Gagen Savage
G Hodson

Officers: Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration (Mr B Livermore)
Deputy Borough Treasurer (Mr M Kostrzewski)
Strategic Planning and Implementation Manager (Mr P Richards)
Estates and Valuation Manager (Ms R Kneale)
Assistant Solicitor (Mr M Hynes)
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officers (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 Councillors Cheetham, Pendleton and Wilkie and the appointment of Councillors Mrs Atherley, G Hodson and J Hodson, for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

38. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs Atherley, Baldock, Bell, Blane, Mrs R Evans, J Hodson, Jones, Kay and Pope declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Item 11 (Medium Term Capital Programme) arising from their Parish Council membership.

40. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of Party Whip.

41. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2013 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 14 January 2014. Questions and comments were received in respect of the following item:

Minute 78 (Provision of a New Cycle and Pedestrian Link Footway Through the Tawd Valley in Skelmersdale Linking to West Lancashire College) – maintenance/improvements to Tawd Valley Park.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14 January 2014 be noted.

43. CALL-IN ITEMS

There were no call-in items.

44. BUSINESS PLAN 2014-2015 REFRESH

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Managing Directors that gave details of the Business Plan 2014-15 Refresh (Appendix A – version dated 23 December 2013) as contained on pages 249 to 287 of the Book of Reports.

In the ensuing discussion Members made reference to changes affecting partnership arrangements; on-going support related to Community Transfer; minor wording and items awaiting confirmation.

It was noted that the final version the Plan was due to be considered by Council at its meeting on 26 February 2014.

At the conclusion of the discussion minor amendments to wording were put forward.

RESOLVED: A. That as a consequence of the discussion on the Business Plan 2014/15 Refresh, attached at Appendix A – version dated 23 December 2013), it was agreed that the following comments be referred to Council on 26 February 2014 for consideration:

- (a) Page 3, final paragraph, addition of “always” to read “Our 40th anniversary will see us continuing to re-shape services, not always out of choice but out of necessity . . . “
- (b) Page 13, additional wording at the end of the paragraph on “*Local Environmental Improvements*” to read “. . .for example that covered with brambles and also Japanese Knotweed.”

45. DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2014-2015

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 287 to 296 of the Book of Reports which provided a summary of the current General Revenue Account position.

In discussion Members made reference to the budget position; the medium term financial position and the observations of the external auditors and the local government settlement.

RESOLVED: That the budget position be noted.

46. MEDIUM TERM CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer as contained on pages 297 to 306 of the Book of Reports which set out a number of options for determining the medium term capital programme.

Members made comments in relation to:

- Asset Sale Proceeds – land and asset sales during the period.
- Capital Receipts Available – Net position.
- Capital Receipt Funding for Individual Schemes – Culvert Debris Screens.

In relation to a question relating to the consultation process on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Lancashire currently being developed in partnership by LCC and Blackpool Council, the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration made an undertaking to follow this up.

RESOLVED: That the medium term capital programme be noted.

47. HOUSING ACCOUNT - REVENUE AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration as contained on pages 307 to 328 of the Book of Reports which provided a summary of the budget position for the Housing Account for the next financial year.

In discussion Members made reference to current and future investment in the housing stock and the impact of rights to buy sales.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

49. YEW TREE FARM MASTERPLAN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT OPTIONS PAPER

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Planning as contained on pages 329 to 438 of the Book of Reports that provided details of the progress of the Yew Tree Farm Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the "Options" version of the document for public consultation. The report had previously been considered by Cabinet on 14 January 2014 and the Planning Committee on 16 January 2014.

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In discussion Members raised comments and questions in relation to:

- The print quality of the documentation.
- Consultation process – composition of stakeholder group.

The Strategic Planning and Implementation Manager attended the meeting and provided an overview of the consultation process and future consideration of the feedback resulting from that process.

At the conclusion of the discussion in relation to issues raised relating to stakeholder representation it was agreed that a comment should go forward in relation to better consultation with the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That as a consequence of the discussion on the Yew Tree Farm Masterplan Options (Supplementary Planning Document Options Report) – February 2014, attached at Appendix A, it was agreed that the following comment be referred to the Assistant Director Planning:

“That there be better consultation and engagement with the Parish Council.”

50. DEVELOPMENT BRIEFS FOR HOUSING SITES AT GROVE FARM, ORMSKIRK AND FIRSWOOD ROAD, LATHOM/SKELMERSDALE

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Planning as contained on pages 439 to 496 of the Book of Reports that gave details of the draft development briefs for the allocated housing sites at Grove Farm, Ormskirk and Firswood Road, Lathom / Skelmersdale for public consultation. The report had previously been considered by Cabinet on 14 January 2014 and the Planning Committee on 16 January 2014.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to:

- Access issues - Firswood Road.
- Linear Park – explanation of this term.

RESOLVED: A. That as a consequence of the discussion on the Development Briefs for Housing Sites at Grove Farm, Ormskirk Firswood Road, Lathom/Skelmersdale, (versions dated December 2013), attached as Appendices A & B, it was agreed that the following comments be referred to the Assistant Director Planning:

- (a) “there is genuine concern that there be no entrance onto Firswood Road from the Development.
- (b) that the comment, recommendation B at Minute 69, Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16 January 2014, be endorsed with the provision of an explanation of what a Linear Park is.”

51. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY - 2014-2019

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration as contained on pages 497 to 541 of the Book of Reports that informed members of the Draft Housing Strategy 2014-2019 currently out for consultation. The consultation period was scheduled to end on 28 February 2014.

In discussion comments were made in respect of the following:

- Access to affordable housing – types/sizes available and/or being developed.
- Responding to community needs and managing aspirations – lack of availability of 1 bedroom property in the Borough.
- Housing market challenges.

RESOLVED: That as a consequence of the discussion on the Housing Strategy 2014 to 2019 (Consultation Draft – January 2014), attached at Appendix B, it was agreed that the following comment be referred to Cabinet for consideration:

“In the Strategy, look to be delivering the number of bedrooms people need.”

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Chairman