

## EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD: 2 OCTOBER 2014

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 9.20pm

### PRESENT:

Councillors: Blane (Chairman)

Mrs Atherley	Moran
Barron	Oliver
Bell	O'Toole
Furey	Owens
Gagen	Pendleton
J Hodson	Pope
Kay	Savage
Mee	

In attendance:

Councillor: Westley (Leader of the Council)

Officers: Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration (Mr B Livermore)  
Borough Treasurer (Mr M Taylor)  
Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager (Mr P Richards)  
Homelessness and Private Sector Housing Manager (Ms L Lea)  
Organisational Re-Engineering Manager (Mrs K Warmington)  
Assistant Solicitor (Mr M Hynes)  
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

### 14. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

### 15. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillors Ashcroft, S Bailey, Jones and Wilkie and the appointment of Councillors Barron, Pope, Mee and J Hodson for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

### 16. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

### 17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pendleton declared a non-pecuniary interest, during post-hoc scrutiny of the Minutes of Cabinet (18 September 2014), relating to Minute 32, Universal Credit Partnership Delivery Agreement, through his involvement with Tanhouse Community Centre.

**18. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of Party Whip.

**19. MINUTES**

RESOLVED:            That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2014 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**20. RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET**

Consideration was given to the minutes of Cabinet held on 16 September 2014.

Questions and comments were raised in respect of the following items:

- Mechanism – re. feedback on agreed comments, from Committees (Planning; Executive O & S ), to Cabinet.
- Minute 20 (HRA Borrowing – Pilot Scheme – Cabinet Working Group) – enactment of decision.
- Minute 26 (OR (Landlord Services (Voids & Allocations, Estate Management & Rent and Money Advice) Management Report – Timescales for implementation of recommendations; project staffing; reinvestment / use of savings; monitoring mechanisms; provision of regular update reports; impact of Welfare Reform/UC.
- Minute 27 (Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014) – Charges related to prosecutions – private tenants and council tenants.
- Minute 32 (Universal Credit Partnership Delivery Agreement) – timescales re. implementation; partnership with DWP; support for residents affected by changes.

The Organisational Re-Engineering Manager attended the meeting, responded to questions and provided clarification on issues raised in relation to the OR Report (Minute 26). Following discussion on this item it was agreed that a timetable, to enable Members to see the pace the recommendations are moving, be prepared and presented to the next meeting.

The Chairman made an undertaking in relation to comments going forward and requests for attendance by relevant Portfolio Holders.

RESOLVED:            A.    In relation to OR (Landlord Services (Voids & Allocation; Estate Management & Rent and Money Advice) Management Report and recommendations therein:

That a timetable be prepared and brought to the next meeting of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a report to be presented to the Committee as an overview, to understand the objectives.

B.    That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 September 2014 be noted.

(Note: Councillor O’Toole entered the meeting at this item and was present for the remaining items of business.)

**21. CALL-IN ITEMS**

There were no items under this heading.

**22. HOUSING RENEWAL ASSISTANCE POLICY REVIEW**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Community Services that sought comments on the revised Housing Renewal Assistance policy, attached at Appendix 1, currently being updated.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to:

- The changes to the Benefits System - qualification under the proposed changes (Appendix 2); maintenance of qualification list.
- Importance of Scheme – responding changes in personal circumstances.
- Timescales / limitations – effect on successive applications.

The Homelessness and Private Sector Housing Manager attended the meeting, provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Policy and Home Repair Assistance Grant Scheme (HRAG), responded to questions and provided clarification, referencing details set down in the report.

RESOLVED:            There were no agreed comments.

**23. REVIEW OF THE DISABLED ADAPTATIONS POLICY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Community Services that sought comments on the Disabled Adaptations Policy, attached at Appendix 1, currently being reviewed.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to:

- Housing Allocations Policy - links
- Housing Associations / Private Landlords – adaptations responsibilities.
- Completion of Work – timescale set down in the policy; OT assessments.
- Better Care Fund – purpose and principles.

The Homelessness and Private Sector Housing Manager attended the meeting, responded to questions and provided clarification on issues raised in respect of the proposed changes to the Policy.

RESOLVED:            There were no agreed comments.

(Note: The Leader of the Council left the meeting following consideration of this item and was not present for the remaining items of business.)

**24. YEW TREE FARM DRAFT MASTERPLAN**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Planning, previously considered by the Planning Committee and Cabinet, that sought comments on the Yew Tree Farm Options Consultation Report and the Yew Tree Farm Draft Masterplan document.

Members raised comments and questions in relation to:

- Drainage - proposals related to the Alt Crossens drainage catchment; affect on areas outside the site.
- Outline planning application stage – assessment of flooding issues; role of United Utilities.
- Linear park design – minimising / managing anti-social behaviour; provision / design of cycleways / pedestrian routes.
- Impact of traffic (highway safety) – A59; A5209; Higgins Lane; Pippin Street.
- Minimising impact of the development – practicalities of design (lay-out; roads (designed for slowness); junction improvements; alleviating residents' concerns.

The Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager attended the meeting and responded to questions and provided clarification on the issues raised.

During discussion the inclusion of a Health Impact Study on the development was raised and it was agreed that a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) should be undertaken.

RESOLVED: That the agreed comments of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out below, be forwarded to the Assistant Director of Planning:

(a) Recognition, at the detail design stage, of the wider drainage issues.

(b) An HIA to be undertaken to understand the impact of the site and on the wider area (of Burscough).

**25. CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN 2013-2014**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 465 to 483 of the Book of Reports which provided a summary of the capital outturn position for the 2013/2014 financial year.

Members raised comments and questions in relation to:

- Right to Buy Sales – take-up; targets and capital receipts.

RESOLVED: That the final position on the Capital Programme for the 2013/2014 financial year be noted.

**26. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2014/15**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on pages 483 to 491 of the Book of Reports which provided an overview of the current progress on the Capital Programme.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of:

- Capital receipts generated from Council House sales in the year – target.

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

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Chairman