

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD: 27 NOVEMBER 2014**

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 10.40pm

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Blane (Chairman)

Ashcroft	Moran
Mrs Atherley	Oliver
S Bailey	O'Toole
Bell	Owens
Mrs R Evans	Pendleton
Furey	Savage
J Hodson	Wilkie
Ms Melling	

Officers: Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration (Mr B Livermore)  
Borough Treasurer (Mr M Taylor)  
Deputy Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration (Mr I Gill)  
Economic Regeneration Manager (Ms P Huber)  
Housing Operations Manager (Mrs L McGarry)  
Principal Solicitor (Mr L Gardner)  
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

**27. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

**28. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillors Gagen, Kay and Jones and the appointment of Councillors J Hodson, Mrs R Evans and Ms Melling for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

**29. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

**30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. Councillor S Bailey declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 11 Draft Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy and item 12 Draft West Lancashire Economic Development Strategy in relation to references to Edge Hill University arising from her employment with that University.
2. Councillors Ashcroft, Mrs Atherley, Bell, Blane, Mrs R Evans, J Hodson declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 9, Revised Capital Programme and Mid Year Review 2014/2015 arising from their Parish Council membership.

**31. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of a Party Whip.

**32. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2014 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**33. RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET**

Consideration was given to the minutes of Cabinet held on 2 October 2014.

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

Minute 39 (Separate Collection of Recyclable Waste) – management/distribution of “blue” wheelie bins around blocks of flats (Skelmersdale).

Minute 44 (Lifts at Evenwood Court and Marlborough Court) – Evenwood Court (deferred decision to install lift pending option appraisal).

Minute 45 (Use of Section 106 Monies for Sustainable Transport Measures in Burscough West and Scott Wards) – clarification re. use of allocated monies (£100,000) – proposals re. design / costing and delivery.

Minute 53 (192-198 Ennerdale, Skelmersdale (Former Tanhouse Housing Office) – alternative community use options.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 November be noted.

**34. OR (LANDLORD SERVICES) - UPDATE**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration in response to the request from the Committee at its last meeting, for further information, as set down in Minute 20 (meeting 2 October 2014).

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to:

- Requested timetable – progress and detail relating to recommendations.
- Attendance to a future meeting by a representative from BTLs.

The Housing Operations Manager attended the meeting and provided an overview of the current position referring to details as set down in the report. Additionally, the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration, responded to questions and provided clarification on issues raised in relation to the implementation of the recommendations (Landlord Services) of the OR report.

RESOLVED: A. That the timetable on the 37 recommendations (as set down in the OR (Landlord Services (Voids & Allocation; Estates Management & Rent and Money Advice) Management Report) be brought to the next meeting (29 January 2015).

- B. That a representative from BTLs be requested to attend the next meeting if the timetable, referred to at A above, is not available.

**35. REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND MID YEAR REVIEW 2014/2015**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer that provided details on the Revised Capital Programme for 2014/15 and an overview on the progress against it at the mid-year point that sought the views of the Committee prior to consideration by Council on 17 December 2014.

Members raised comments and questions in relation to:

- SAMP Programme – progress; receipts against budgets; identification of sites; asset registration.
- Renovation Grants – availability/accessing.
- “Free” Tree Scheme – take-up and expenditure.

The Borough Treasurer attended the meeting, provided a summary on progress at the mid-year point, responded to questions and provided clarification referencing details set down in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Revised Capital Programme and progress against it at the mid-year point be noted.

**36. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) & HOUSING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME MID YEAR REVIEW**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, that provided a projection of the financial position on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the Capital Investment Programme at the end of the financial year that sought the views of the Committee prior to consideration by Council on 17 December 2014.

Members raised comments and questions in relation to:

- GRA/HRA Programme – slippage.
- Savings allocated to 2015/16 budget.

The Borough Treasurer attended the meeting, provided a summary on progress at the mid-year point, responded to questions and provided clarification referencing details set down in the report.

RESOLVED: That progress against the HRA and Capital Investment Programme budgets be noted.

**37. DRAFT ORMSKIRK TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration that provided information in relation to the draft Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy and the consultation exercise proposed between 14 January and 14 April 2015 that sought the views of the Committee prior to consideration by Cabinet on 13 January 2015.

Members raised comments and questions in relation to:

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- Long-term Car Parking Issues – maintenance of car parks/ creating car parks suitable for purpose / fee initiatives / alternatives to open-space car parks (mixed use).
- Consultation – ensuring wide audience participation within and outside the Borough.
- Format of documentation – font size; layout etc.
- Branding of the Town Centre – wider Marketing; Ormskirk as a visitor destination; Identity.
- Environmental considerations – road surfacing; layout of the Market; pedestrian areas.
- Traffic movement in/through the Town – traffic flow / management / road lay-out / “bottle-necks” / closer working with Lancashire County Council (LCC).
- Timetable relating to proposals.

The Deputy Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration attended the meeting, provided an overview of the consultation proposed and provided clarification on issues raised.

**RESOLVED:** That, as a consequence of the discussion on the report and Draft Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy document (Appendix A), the following agreed comments of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet be:

- (i) the need to sort out the car parks as an urgent priority and attention be given to signage, road markings, removal of vegetation and in the long-term make them suitable for purpose and in the short term fit for purpose.
- (ii) that the timescales listed in the report be revised.
- (iii) that the Cabinet Member seeks information from the County Council (LCC): on the “bottle-neck” (traffic movement) at Church Street (A570) to find a remedy to this problem and to consider the latest Transport Study relating to the A570 through Ormskirk to Southport.

### **38. DRAFT WEST LANCASHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2015-2025**

Consideration was given to the report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration that provided information in relation to the Draft West Lancashire Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025 and the consultation exercise proposed between 14 January and 25 February 2015 that sought the views of the Committee prior to consideration by Cabinet on 13 January 2015.

Members raised comments and questions in relation to:

- Consultation period (length) – sufficient time for feedback.
- Consultation exercise – wider audience participation within and outside the Borough.
- Format of documentation - provision for different audiences as part of the consultation process (shorter version / print size / layout etc.)

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Reference was also made to the good quality of the document that had been produced and the strength of the 'Key Asks', as identified at paragraph 5.4 of the report, particularly references to the provision and improvement of Secondary Schools in Skelmersdale and in relation to the Skelmersdale Rail Link and Station/Transport Hub, and a possible rail freight link to the Simonwood industrial area.

The Deputy Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration attended the meeting, provided an overview of the consultation proposed and provided clarification on issues raised.

RESOLVED: That the content of the report and the draft Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025 document (Appendix A) be noted.

### **39. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 (Financial/Business Affairs) of Schedule 12A of the Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **40. CALL IN ITEM - SITE OF THE FORMER WESTEC HOUSE, DERBY STREET, ORMSKIRK**

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor which advised that a decision in relation to the above item (minute 52 refers) had received a call in requisition signed by five members of the Committee. The report set out the reason given for the call in, together with a different decision put forward by the five Members concerned on the requisition notice.

In the ensuing discussion comments and questions were raised on the reasons put forward in the call-in requisition, as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report of the Borough Solicitor and the different decision set out at paragraph 3.4

RESOLVED: That the Committee does not wish to ask for a different decision.

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Chairman