

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

HELD: Thursday, 24 September 2020

Start: 7.00 pm

Finish: 8.33 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: D West (Chairman)

Councillors: M Nixon (Vice-Chair) I Ashcroft
R Cooper M Mills
J Finch A Owens
G Owen D Westley
A Sutton D Whittington

In attendance: Mark Orford, Director BTLS (Agenda Item 13)
Councillor Ian Davis

Officers: Heidi McDougall, Corporate Director Place & Community
Chris Twomey, Corporate Director Transformation & Resources
Alison Grimes, Partnership & Performance Officer
Tom Dickinson, Principal Solicitor
Tracy Berry, Tenant Involvement Manager
Christina Iball, Environmental Strategy Officer
Peter Richards, Strategic Planning & Implementation Manager
Rebecca Spicer, Insurance and Risk Officer
Jacky Denning, Democratic Services Manager
Julia Brown, Member Services Officer

14 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence received.

15 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of Councillor S Evans and the appointment of Councillor J Finch for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

16 **URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no items of urgent business.

17 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

18 **DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of Party Whip.

19 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2020 be received as

a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no items under this heading.

21 CALL IN ITEMS

There were no items under this heading.

22 RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the Minutes of Extraordinary Cabinet held on 22 July 2020 and Cabinet held on 8 September 2020 as contained on pages 93 to 104 of the Book of Reports.

a Extraordinary Cabinet-Minutes of meeting held on 22 July 2020

Consideration was given to the minutes of Extraordinary Cabinet held on 22 July 2020 as contained on pages 93 to 98 of the Book of Reports.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of Extraordinary Cabinet held on 22 July 2020 be noted.

b Cabinet-Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2020

Consideration was given to the minutes of Cabinet held on 8 September 2020 as contained on pages 99 to 104 of the Book of Reports.

A question was raised in respect of Minute 24 – Use of S106 Funds on the Edge Hill Cycle Link, in respect of the cost and location of the Cycle Link.

The Strategic Planning, Regeneration and Implementation Manager responded in relation to this, and also explained that a detailed plan can be found at Appendix A of the Cabinet report.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of Cabinet held on 8 September 2020 be noted.

23 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

Members were asked to review and approve the revised Membership of the Member Development Commission to reflect the inclusion of a representative from Our West Lancashire.

RESOLVED: That Councillor A Owens, Our West Lancashire representative be appointed to the Member Development Commission.

24 COUNCIL VISION & PLAN 2020/21 – 2022/23

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation and Resources as contained on pages 105 to 136 of the Book of Reports, which reported the results of the draft Council Plan consultation undertaken and to agree amendments to the draft Council Plan.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the consultation process/model and the Council's aspiration to "Develop homes to rent/buy/for shared ownership through Tawd Valley Development Company".

RESOLVED: That the document attached at Appendix A to the report, the draft Council Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 be endorsed.

25 **CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2030**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Place & Community, as contained on pages 137 – 192 of the Book of Reports, which presented and sought comments on the draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CCS&AP) 2030, intended to assist in the delivery of the Council's aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030 and progress towards a low carbon West Lancashire.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- Carbon Neutrality target – earlier (2026)
- Emissions from current Fleet and renewal of the fleet contract in 2026 – potential emissions savings
- Carbon off- setting and energy demand
- Potential introduction of a competitive renewal energy tariff

RESOLVED: A. That the CCS&AP 2030 be approved for presentation to Cabinet.

B. That the Committee noted the Council's policy to aspire to Carbon Neutrality by 2030 at the latest but wished to stress to Cabinet, its desire to achieve that target as soon as practical, prior to that date.

26 **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Place and Community as contained on pages 193 to 212 of the Book of Reports which set out details on the Key Risks facing the Council and how they are being managed.

Mark Orford, Director BTLS attended the meeting to brief the Committee in relation to the 'Effective Management of Cyber Security'. He outlined the technical ICT aspects of the Council's Cyber Security operations and measures in place to ensure

security of buildings and policies around usage of ICT.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:-

- Cyber security attack / anti threat detection
- Cyber Security Policy - WLBC ownership
- Accreditation Schemes - Vulnerabilities/Risks assessed
- Security Operations Centre (SOC)
- National Cyber Security
- Filtering solutions
- Cyber Security Essentials - Human error / Education
- Partnership - Benefits with larger Organisation

The Risk and Insurance Officer explained that this and future reports will be presented to Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration, she further explained that Risk Management training is offered to Members every 2 years and that the last training was offered in November 2019. She further advised Members that training could be facilitated sooner if there was substantial request for this.

The Chairman thanked Mark Orford, Director BTLS and Risk and Insurance Officer for their presentation and attendance.

RESOLVED:

- A. That it be noted future Risk Management reports be referred to the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- B. That the progress made in relation to the management of the risks shown in the Key Risks Register (Appendix A) be noted and endorsed.

Note 1. The Chairman varied the order of business to allow for Agenda Item 13 Risk Management to follow Agenda Item 8 in order to accommodate the attendance of Mark Orford, Director BTLS.

Note 2. Mark Orford, Director BTLS and Risk Management Officer left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

27

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WHITE PAPER AND CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Place and Community as contained on pages 213 to 242 of the Book of Reports, which was to consider the proposed Council response to MHCLG's consultation on both the Planning for the Future white paper and the technical changes to the planning system.

The Strategic Planning, Regeneration & Implementation Manager outlined the report, he explained that there were two separate consultations taking place, the Planning for the Future white Paper as well as the related technical consultation on changes to the planning system, the suggested draft Council responses to the

consultations were detailed at Appendix A & B of the report.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:-

- New zonal style local plan required
- Focus on design /quality/style in zones
- 'Binding' housing requirement would be introduced
- Nationally set infrastructure levy—replace s106's to fund new infrastructure and affordable housing from same pot
- Planning process increasingly digitised
- More community consultation on specific zones
- Local plan preparation more intense
- Resources - likely reduced planning fee income but greater workload overall
- Propose change to standard method for calculating housing requirements for strategic plans (Local Plans)
- Delivering 'First Homes' concept
- Support small/medium size developers
- Proposal to extend 'permission in principle' consent regime

RESOLVED: A. That the proposed Council response to the Planning for the Future white paper at Appendix A be endorsed and further consideration by Cabinet on 13 October 2020 and Planning Committee on 15 October 2020 be noted.

B. That the proposed Council response to the technical consultation changes to the planning system at Appendix B be noted and the following agreed comments of the Committee be forwarded to the Corporate Director of Place and Community for consideration prior to a final response on technical consultation being agreed in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and submitted before the deadline of 1 October 2020: "To reconsider the technical responses, particularly the answers to questions 1 and 2 of Appendix B. To review the basis of whether housing stock calculations includes student properties and, if it does, then put argument to Government that student housing should be excluded from those calculations, as student housing is not likely to increase and that the revised calculations should then be reflected in the answer to question 2."

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Chairman