

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

HELD: Thursday, 25 March 2021

Start: 7.00 pm

Finish: 8.32 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: D West (Chairman)

Councillors: R Cooper S Evans
M Mills G Owen
A Owens A Sutton
D Westley D Whittington
N Pryce-Roberts S Currie

In attendance: Councillor A Yates, Portfolio Holder for Resources & Transformation

Officers:

Heidi McDougall, Corporate Director of Place & Community
Chris Twomey, Corporate Director of Transformation and Resources
Mike Kostrzewski, Finance and Audit Manager
Alison Grimes, Partnership & Performance Officer
Tom Dickinson, Principal Solicitor
Heidi McDougall, Corporate Director of Place & Community
Peter Richards, Strategic Planning, Regeneration & Implementation Manager
Ian Goodall, Principal Economic Regeneration Officer
Julia Brown, Member Services Officer
Helen Peek, Member Services Officer

59 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

60 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, the Committee noted the termination of Councillor M Nixon and the appointment of Councillor N Pryce-Roberts for this meeting only, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups.

Councillor S Currie had been appointed as a Member of the Committee for this meeting only.

61 URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of interest.

63 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of Party Whip.

64 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held 28 January 2021 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

65 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no items under this heading.

66 CALL IN ITEMS

There were no items under this heading.

67 RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the Minutes of Extraordinary Cabinet held on 23 February 2021 and Cabinet held on 9 March 2021, as contained on pages 517 to 528 of the Book of Reports.

a Extraordinary Cabinet - Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2021

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of Extraordinary Cabinet held on 23 February 2021 be noted.

b Cabinet - Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021

A question was raised in respect of Minute 90 - A Regeneration Plan For Skelmersdale Town Centre, regarding the structure of the Place Shaping Hub and nature of public involvement.

The Corporate Director of Place and Community advised of the plans structure of the Hub and explained that phase one had commenced to develop the scheme and that phase two will look at land to develop with the creation of a 'masterplan' where there will be input from Members and the Community.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of Cabinet held on 9 March 2021 be noted and comment raised in respect of Minute 90 be noted.

68 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORTING 2021/22

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation and Resources as contained on pages 529 to 535 of the Book of Reports, which was to consider the Corporate Performance Plan for 2021/22, and Key Performance Indicators, as set out at appendix A.

The Partnership and Performance Officer outlined the report and responded to questions raised in relation to digital services and the measurement of Citizens satisfaction in respect of this.

A question was raised in respect of the Priority to 'Become a Greener West Lancashire' regarding why the target of 50% for recycling, had not been met, and the reason for the proposed 1% incremental target set for 2021/22.

The Corporate Director of Place and Community advised Members that recycling targets are set by the Waste Framework Directive, and are agreed collectively across Lancashire. She gave examples of previous measures introduced including, bin swaps and the collection and recycling of various plastic types, not just plastic bottles as it had been previously. She also advised that West Lancashire Borough Council is governed by Lancashire County Council (LCC) in terms of the type of waste that is permitted to be collected.

RESOLVED: That the suite of Key Performance Indicators 2021/22 set out at Appendix A be considered and noted.

69 **HRA REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Finance, Procurement and Commercial Services as contained on pages 537 to 545 of the Book of Reports, which was to consider a summary of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing capital programme positions for the 2020/21 financial year. The report had previously been considered by Cabinet on 9 March 2021.

The Finance and Audit Manager provided an overview, referring to details as set down in the report and appendices. He responded to questions raised in respect of details of properties purchased in Q3 and Q4 and also information in relation to s141 funds.

A question was raised in relation to Tawd Valley Developments, to enquire if it was possible to receive details regarding the number of management staff, salaries, local firms and local jobs generated in the work it undertakes.

The Corporate Director of Transformation and Resources advised Members that Tawd Valley Development Cabinet Working Group provide financial information bi-monthly. He explained that further information relating to local firms used and job creation be included for Members information.

RESOLVED: That the 2020/21 HRA and Housing capital programme positions be noted.

70 **ORMSKIRK TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2021-2026
AND THE HERITAGE ACTION ZONE PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director of Place and Community as contained on pages 547 to 569 of the Book of Reports, which was to

outline and inform Members regarding the details of the Action Plan for 2021 - 2026 in relation to Ormskirk Town Centre and progress of the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) project and how this project will assist with the recovery and regeneration efforts for the town centre.

Comments were raised in respect of the following:

- Mobile phone payments for car parks – could this be implemented sooner
- More effective consultation / engagement on the Action Plan

RESOLVED: That the comments and the report on the Ormskirk Town Centre Strategy Action Plan 2021-2026 be noted.

71 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 (financial/business affairs) of Part 1 Schedule 12A of that 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.

72 ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

The Portfolio Holder of Resources and Transformation Joined the meeting to provide further information and clarification on the Office Accommodation Strategy and to respond to questions raised by Members of the Committee.

A copy of the Strategy was attached at pages 571 to 580 of the Book of Reports.

A Question was raised in relation to how much had been spent on capital works in 2019/20 and 2020/21 at Derby Street Offices and Sandy Lane Offices and what the money had been spent on.

The Finance and Audit Manager provide a breakdown of costs in respect of this and the Portfolio Holder further explained that the work carried out had been essential / health and safety maintenance work of the buildings/offices.

In discussion, further comments and questions were raised by Members in which the Portfolio Holder responded in relation to:-

- Office locations / cost of works carried out / future costs
- New working practices / Covid / SORP
- Red Quadrant Report
- Location of Council Chamber/Committees /Customer Service Points

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources, in

consultation with the Resources & Transformation Portfolio Holder, be recommended to include the following paragraph to the WLBC Office Accommodation Strategy:-

"1.3. That any concerns arising from the reviews undertaken as a result of this strategy are subject to the usual scrutiny and that no decision will be taken before the matter is taken before Council."

(The Chairman thanked the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Transformation for his attendance).

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Chairman