

MINUTES OF: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 16th June 2025

Present: Councillors Barnes (Chair), Ashworth, Driver, Harrison, Procter (sub), and S Smith

In attendance: Samantha Sandford, Chief Executive, Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT)
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development
Clare Law, Head of People and Policy
Hannah Callan, Executive and Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Councillor Lythgoe

1. Exclusion of Public and Press

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that it involves disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) under Part 1 Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

2. Rossendale Leisure Trust Annual Report and Annual Update

Members discussed the annual update from the Leisure Trust.

Resolved:

The committee noted the update.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive of Rossendale Leisure Trust for providing the update. Members noted their appreciation of the data provided.

The public meeting commenced at 7:02pm following the conclusion of the above item.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received by Councillor McMahon (Councillor Procter subbing) and Co-Opted member James Heaton.

4. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting on 31st March 2025 be approved as a correct record.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

7. Question Time

There were no public questions.

8. Chair's Update

- 8.1 At the previous meeting members were asked to note and consider the Council's performance during Quarter 3. This report was approved by Cabinet on 19th March 2025.

In advance of this meeting, a response was circulated to members in relation to the questions asked at the previous meeting.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

9. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/25 and Work Programme 2025/26

- 9.1 The committee were asked to consider the Annual Report for 2024-25 and draft Work Programme for 2025-26, which would be going to Council for approval in July.

- 9.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- It was confirmed that this year there had been a more focussed work programme, and where suitable, reports had been circulated for comment and updates provided by briefing note and presentation to allow the committee more time to focus its attention on more significant items. In relation to the outcome reports, targets and objectives, this work is carried out within the Quarterly Performance Reports.
- It was confirmed that work was currently underway in relation to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) and introducing Article 4.
- It was agreed that the Director of Economic Development would consider the following for the Work Programme 2025-26; HMO's and what could be done better, a meeting with Together Housing, a review of all of the Council's policies to look at whether they were working with what we were trying to achieve, a review of internal capacity specifically in relation to the Bacup Levelling Up Fund, and capacity of the Regeneration Team and whether they were equipped/prepared in the event that funding comes in and also with procurement.
- The date for the Food Waste and Recycling Task and Finish Group in July would be assessed by the Head of Environmental Services and timescale amended if necessary.
- It was clarified that the Task and Finish Group for Temporary Accommodation would be an opportunity to look at what other authorities were doing, the pace we are doing things, whether we were too risk adverse and also funding streams.

Resolved:

- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended Council to approve the Annual Report 2023/24 and draft Work Programme 2024/25.
- The timing of the Food Waste and Recycling Task and Finish Group would be amended in the work programme if necessary.

10. Valley Plan Annual Report 2024-25

- 10.1 The committee were asked to consider and note the Annual Report for 2024-25 which would be going to Council for approval in July.

- 10.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- It was clarified that the 8% in red were related to the performance indicators that were within the Quarter 4 Performance Management Report.
- During the consultation for the Residents Survey, it was confirmed that several areas were covered in order to achieve the high response rate which included: field workers within the markets; Haslingden Library; supermarkets; schools and the use of social media and communications channels.

Resolved:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and noted the Council's Annual Valley Plan Update and associated achievements for 2024-25.

11. Quarter 4 Performance Management Report

11.1 The committee considered the Quarter 4 performance report.

11.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- The national target for the Disabled Funding Grant (DFG) approvals was 365 days. It was confirmed that we had seen an increase in the number of complex cases which took slightly longer to process and complete.
- A response would be shared with the Committee in relation to how we communicate the timescales to DFG applicants.
- The Council's recycling target was set at 34% owing to several factors, such as the nature of the area and the restricted access to many properties for example.
- It was confirmed that active steps were being taken to recruit to the enforcement team.
- A response would be shared directly with Councillor Smith in relation to the question asked regarding the percentage of long term and short-term staff sickness.

Resolved:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the Council's performance during Quarter 4 2024-25.

12. Task and Finish Group Report – Road Safety

The committee considered the Task and Finish Group Report in relation to Road Safety.

Resolved:

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the work carried out by the Road Safety Task and Finish Group (Appendix A).
- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the Cabinet response to the recommendations as detailed at 4.4.
- That updates on the agreed recommendations are reported back to future committee meetings in line with the suggested timescales.

13. Forward Plan

13.1 Members were updated on the Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. Members were encouraged to submit their questions in advance in relation to items on the next agenda and suggest services to attend future meetings in relation to the performance report which would be distributed when it had been published for Cabinet.

13.2 In response to members' questions the following clarification was given:

- Key milestones in relation to the Approval of Article 4 Direction and Supplementary Planning Document for HMO's which was due to go to Cabinet in December would be shared with the Committee.

Resolved:

The Forward Plan and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme items were noted.

(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8:15pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)
Date