

**Minutes of: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY POLICY TASK GROUP**

**Date of Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

**Present: Councillor Hazel Steen (in the Chair)  
Councillors A. Barnes, Entwistle, Hancock, J. Pawson  
and Thorne**

**In Attendance: George Graham, Executive Director of Resources  
Philip Mephram, Interim Environmental Health Manager  
Heather Moore, Committee Services Manager**

**Also Present: Councillor Essex  
1 Representative from the Press**

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor D. Barnes and Dr M. Lee, Co-opted Member.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

**3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were raised under this item.

**5. CHAIR'S UPDATE**

A list was circulated highlighting the progress of the actions raised since the last meeting. The Chair provided an update on the key actions as detailed below.

- The Play Strategy, Open Spaces Strategy and Leisure Review would be submitted to the Group prior to a decision being made by the Cabinet.
- A meeting of the Polling Station Task and Finish Group had been scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> January.
- The Affordable Housing Strategy had been approved by the Cabinet.

- The Corporate Priorities would be considered at the Cabinet in February and the Asset Management Plan would be considered at the Cabinet in January therefore the Chair agreed to provide an update at a future meeting.

## **6. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF PROVISION**

The Task Group considered the report of the Executive Director of Resources which outlined options in respect of the provision of public conveniences.

The Task Group agreed that the option to do nothing was impractical and they considered the rationale for the provision of public conveniences, one of which was to improve facilities for shoppers in town centres.

The Task Group considered the option of working with local traders to make more clean, safe and accessible toilets available to the public. Consideration was also given to the provision of public conveniences in parks and it was noted that usage data was not available.

In response to a question by Councillor A. Barnes regarding a public convenience in Crawshawbooth which was currently closed, the Executive Director of Resources agreed to obtain more information and to report back to the Group.

In response to a question by Councillor Essex regarding the Green Flag Awards for parks and whether public convenience provision could impact on this, the Executive Director of Resources agreed to obtain further information for the Group's consideration.

### **Resolved:**

1. That a Task and Finish Group be established to investigate current usage of public conveniences and to consider and make recommendations on a policy position in relation to why, where and how many toilets the Council would provide.

## **7. IMPLEMENTATION OF SMOKEFREE LEGISLATION**

The Task Group considered the report of the Head of Street Scene and Liveability which outlined the Strategy to support the implementation of Smokefree Legislation.

The Interim Environmental Health Manager outlined the key objectives of the Strategy for the consideration of the Task Group.

The Task Group noted that the Council had a duty to implement the provisions of the Health Act 2006 and supporting Regulations by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 and welcomed the Strategy which detailed the steps by which implementation of the Legislation would be achieved.

In response to a question about the implications for the Council as an

employer, the Interim Environmental Health Manager reported that the Head of Human Resources was currently reviewing the Council's Policy in relation to smoking. He further reported that the Council would provide support and assistance to local businesses and others in the design and implementation of Smokefree policies within the premises for which they are responsible.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Cabinet be recommended to approve the Smokefree Rossendale Strategy.

**8. FORWARD PLAN**

The Task Group considered the items detailed in the Forward Plan and whether they wished for any Policies to be submitted to the Group prior to a decision being made by the Cabinet.

The Committee Services Manager reported that the next Forward Plan would be published on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and she highlighted a number of amendments for the consideration of the meeting.

The Task Group requested a copy of the Affordable Housing Policy which was to be considered by the Cabinet at their next meeting.

**Resolved:**

That the contents of the Forward Plan be noted.

**The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.35pm**