

Minutes of: **PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 18 March 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (Chair)
Councillors L. Barnes, Crawforth, Forshaw, Lamb,
Morris
Bernard Divine, Co-opted Member

IN ATTENDANCE: Jon Sharples, Head of Regeneration
Stephen Jackson, Housing Market Renewal Manager
Janis Murphy, Health and Safety Manager
Philip Mepham, Environmental Health Manager
Adam Joyce, Student, Environmental Technician
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed
Council
1 Member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Lesley Noble, Head of Policy and Performance.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for discussion.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were raised under this item.

6. CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She confirmed that the legal advice had been sought on who should sign the minutes of the

Special Performance Committee Meeting to hear the Call-In. It was confirmed that the Chair of the particular Committee should sign the minutes and therefore Councillor Neal as Chair of that meeting had now signed the minutes.

The Chair confirmed that increased recycling figures had been published in the Rossendale Alive Bulletin.

The Chair provided an update on the Waste Management Strategy. It was agreed that the information should be shared with all Elected Members.

The Chair informed Members that following the work of the Polling Stations Task and Finish Group the Returning Officer had met with Members to discuss the outcome and decisions. The main concern was that Polling Stations which were not DDA compliant could only be used if there was no alternative building available in the ward.

The Chair informed Members that the response group in relation to the Post Office Network closures had met and the response had been signed by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council. The Chair indicated that joint working had taken place with Hyndburn Borough Council in relation to the closure of the Haslingden Post Office.

A response group had met to respond to the Councillor Call for Action/Petitions consultation document. This was signed by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council.

In relation to the Improving Health Care and Community Services in Rossendale consultation, a response group was due to meet on 20 March to discuss the proposals within the document. The Chair indicated that public meetings were being held in April to which members would be attending and any additional comments from members of the public would be included in the Council's final response.

Resolved:

That the Scrutiny Support Officer forward the information from Cabinet Members on the Waste Management Strategy to all Elected Members.

7. PROGRESS REPORT

The Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council presented a report on the Deletion of Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs). The 69 BVPIs which the Council collected and set future three year targets against were being deleted at the end of March 2008 and were being replaced with a new set of National Indicators.

It was agreed that many of the current BVPIs provided the Council with valuable management information. It was agreed that any Head of Service wishing to propose that a BVPI should no longer be collected provide reasons for this, which would be considered by the Performance Scrutiny Committee. The Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council indicated that some of the BVPIs were obscure and others were duplicated elsewhere.

The following BVPIs were proposed for deletion:

Service Area	BVPI requested to be deleted
People & Organisational Development	2b – duty to promote race equality
	11a – top 5% earners: women
	11b – top 5% earners: ethnic minorities
	11c – top 5% or earners: disabled earners
	15 – % of Ill Health retirements
	16b - % of economically active disabled people within the population
Streetscene & Neighbourhood Services	82a ii – tonnage of household waste recycled
	82b ii – tonnage of household waste composted
	84b – % change in kgs of household waste collection per head
	91a – kerbside collection of recyclables (one)
	91b -kerbside collection of recyclables (two)
	216a – Identifying Contaminated land
Community & Partnerships	226a,b,c - advice & guidance Services

There was discussion on the amount of waste going to landfill. Members agreed that there was a need for increased publicity by the Council highlighting the fact that less rubbish was now going to landfill.

Resolved:

That the Performance Scrutiny Committee agreed to the deletion of the above BVPIs.

8. REGENERATION SERVICE PROGRESS REPORT

The Head of Regeneration and the Housing Market Renewal Manager provided progress information on a number of under achieving targets which were highlighted in the last BVPI Performance Report presented to the Committee in February.

The Housing Market Renewal Manager highlighted progress in relation to LAAH19 – number of homes being adapted for life changes. He explained the process for applying for a Disabled Facilities Grant and the funding, which was provided directly from the Government through the Specified Capital Grant.

He explained that there had been a number of changes to the funding of grants with a maximum of £30,000 per grant and that in the case of larger grants, the Council now had an option to place a charge against the property which can be received on sale of the property on the open market. A further report on this issue would be presented to the Policy Scrutiny Committee, followed by Cabinet in the new municipal year.

Members raised a number of questions which the Housing Market Renewal Manager responded.

The Housing Market Renewal Manager gave a progress report on ERS2.14 – Implement the Empty Homes Strategy. He explained that Local Authorities had to provide details on the number of empty properties (domestic) which had been brought back into use as a direct result of the Council's intervention. The target for the Council was 40 for 2007/08 and this would be achieved.

The Head of Regeneration gave an update on ERS2 - Establishment of a Joint Rossendale Regeneration Delivery Team. He explained about the difficulties in recruitment of staff to deliver the Rossendale Brownfield Programme which had £4m of funding from the NWDA, which enabled the appointment of a Regeneration Projects Officer, Admin Support Officer and a Senior Project Manager, who was appointed by Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL).

There was discussion about the need for closer working relationships with the Local Strategic Partnership, in particular Tourism within the Borough. The Head of Regeneration agreed to send the minutes of the Tourism Theme Group to the Scrutiny Support Officer to circulate to Members of the Committee.

A number of questions were raised by Members to which the Head of Regeneration responded.

The Head of Regeneration gave a progress update on ERS3 – Relocation of Rossendale Transport's Bus Depot indicating that Rossendale Transport Ltd had for some time been looking to secure more modern and efficient premises to provide a bus depot and headquarters for the company. At the present time they are going through the consultation process.

The Head of Regeneration gave a progress update on ERS4 – Development of the new Rawtenstall Bus Interchange. As part of the

planning process for Lidl, Rossendale Transport had agreed part of the site for the interchange to be built.

The Head of Regeneration gave a progress update on ERSR5 – Securing external funding and programme approval for the Rossendale Sustainable Economic Development Programme (RDEDP). This was a successor programme to the Rossendale Brownfield Programme. On 2 January 2008, the North West Development Agency granted programme level approval for this programme involving £4,263,000 over three financial years commencing April 2008.

There was discussion on the projects currently included in the programme and the Head of Regeneration indicated that they were currently looking at Lead Officers for each of the projects.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REVIEW

The Health and Safety Manager presented a report on the joint working arrangements with Burnley Borough Council for the provision of competent health and safety advice which commenced on 1 October 2007. Although she only worked in Rossendale one day a week, she was available to speak to by phone and also had a Rossendale Borough Council email address.

There had recently been health and safety audits in all Service Areas to ensure all necessary health and safety documentation was in place and that employees were aware of the procedures and where to access information.

Rossendale Borough Council also had a temporary full time health and safety officer specifically for Street Scene and Neighbourhood Services.

A number of questions were raised by Members which the Health and Safety Manager responded.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY UPDATE

The Environmental Health Manager informed Members that the Environmental Policy was presented to the Policy Scrutiny Committee in early March and was to be presented to Cabinet on 20 March.

The draft Environmental Strategy was approved some time ago and time had been spent on developing the Strategy and actions were identified after discussions with various departments and some identified through the Government's Energy Measures Report.

Actions were then developed with the assistance of all departments and each were the responsibility of the department themselves. The Environmental Health Manager's role was to co-ordinate and support Officers' activities and to report achievements.

There was discussion on the different types of materials which could be recycled and the Environmental Health Manager indicated that he would hope to have a regular page in the Rossendale Alive Newsletter to inform the public on environmental issues.

Councillor Essex informed Members that following a visit to Darwen Recycling Centre he became aware that all types of plastic can be recycled together. The Chair asked that confirmation be sought from Street Scene and Neighbourhood Services on information about the process for recycling of plastic materials.

A number of questions were raised by Members which the Environment Health Manager responded.

A report was requested from the NEAT Managers on their engagement with schools and initiatives taking place in local schools.

Resolved:

1. That the NEAT Managers present a report to a future meeting on recycling initiatives taking place with schools in the Borough.
2. That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 9.05pm

Signed
(Chair)

Date