

Minutes of: POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 16 June 2009

**Present: Councillor H Steen, (Chair)
Councillors Evans, Farrington, Forshaw, Morris**

**In Attendance: Rebecca Lawlor, Regeneration Delivery Manager
Cathy Lord, Housing Strategy and Partnership Manager
Adrian Harding, Principal Planning Officer
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer**

**Also Present: Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder, Finance and Resources
1 Member of the public**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor C Pilling.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 March 2009 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

No urgent items were raised.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were raised by members of the public.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee and introduced everyone to the meeting.

HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY

The Principal Planning Officer presented the Interim Policy on Hot Food takeaways that require planning permission.

The policy would control the location of Hot Food Takeaways and the number in any location, their hours of opening and impact on visual and residential amenity. The other criteria includes the proximity of Hot Food Takeaways to schools, youth facilities and parks, bins storage and waste disposal, ventilation, highway safety, parking, servicing and turning, accessibility both by public transport and for mobility impaired up to and into the shop.

Consultation would be over a 6 week 1 day period. Members asked that the policy be sent to the Children's Trust as it mentions that hot food takeaways will be resisted where the proposals fall within 200m of the boundary of an existing school or youth centred facility. Members also asked that the Council use the communications team to highlight the consultation. It was suggested by Members that other groups that should be consulted included the Schools' Council, Chamber of Trade and Lancashire Partnership Officer".

A number of other questions were raised which the Principal Planning Officer responded which included the following.

- Proposals to enforce the opening of takeaways after the 10pm closing time
- Diversity of businesses in the Borough
- The need for uniformity of shutters/grilles on shops
- Need to be clear on the amount of litter bins on a particular street/road

Members praised the Principal Planning Officer for the excellent report.

Resolved:

1. That the Policy, Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend that Cabinet authorise the document to be consulted on for a period of 6 weeks and one day and that the Policy be adopted for Development Control purposes with immediate effect.
- 2 That an update report be presented to the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 12 months.

7. UPDATE ON THE ROSSENDALE SUPPORTED HOUSING STRATEGY

The Housing Strategy and Partnership Manager, at the request of Policy Overview and Scrutiny Members, presented an update on progress with the implementation of the Supported Housing Strategy which was originally approved in March 2008.

The focus had been to ensure that Rossendale Borough Council was part of the regional and sub regional work that was currently taking place to achieve a better understanding of unmet need in the supported housing sector and to develop an integrated and strategic approach to developing services to meet that need.

The update provided information as to the Council's short, medium and long term priorities.

In relation to the Telecare users, Rossendale presently have 45 users, compared to

the target of 90 by January 2010. Members indicated that to promote this service information could be published on the Council's website. Another suggestion was a leaflet drop to appropriate housing associations and also in offices of Age Concern, CAB etc.

Resolved:

That the Housing Strategy and Partnership Manager be thanked for the presentation.

7. BEST VALUE HOMELESSNESS

The Housing Strategy and Partnership Manager informed Members that the housing advice/homelessness function had transferred to Green Vale Homes with a 3 year Service Level Agreement which is now being extended on a 12 months rolling basis.

The Council are undertaking an options review for value for money based on the following:

- Quality
- Performance
- Customer experience of service
- Exploring customer journey
- Value for money

There will be a costed options appraisal to either

- Retain the service with Green Vale Homes
- Re-tendering to provide up to date specification
- To provide the service in-house

Resolved:

That the Housing Strategy and Partnership Manager be thanked for the presentation.

11. FORWARD PLAN 1st June 2009 to 30 September 2009

- The Scrutiny Support Officer informed the Committee that provisionally, the Re-use of buildings in the Countryside (SPD); Updated Evidence Base for the Local Development Framework; Alternative Extensions to Residential Properties and the Parking Strategy could be presented to the next meeting in 11th August.

Resolved:

That the information be noted.

A member of the public commented on a number of items within the Forward Plan which the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources responded to those relevant.

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date