

Minutes of: **PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 15 July 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (Chair)
Councillors Crawforth, L Barnes, Lamb, Neal,
Stansfield, Thorne

IN ATTENDANCE: Liz Murphy, Head of People and Policy
Philip Devonald, Interim Head of Legal and Democratic
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer
Councillor Essex, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Bernard Divine (Co-opted Member).

The Chair asked that a get well message be sent to Bernard Divine on behalf of the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2009 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

There were no questions raised under this item.

6. CHAIRS UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Philip Devonald, Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

A response had been circulated at the meeting from the Minister of State of Farming and Environment following concerns by Members that manufacturers need to minimise packaging.

The Chair informed Members that following a disappointing training session held in June a letter had been sent to the IDeA expressing the Council's concerns. A response had been received which indicated they would waive the charge and also provide a further session free of charge. The Chair asked for ideas on the format for the next training session to be sent to the Scrutiny Support Officer. She also asked whether it would be appropriate for different organisation to undertake the training.

A meeting was being arranged with the Leader to discuss a future joint training event.

7. NEW POWERS FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented a briefing paper which highlighted a number of new powers and duties for Overview and Scrutiny within the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Police and Justice Act 2006.

In relation to the Crime and Disorder Regulations, the Council had already agreed that this function would be delegated to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. This would ensure there was high profile and accountability of local partnerships and provide redress where community safety issues were not being addressed.

The Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services asked Members to consider different options for reviewing the Crime and Disorder Partnership, including holding a workshop event.

Other changes included the Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) whereby local councils could specify how this mechanism would work in their own authority. At Annual Council, it was agreed that CCfA would be included in the terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Sub Committee.

Other duties for Overview and Scrutiny included, requiring information from Partner Authorities and joint County and District Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Resolved:

That the Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services would produce a report highlighting the different options for reviewing the Crime and Disorder Partnership for members to consider.

8. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 4

The Head of People and Policy presented the Quarter 4 Integrated Performance Report which was the organisational assessment of Rossendale's performance and along with the Use of Resources Inspection would be considered as part of the Corporate Area Assessment (CAA) of the Council.

The report highlighted the following information:-

- Outcomes achieved against the 2008/09 business plan actions
- Summary of how the Council was performing against a range of key measures of performance
- Performance against the Council's Priorities, including financial performance

Members considered the action plans which had to be completed for those indicators not achieving target levels of performance.

The Head of People and Policy explained the Council's process for helping those on short and long term sickness.

The Chair asked that congratulations on exceeding performance targets be sent in relation to:

- LI 109b – minor applications determined in 8 weeks
- LI 109c – planning applications; other applications
- LI 78a – speed of processing – new HB/CTB claims

The Chair asked that future monitoring should be undertaken during the next 12 months in relation to LI 164 – number of private sector vacant dwellings that are returned into occupation or demolished to ensure that the shortfall is not replicated next year.

The Head of Policy and People indicated that the results of the pilot on Haslingden Home Renew Initiative would be presented to a future Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved:

1. That the levels of performance detailed in the report be noted.
2. That the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor performance of under achieving target levels of performance and request further information from the relevant Head of Service.
3. That congratulations be sent to the Planning Unit Manager and the Head of ICT and Customer Services for exceeding performance target levels.

9. PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTION PLAN 2009/10

Members considered the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Plan 2009/10, which highlighted details of reports which would be presented to the Committee during the next 12 months.

The Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Leisure date for August had changed from 18th August to 6th August. Other reports could also be subject to change during the year.

Resolved:

That the action plan be approved.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8pm

Signed:
(Chair)

Date: