

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 13th March 2017

Present: Cllr Lythgoe (Chair)
Cllrs L. Barnes, Bromley, Janet Eaton, Haworth, Johnson,
Kempson, McMahon and Robertson

In Attendance: Phil Smith, Managing Director of Rosso
Jenni Cook, Committee & Member Services Officer
Cllr Oakes
Cllr Marriott
1 members of the public
0 member of the press

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been submitted by Councillor Roberts (Councillor Haworth substituting), Councillor Kenyon and the Co-opted Member, Ms Z Ali.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Although not a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Oakes declared an interest in Item 7 (Update from Rosso) as she was the Chair of Rosso.

4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair agreed to deviate from the Procedure for Public Speaking and allow the members of the public to ask questions as the reports were discussed.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE

6.1 Performance Management Task and Finish Group – The Group was still operating as a long-term project. Discussions were taking place that week regarding the structure of the group.

6.2 Communications Task and Finish Group – This was now on hold to allow the new website to be up and running, however an issues log was being sent to Corporate Management Team on 20th March 2017.

6.3 Equalities – A meeting had taken place to discuss equalities and a further meeting would be taking place on 29th March with a representative from Chorley Council.

7. PRESENTATION FROM ROSSENDALE TRANSPORT (ROSSO)

7.1 Managing Director of Rosso, Phil Smith, delivered a presentation to the Committee which outlined Rosso's performance and how they intended to meet the challenges in 2017 and beyond. In particular the following was outlined:-

- Rosso had 225 staff, the majority of which were full time drivers and a 2.17% pay award had been negotiated, along with changes to the holiday pay mechanisms to accord with a change in the law.
- Annual turnover was £9.7m with an annual wage bill of £5.5m
- 3.6m miles were operated each year, with a fuel consumption of 2m litres, and 4.8m passengers carried.
- Rosso was operating significantly in the north and east of Greater Manchester with both commercial and school operations.
- The potential impact of franchising following the Manchester Mayoral elections was detailed.
- Fares and ticket prices and the introduction of SMART cards were outlined, along with future consideration of contactless payments.
- A focus remained on customer services and Transport Focus had been commissioned to conduct a nationally accredited survey.
- Engagement took place with the local community and staff and a dialogue is maintained with stakeholders.
- The potential challenges of Lancashire County Council (LCC), franchising and the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) were outlined.
- The current locations and the new bus stations at Accrington and Rawtenstall were highlighted along with the retrenchment of other operators, which may assist with revenue and passenger growth.

7.2 Members asked questions and discussed issues as the presentation went along and clarification was provided:-

- Would price increases/penalties for the use of diesel fuel have an impact on Rosso? 38 of the older diesel vehicles had been upgraded to Euro 5 emissions and 6 new micro-hybrids had been added to the fleet. It was noted that a full hybrid vehicle would require a battery costing £35k. A bid had been submitted in 2015 with Volvo for electric buses, however this had not been successful. Future bids would be considered if appropriate and feasible. Fuel costs were confirmed at approximately 20% of the annual turnover.
- It was noted that there was no official legal age for buses to be taken off the roads, however, contracts in areas such as Greater Manchester did specify bus age limits.
- It was queried where the bus numbering system came from e.g. the 464 and clarified that this was a legacy dating back 40 years, whereby all bus route

number in Rochdale, Bury, Rossendale and Oldham would be in the 400 series.

- The mortgage on the Haslingden site was confirmed as being for 15 years.
- It was clarified why a profitable bus route could not subsidise an unprofitable one and the 1985 Transport Act was referred to.
- It was queried whether figures were available for the exact number of people travelling to the Greater Manchester area on Rosso buses. The exact number was not available, however it was estimated that this was more than half of the total number of passengers per annum.
- Complaints were discussed and it was noted that the majority of complaints were regarding reliability of service issues. Discussion took place on specific examples and incidents.
- The implications of the Supreme Court Judgement regarding wheelchairs and buggies on buses were not yet clear and Rosso were awaiting guidance from Confederation of Passenger Transport.

7.3 Phil Smith was thanked for his update and the following action was recorded:-

1. Phil Smith would send round information on the number of vehicles and the breakdown of Euro emissions per bus.

Resolved:

That the update is noted.

8. QUARTER 3 INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT

8.1 Katie Gee outlined the Quarter 3 Integrated Performance Report for October-December 2016 and highlighted the following:-

- 78.8% of actions were green in status at the end of quarter 3 with 3% in the red category.
- There were two unknown indicators, being NI16LAA and NI20LAA which was due to the quarter 3 information not being provided by Lancashire Police.
- The achievements, progress and risks were outlined in the Appendix to the report.
- Compliments and complaints had almost equalled each other for quarter 3 and 1 new complaint via the Ombudsman in respect to Planning had been received.

8.2 Members and members of the public raised questions and discussed the update as follows:-

- The definition of a compliment was clarified.
- The target for LI82bi (% of household waste composted) was queried and it was noted that future targets for the winter months would be lowered.
- LI12 – working days lost to sickness continued to be an issue and was marked red. It was clarified that the HR Manager would provide more information in quarter 4, however this was mainly due to sickness of staff who carried out physical, rather than office work.

- PLAN03 – a query was raised regarding the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Meetings and whether the minutes were available to the public. This would be looked into.
- A query was raised regarding publication of the Forward Plan documents and it was confirmed that officers and members were still waiting information from outside agencies.
- EG06 - The number of asylum seekers was queried and Katie Gee agreed to find out this information.
- HOU02 – members asked whether information on the uptake of houses in each area could be obtained. Katie Gee agreed to find this out. It was also noted that Calico should be reporting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved:

The report was noted.

9. COUNCILLOR JACKIE OAKES – PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

9.1 Councillor Oakes provided an update on her portfolio area, being Legal, Licensing, Democratic Services and support. Land ownership had moved to the finance portfolio and fraud had moved to the customer services portfolio. She liaised regularly with the Legal Services Manager on the Constitution and worked on member development and taxi licensing.

9.2 Members and members of the public raised questions and discussed the update as follows:-

- The Local Plan Steering Group was within the Constitution and was not a decision-making authority. This was not within Councillor Oakes' remit.
- Progress on taxi licensing matters was discussed, with briefing sessions for members and the Licensing Committee taking place that week.

Resolved:

The Update was noted.

10. THE FORWARD PLAN

10.1 The Committee noted the information within the Forward Plan and agreed that there were sufficient items on the agenda for the next meeting, being the Quarter 4 performance report and an update from the Whitaker.

Resolved:

The information was noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.20pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____