

Bolton Council

Report to: Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee

Date: 15 October 2007

Report of: Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Report No: 5

Contact Officer: James Dearling

Tele No: 331236

Report Title: **Monitoring of Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel Decisions**

Confidential / Non Confidential:

(Non-Confidential) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public.

Purpose:

The report advises upon the progress of decisions taken previously by this Scrutiny Committee.
The monitoring report will be a regular report to meetings of this Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to consider the reported action and progress of its past decisions.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting	Item and Decision	Action and Progress
02/04/07	<p><u>Access to Council Services Scrutiny Panel – Final Report</u></p> <p>Resolved – That the Executive Members for Corporate Strategy and Finance and Human Resources and Diversity be asked to prepare a report setting out their responses to the recommendations contained in the report; such responses to be submitted to this Committee within six months.</p>	<p>A response to the recommendations will be submitted to 15 October 2007 meeting of this Committee.</p> <p>See item 12.</p>
15/08/07	<p><u>Darcy Lever Railway Cutting – Claim for Public Footpath</u> (referred by Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee)</p> <p>Resolved – That the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be asked to submit a report to a future meeting of the Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee setting out details of the cost and officer utilage in respect of the Darcy Lever Railway Cutting – Claim for Public Footpath.</p>	<p>See item 16.</p>
20/08/07	<p><u>Minutes of the Executive</u></p> <p>Resolved – (i) That measures be implemented to ensure all abbreviations and acronyms be explained within the Committee’s papers</p>	<p>The Director of Legal and Democratic Services reports that all Directors have been contacted and asked to ensure that on the first appearance in any report the words of abbreviations are written out in full.</p>
20/08/07	<p><u>Minutes of the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance</u></p> <p>Resolved – (i) That further information concerning the leasing of land at Lever Street, Little Lever, be provided to the Committee.</p>	<p>Corporate Property Services reports that, “Although the sale of the land to Wainhomes is for landscaping purposes, the report [to the Executive Member] also made reference to the provision for payment of an overage sum should they ever obtain planning permission for residential use of the land. It is also intended that if planning permission is obtained, the Council will vary the user clause in the lease to allow for the housing use.</p> <p>Legal Services have been instructed to progress matters on this basis and are at an early</p>

	(ii) That data on the number of stretched limousines in Bolton be provided to the Committee.	<p>stage in the process. We have included a proviso that the overage would only be triggered if consent is obtained without the necessity of a planning appeal. So that if any planning application was refused consent, we would not be obliged to vary the user clause if an appeal was successful.”</p> <p>The Group Manager (Licensing) reports that the data is being compiled.</p>
20/08/07	<p><u>Shaping Future Services – Review and Priorities</u></p> <p>Resolved – (i) That the issues raised and information requested by the Committee [trackers on Council’s vehicles; off road motor nuisance campaign; Safer Neighbourhood teams; police presence at bus station] be referred and provided to the appropriate scrutiny committees.</p>	<p>The issues have been referred to the appropriate scrutiny committees (Adults Services Scrutiny Committee, the Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee, and the External Organisations Scrutiny Committee).</p>
20/08/07	<p><u>Housing Benefit Investigation Team</u></p> <p>Resolved – (i) That details of the amount of detected fraud be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.</p>	<p>Corporate Resources report that, “The total fraudulent overpayments for Council Tax and Housing Benefit created during 2006/7 amounts to £704,492.46, this includes all fraud work carried out by both the Council and Department of Work and Pension – the fraudulent period may well have been prior to 2006/7, but was only identified during that financial year.”</p>