

## **THE EXECUTIVE**

### **MEETING, 3RD MARCH, 2008**

Councillor Morris	Leader of the Council – Corporate Strategy and Finance
Councillor Mrs. Thomas	Children's Services
Councillor Adia	Development
Councillor Peel	Environmental Services
Councillor Kay	Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor J. Byrne	Young People and Sport
Councillor Sherrington	Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Councillor Zaman	Regeneration

#### Non-Voting Members

Councillor A.N. Spencer	
Councillor J. Walsh	
Councillor Morgan	(as deputy for Councillor R. Allen)
Councillor Shaw	
Councillor A. Wilkinson	
Councillor Hayes	
Councillor D.A Wilkinson	
Councillor Mrs Rothwell	

#### Officers

Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. A. Eastwood	Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Ms. J. Hutchinson	Director of Public Health
Mr. A. Donaldson	Head of Policy and Improvement
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Morris in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R.Allen, Mrs Brierley, Ibrahim and White

## **60. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## **61. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT THIRD QUARTER 2007/08**

The Chief Executive submitted a report ,in a new format, which provided the Executive with an overview of the Council's performance in the third quarter 2007/08.

The report commented on the Council's progress in delivering its main aims and priority themes and this detailed analysis enabled the Executive to understand progress overall, where the key challenges remained and actions for the future.

This broad analysis was complemented by a more detailed performance management report contained at appendix one which considered performance against a whole range of data sets and a set of improvement actions where appropriate.

**Resolved – That the overall style and format of the performance report be approved and that Executive Members be directed to work with Directors to deliver the improvement actions set out in the report.**

## **62. CORPORATE ASSESSMENT REVIEW**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which updated the Executive on the key messages and recommendations from the Council's corporate assessment inspection.

The Council had been the subject of a corporate assessment from the Audit Commission which was one element in an overall assessment that led to a CPA (Comprehensive Performance Assessment) score and category.

The assessment deemed the Council to be performing well and subsequently awarded an overall score of '4', the highest achievable rating. The outcome of the inspection was published formally on 21 December 2007, and the Council's overall star rating of '4' was announced on 11 February, 2008.

The full report from the Audit Commission was attached at Appendix 1.

The outcome of the assessment placed the Council in the elite of local government, currently one of only eleven authorities nationwide to secure the top score on corporate assessment .

The key messages from the report were as follows;

- The Council and its partners had a compelling vision for Bolton and ambitious plans to deliver economic growth and reduce inequalities;
- Community leadership and partnership working was amongst the best in the country;
- Priorities were based on a sound understanding of local community needs and the diversity of the Borough was at the heart of service design and delivery;
- Member and officer leadership was strong and effective;
- The quality of the people and culture underpinned improvement at all levels;
- There was a clear focus on priorities and strong business planning and delivery arrangements;

## C4

- Comprehensive performance management arrangements were in place underpinned by robust systems and processes; and
- In terms of better outcomes for local people, much had been achieved, but many challenges remained (e.g. health inequalities, attainment and skills).

A small number of recommendations for improvement had been made by the inspection team as follows;

### (a) Performance Management -

The report highlighted the need to improve the performance management of strategic aims and priorities, and in particular to increase the role of members in this process.

The report also identified the need to improve the accessibility of performance reporting both internally and with the public.

An improvement plan for business planning and performance management was now in place and improvements had been made to performance dashboards, ensuring a sharper focus on outcomes and priority themes, and a greater emphasis had been placed on the support provided to members in their performance management role.

### (b) Health -

The issue of health inequalities was already recognised as a key priority for improvement by the Council and its partners and was identified as one of the priority themes in the Community Strategy, Bolton: Our Vision 2007-2017, and the Bolton Plan.

### (c) Environmental Sustainability –

The Council recognised its responsibility to demonstrate stronger leadership of this issue, both in the services it provided and as a role model for the wider Borough.

A report was being prepared that proposed a set of actions that would further strengthen the Council's approach which would be considered by the Executive Member in the near future.

**Resolved – That the recommendations for improvement be endorsed and that regular updates on progress be submitted in the future.**

### **63. REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which informed the Executive of the results of a self assessment of the Council's governance arrangements against the new CIPFA/SOLACE code.

It was explained that under the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Amended) 2006 councils were required to undertake a review of their governance arrangements and publish the results in an Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

The review found that governance was strong in most areas of the framework with evidence of good practices which were being followed. The review did identify two areas where work was ongoing but further work was needed, namely;

- development of governance in all local authority partnerships; and
- the promotion and publicity of some policies and procedures within the Council.

Work was programmed in both these areas to further strengthen the governance arrangements.

The results of this self assessment along with other work on the assurance framework would be fed into the full Annual Governance Statement which would be finalised in June, 2008.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

## **64. NARROWING THE HEALTH GAP IN BOLTON**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report which requested the Executive's approval to agree an outline strategy for the Council to help narrow the health gap.

Members were reminded that the gap in life expectancy both within the Borough, and between Bolton and the country as a whole, was one of the most serious challenges the Council and its partners faced as a Borough, and had therefore been given a high profile in the new community strategy and associated plans, including the Bolton Plan. Life expectancy was around 2 years less than the average for England, with a 15 year difference in life expectancy between the most affluent and most deprived parts of the Borough.

A substantial part of the Council's mainstream business had an impact on health – as an employer, and in the policies the council implemented in relation to regeneration, housing, employment, social care, education, the environment, culture etc. Failure to improve health in the Borough, especially that of the most deprived areas and groups in the population, would prevent the achievement of one of the main aims of narrowing the gap between the most and the least well off and ensuring economic prosperity.

The Local Area Agreement would enable the Council and its partners to focus on those issues which required multi-agency action to ensure progress was made. Improving health and reducing inequalities in health would be a priority in the LAA.

The actions set out below indicated those areas where the Council needed to make a strong contribution to health improvement –

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA);
- Health impact assessment of major policy / strategic change ;

- Increase awareness of the health gap;
- Development and delivery of Neighbourhood Action Plans ;
- Fully utilise the role of the Council as a major employer;
- Develop a social marketing campaign for health improvement;
- Accelerate implementation of local alcohol strategy;
- Develop the capacity of front line staff to support behaviour change;
- Physical Activity strategy; and
- Personalised services.

**Resolved - That the Director of Public Health be thanked for her presentation and that a more detailed action plan be submitted to the Executive .**