

CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 10TH OCTOBER, 2013

Present – Councillors I. Ibrahim (Chairman), Ayub, Darvesh, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough (as deputy for Councillor Dean), Francis, Greenhalgh, Hayes, Iqbal, Spencer and J. Walsh and Watters.

Also in attendance

Councillor Morris	-	Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Adia	-	Cabinet Member for Human Resources and Cohesion
Councillor Zaman	-	Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration
Mr. S. Arnfield	-	Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. K. Davies	-	Director of Development and Regeneration
Ms. K. Carr	-	Head of Strategic Development
Ms. H. Gorman	-	Borough Solicitor
Ms. D. Ball	-	Chief Officer Support
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M. Connell, Critchley, Dean and Gillies.

Councillor I. Ibrahim in the Chair.

13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27th August, 2013 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

14. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2013/2014

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which outlined the proposed work programme for 2013/2014.

Resolved – That the proposed Work Programme for 2013/2014 be approved.

15. THE PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM PROGRAMME

The Deputy Chief Executive gave a presentation to members which provided details in relation to the Public Service Reform Plan.

Members were advised that the principles behind the Public Service Reform were to integrate services across public sector organisations in order to both reduce demand for services and make them more efficient. Across Greater Manchester all boroughs had been working together in drawing together an overall programme to deliver the reforms.

It was explained that the programme now submitted was Bolton's initial plan to deliver integrated services in the Borough across five key areas:-

- Early Years;
- Health and Social Care Integration;
- Transforming Justice;
- Families First (Troubled Families); and
- Work and Skills

Details on the progress made, together with, the overall aspirations of each of the above themes were provided.

Information was also provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- The current position;
- The work undertaken by Bolton in respect of Public Service Reform;

- The governance structure; and
- The next steps.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued and the following comments/observations were made:-

- In relation to early years, how would the success of the project be measured;
- In relation to Health and Social Care integration, would the Council see the benefits and not just assist the Hospital with their finances;
- The need for improved communication and sharing of information between the partner agencies and the increased role of General Practitioners; and
- It was acknowledged that the challenge would be very difficult.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

16. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION SERVICES (EXCLUDING HOUSING SERVICES) PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE – QUARTER ONE 2013/2014 REPORT

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which provided members with information relating to the financial and performance quarter one position for Development and Regeneration excluding Housing Services for the 2013/2014 financial year.

Members were advised that in line with the Community Strategy all performance targets were being met and the specific areas of financial risk related to areas such as loss of income due to the economic downturn, loss of grants and occupancy within the accommodation services.

In terms of the financial situation, with regard to revenue expenditure, the quarter one position for Development and Regeneration excluding Housing Services showed an underspend of £127,000 after reserve movements and in respect of capital expenditure at quarter one this stood at £261,000 against a budget of £6,990,000.

The report also stated that the service had a projected year end general reserve of £514,779 and the budgeted efficiency savings for the department were £709,000 and all planned efficiencies had been achieved.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

17. DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE

(a) Logistics North and Cutacre Country Park

The Director of Development and Regeneration gave a presentation which provided members with an update on the latest position with regard to the Logistics North Site and Cutacre Country Park.

Members were advised that one of the key milestones which had been reached was the submission of three planning applications in August, 2013, namely:-

- Outline permission for up to 400,000 square metres of employment floor space;
- Full permission for regional logistics centre for Aldi Stores Limited; and
- Creation of a 200 hectare Country Park

Details of what these involved were provided at the meeting

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

(b) Farnworth Town Centre

The Director of Development and Regeneration gave a presentation in relation to the proposals for the regeneration of Farnworth Town Centre.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- The context and reasons for the regeneration of Farnworth Town Centre;

- The Council's response to the study which had been undertaken;
- The Master Plan Framework which had been commissioned;
- The partners involved and the opportunities this would present;
- Various plans for the proposals;
- The proposed way forward for Farnworth Market; and
- The next steps.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued and the following comments/observations were made:-

- The possibility of looking at an integrated public transport scheme for Farnworth;
- The feedback received from the market traders in respect of the proposals for Farnworth Market.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

18. AGMA BUSINESS SUMMARY REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out the appointments made by the Council to the various joint authorities and also gave a summary of the business considered at the authority meetings.

Members were reminded that part of the remit of this Scrutiny Committee was to monitor and review and, where appropriate, make recommendations regarding the work of outside organisations. The report focused on one aspect of this, in terms of the added value by the AGMA bodies, including AGMA Executive Board, The Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority and Transport for Greater Manchester Committee.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

19. MEMBERS BUSINESS

The Committee received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- (a) The Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio held on 23rd September, 2013;
- (b) The Cabinet held on 23rd September;
- (c) Corporate Resources, Strategy and Budget Policy Development Group held on 27th August, 2013; and
- (d) Anti-Poverty Policy Development Group held on 9th September, 2013

Resolved – That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 p.m. and ended at 6.35 p.m.)