

## **CORPORATE ISSUES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

MEETING, 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2009

Present – Councillors Morris (Chairman), R. Allen, Hayes, Iqbal, Kay (as deputy for Councillor Adia) Shaw, Mrs Thomas and J. Walsh .

### Also in Attendance

Mr. S. Harriss	-	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	-	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. A. Donaldson	-	Assistant Director Policy, Improvement and Area Working
Mr. J. Farr	-	Principal Policy and Improvement Officer
Mr. A. Jennings	-	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Adia.

Councillor Morris in the Chair

## **18. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## **19. 2008-09 PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD REPORT QUARTER 3**

The Assistant Director Policy, Improvement and Area Working provided an overview of the issues relating to the delivery of the local priorities and the performance of such in the context of the third quarter report.

It was stressed that the Council was delivering the improvements from a position of strength particularly in the context of the Council's major projects and programmes; improving outcomes and better value for money services, albeit in an increasingly challenging context.

The main messages for this quarter under the following headings were explained in the presentation :-

#### Economic prosperity

- deteriorating employment data;
- downturn was being felt, but not severely; and
- a proactive response had been developed including an economic summit, identification of additional resources and the development of proposals.

#### Narrowing the gap

- the gap was narrowing in GCSE attainment, benefit claim rates, life expectancy and street cleanliness;
- there was a modest widening of the crime gap, other gaps were stable;
- data was getting better ; and
- neighbourhood renewal was an increasingly important area of work.

The main aims in the future would be as follows :-

#### Transforming Services

- doing 'more for less';
- 2009/12 VFM strategies were in place;
- 2009/10 targets would be achieved;
- plans for 2010/12 being developed in detail; and
- the process would take time and would require difficult decisions.

The theme analysis for quarter three was as follows :-

#### Healthy

- life expectancy gap within Bolton was narrowing;
- social care measures were off track (direct payments, carers);
- teenage pregnancies improved but no consistent reduction; and
- lack of health data

### Achieving

- little new data – annual information; improvements in attainment confirmed;
- NEETs improving and on track; and
- looked after children – poor summer 2008 data.

### Prosperous

- data lags were a problem (6 months sometimes to get information); and
- worsening picture overall, but manageable.

### Safe

- violent crime down but acquisitive crime a major challenge.

### Clean & Green

- cleanliness on track; and
- recycling and composting likely to miss year end target.

### Strong & Confident

- housing performance was strong ; and
- a positive voluntary sector survey.

### Corporate Health

- sickness statistics were on track;
- non-domestic rates collection was falling; and
- dealing with complaints had improved but still below target.

With respect to the way forward the following was proposed :-

- continuance of member leadership regarding the work to improve outcomes;
- Executive Member 'performance challenge' sessions at year end; and
- EMT leadership around the 'difficult' issues and to focus on the toughest challenges.

With respect to CAA members noted that there had been two scored judgements – use of resources and performance management and that the Audit Commission would share its initial thoughts on the 26th March, 2009.

The full dashboard report would be reported to the Executive on 4th March, 2009.

The PDG noted the report.

## **20. AREA WORKING**

The Assistant Director Policy, Improvement and Area Working undertook a presentation which provided a review and evaluation of round three of the area forum meetings.

Members were provided with an overview as follows :-

- overall a positive picture of improvement;
- nearly 600 people attended round 3;
- 33% increase on round 2 and an average 32%;
- emphasis on a "6 week campaign";
- budget consultation during round 3;
- over 400 "drop in requests" that had been actioned;
- solid progress on the big issues – but need to move forward on; and
- budget spend progressing well.

With respect to the future the following was presented :-

- round 4 – good attendance so far ;
- Bolton NHS consultation had received positive feedback;
- 2009/10 round 1 dates being finalised with Members ;
- exploring a single electronic calendar for 2009/10;
- outline forum plan, local priorities and spend by the end of March;
- further strengthening of communications – Access Bolton, community facilities and word of mouth; and
- links with neighbourhood renewal.

Members were reminded of the current targeted approach to neighbourhood renewal in deprived areas, whereby, the Neighbourhood Manager would lead the implementation of a Neighbourhood Action Plan.

The Strategy would be driven by a Partnership Group and delivered with services via Stakeholder Groups.  
Day to day relationships would be via a 'virtual team' across services.

The approach would be supported by the Area Co-ordinator and area working and it was envisaged that the above would provide a seamless approach in target areas and the advantages were highlighted as follows :-

- model had worked in Great Lever for many years;
- Neighbourhood Manager 'leading the patch' with support from the Area Co-ordinator;
- single Chief Officer delegated by EMT in target areas;
- single point of contact for Members;
- Area Co-ordinator part of the virtual team – 50% in the patch;
- single plan for the area (NAP);
- forums part of an overall approach to engagement; and
- seamless service for Members and the public.

The PDG noted the report.