

CORPORATE ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING 3 DECEMBER 2007

Present – Councillors P. Brierley (Chair), Ashcroft, Ayub, Connell, Hayes, Hollick, Hornby, Murray, Scowcroft, J. Silvester, Spencer, A. Walsh (as substitute for Councillor R. Allen), J. Walsh, and D. Wilkinson.

Also in attendance:

Councillor Morris	–	Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance
Councillor White	–	Executive Member for Human Resources, Performance, and Diversity
Mr. S. Harriss	–	Chief Executive
Mr D. Winstanley	–	Assistant Chief Executive
Mr A. Eastwood	–	Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Mrs S. Curran	–	Deputy Director, Corporate Resources
Mr J. Addison	–	Scrutiny Support Manager
Mr J. Dearling	–	Senior Scrutiny Officer

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor R. Allen.

Councillor P. Brierley in the Chair

39. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 October 2007 were submitted.

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

40. MONITORING OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SCRUTINY PANEL DECISIONS

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report that informed members of the progress of decisions taken and issues raised by the Committee.

With reference to the fitting of trackers on council vehicles, members questioned whether trackers were fitted to all vehicles, including those of Bolton at Home. The Committee was advised that the information would be provided to all members.

With reference to the data on the number of stretched limousines in Bolton, the Committee was informed that the issue was being addressed by councils in AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities).

Resolved – (i) That an update concerning the licensing of stretched limousines be provided to the Committee.

(ii) That the report be noted.

41. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE

An extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 26 November 2007 was submitted.

Resolved – That the decisions of the Executive be noted.

42. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

The minutes of the meetings of the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance held on 24 October and 21 November 2007 were submitted.

In response to questions from members, the Chief Executive confirmed that the annual uprating of Local Authorities Allocations would be announced in Parliament on 6 December. He indicated that the implications of the announcement would be better known by the end of the week.

With reference to minute 63, Corporate Strategy and Finance Strategic Resources Options 2008/09 to 2010/11, 21 November 2007, members asked for an explanation of the

identified savings proposed for ICT contracts and for printing and stationery. The Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance advised the Committee that savings had been achieved over the ICT contract and that realignments in printing, particularly in Tax & Benefits and in Payroll, should deliver savings.

Resolved – That the decisions of the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance be noted.

43. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, PERFORMANCE, AND DIVERSITY

The minutes of the meetings of the Executive Member for Human Resources, Performance and Diversity held on 31 October and 28 November 2007 were submitted.

With reference to minute 46, Elected Member Development Strategy Progress, 28 November 2007, the Executive Member for Human Resources, Performance, and Diversity, confirmed that the council had attained the North West Charter for Elected Member Development from North West Employers. He also indicated that the council's Elected Member Development Strategy and implementation had been recognised with an award from the MJ magazine.

Resolved – That the decisions of the Executive Member for Human Resources, Performance, and Diversity be noted.

44. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

An extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Member for Development held on 22 October 2007 was submitted.

Resolved – That the decisions of the Executive Member for Development be noted.

45. MINUTES OF THE AREA WORKING POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The minutes of the meeting of the Area Working Policy Development Group held on 6 November 2007 were submitted.

Members raised concern at the progress of the PDG and its ability to inform the Budget process, but suggested the value of full consultation with partners as part of the PDG's research.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

46. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Strategy and Finance Policy Development Group held on 19 October, 13 November, and 19 November 2007 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

47. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING ACT REVIEW POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Act Review Policy Development Group held on 10 October and 14 November 2007 were submitted.

With reference to the evening economy, members suggested the merit of including takeaways in the Policy Development Group's review. The Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance indicated that he would request information on the issue.

In response to members suggesting that membership of Pub Watch Bolton be compulsory for new licence applications, the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance indicated he would raise the matter through the PDG.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

48. IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR SCRUTINY / ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which provided members with suitable criteria to aid in the selection of topics for scrutiny and outlined the Committee's work programme.

Members' views and comments were sought in relation to any further items and issues that they wanted including on the Committee's work programme.

Members suggested that information be provided to the Committee on the council's policy concerning the siting of mobile phone masts on council buildings and land. Members referred to a motion on the topic carried at a meeting of the Council [minute 81, Notice of Motion under Standing Order No.4 – Cellular Telephone Base Stations, Aerials and Equipment on Land or Buildings owned by the Council, 15 February 2006].

Resolved – (i) That a report be provided addressing the cellular telephone issues raised above.

(ii) That the report be noted.

49. CORPORATE RESOURCES DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – QUARTER 2 2007/08

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted the Performance Indicators relating to the second quarter 2007/08 for the Corporate Resources Department. The report concluded that actions taken to achieve targets for 2007/08 were having an impact and that all the identified actions could be met from existing allocated resources.

Members questioned the likelihood of the council meeting its target of making fifty per cent of its buildings that were open to the public suitable for and accessible to disabled people by the end of the year. In response the Deputy Director, Corporate Resources, advised that the council was on course to meet this target by the end March 2008. The Committee was informed that a list of buildings currently compliant with the access requirements, together with a timetabled list of buildings planned to be compliant by March 2008, would be placed in the members' group rooms.

In response to questioning, the Deputy Director, Corporate Resources, confirmed that schools were not included in the Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) used to measure the accessibility of council buildings open to the public.

Resolved – (i) That members be provided with information on council buildings open to the public and accessible to disabled people.

(ii) That the Committee continue to monitor and ensure management of the BVPIs in respect of the Corporate Resources Department, as detailed in the report, on a quarterly basis.

50. MOBILE TELEPHONY USAGE

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report informing members of how mobile telephones were used within the council and giving a breakdown of expenditure.

The Committee was informed that the business justification for the use of mobile telephony was held within each of the council's directorates. The report stated that through use of the National Mobile Telephony Framework – OGC/Catalyst the council attained value for money for the authority. The Committee was advised that the current contracts had been reviewed and extended in 2005 and would be reviewed again in July 2008.

In response to questions about future improvement plans and likely reductions in overall costs of mobile telephony, the Committee was informed that such information was not yet available but that a pilot was planned.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.30pm)