

CORPORATE ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING 25 JUNE 2007

Present – Councillors P. Brierley (Chairman), R. Allen (Vice-Chairman), Ayub, Connell, Hayes, Hollick, Hornby, Morgan (as deputy for Ashcroft), Mrs. Murray (as deputy for Ms. Scowcroft), Ms. Scowcroft, J. Silvester, Spencer, J. Walsh, and D. Wilkinson.

Also in attendance:

Councillor Morris	–	Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance
Councillor Adia	–	Executive Member for Development
Mr. D. Winstanley	–	Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	–	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. A. Eastwood	–	Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Mr. J. Addison	–	Scrutiny Support Manager
Mr. J. Dearling	–	Senior Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ashcroft and Mrs. S. Curran – Deputy Director of Corporate Resources.

Councillor P. Brierley in the Chair

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 April 2007 were submitted.

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

2. REMIT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which informed members of the powers and duties of the Committee. The report detailed the terms of reference of the

Committee and of the portfolios of the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance, the Executive Member for Human Resources, Performance, and Diversity, the Executive Member for Culture, Community Services, and Area Working, in relation to area working, and the Executive Member for Development in relation to customer services and e-government.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR SCRUTINY / ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which put forward a list of suggested issues for the Committee to receive reports on or to investigate further during the current municipal year. The report included a timetabled list of issues identified by the Committee's Chair and Vice-Chair as issues they would like to receive information on or investigate over the municipal year.

Members' views and comments were sought in relation to any further items and issues that they wanted including on the Committee's work programme. The following items were suggested by members for inclusion on the work programme:

- closer monitoring of sickness absence
- the Council's non-operational property
- the development of further Key Performance Indicators for property
- the Pay and Grading Review

A discussion ensued in relation to the Pay and Grading Review. The Committee was advised that the financial outcome of the review would not be known until negotiations with the trade unions were completed and that it was preferable to consider the matter through the Single Status Task Group.

Resolved -

- (i) That the list of issues identified for consideration, as detailed in the report, be approved.
- (ii) That the Committee receive sickness absence information on a twice-yearly basis.
- (iii) That reports on the Council's non-operational property and the development of further Key Performance Indicators for property be added to the work programme of the Committee for its meeting on 15 October 2007.

4. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE

Extracts from the minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 16 April and 30 April 2007 were submitted.

With reference to minute 74, Annual Audit and Inspection Letter, members were informed that the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance was satisfied with assurances received that the budget would not affect adversely the rating of Adult services.

Resolved – That the decisions of the Executive be noted.

5. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

An extract from the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Member for Development held on 4 June 2007 was submitted.

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

6. 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 11 April and 6 June 2007 were submitted.

With reference to minute 81, Big Lottery Community Libraries Programme: Bid for the Brightmet Library, members of the Committee questioned why retrospective approval had been required.

With reference to minute 13, Write Off of Uncollectable Debt, members requested that a summary breakdown of the amounts be provided.

In response to questions from members, the Committee was informed that the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance had requested a report concerning the marketing of the former Smithills Garden Centre.

The Executive Members, in response to questions, also gave updates in regard to the Westhoughton Market redevelopment and the proposed disposal of land at Coniston Road, Blackrod.

Members questioned progress in relation to the redevelopment of station car parks.

Resolved –

- (i) That a report clarifying the bid process and result in relation to Brightmet Library and the Big Lottery Communities Libraries Fund be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (i) That the decisions of the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance be noted.

7. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND DIVERSITY

The minutes of the meetings of the Executive Member for Human Resources and Diversity held on 24 April 2007 and 13 June 2007 were submitted.

With reference to minute 69, Proposed New Structure for Highways and Engineering Senior Management, members sought assurances that the restructuring would not affect highway works.

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

8. 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 27 March 2007 and 26 April 2007 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

9. CORPORATE RESOURCES DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – QUARTER 4 2006/07

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted the Performance Indicators relating to the fourth quarter 2006/07 for the Corporate Resources Department. The report concluded that performance against indicators was generally good and most targets were being met.

In response to questions relating to the Council's performance on BVPI 156, access to council buildings open to the public, the Committee was advised that the metropolitan average was not perhaps entirely credible and that there was an ongoing programme to decide future council access points.

The Committee sought and received clarification regarding performance indicator SSL30 for waiting times at Bolton One Stop Shop.

Resolved – 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.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.45pm)