

## **CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2012

Present – Councillors Spencer (Chairman), Gillies (Vice-Chairman), Ayub, A. Connell, Darvesh, Mrs. Fairclough, Francis, Hayes, A. Ibrahim, Iqbal, A. S. Walsh (as deputy for Councillor Allen) and J. Walsh.

### Also in attendance

Councillor Morris	-	Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Adia	-	Cabinet Member for Human Resources and Cohesion
Ms. H. Gorman	-	Borough Solicitor
Ms. S. Johnson	-	Assistant Director Finance and Information Technology
Mr. K. Davies	-	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr. M. Veigas	-	Assistant Director of Environmental Services and Committee Chief Officer Support
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen and Greenhalgh

Councillor Spencer in the Chair.

### **1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 were submitted.

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

## **2. COMMITTEE MEETING DATES 2012/2013 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

The Committee were apprised of the dates of the Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year, viz:-

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.;  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.;  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.

Resolved – That the dates, together with the new start time of 5.30 p.m. be agreed.

## **3. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2012/2013**

The Director of Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which set out the remit of the Committee and also put forward a proposed work programme for 2012/2013.

Resolved – That the proposed Work Programme for 2012/2013 be approved.

## **4. UPDATE ON RECENT/ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE TOWN CENTRE**

Mr. K. Davies, Director of Development and Regeneration gave a presentation which updated members on the progress on a number of developments within the Town Centre.

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

- The Loco Works;
- Cutacre;
- Central Bolton Interchange;
- Bolton Innovation Zone Knowledge Quarter and the Commission Street Scheme;
- Church Wharf;

- Bolton Market;
- St George's House Refurbishment;
- Little Bolton Town Hall;
- Other individual schemes;
- A summary of town centre lettings/freehold sales; and
- Bolton 2012 Programme Review.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

### **38. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

The Committee was informed that a question had been submitted by Councillor Hayes for consideration under Standing Order 36.

Q. Since approval by the Leader in October 2008 to a policy of disposal of certain of the Council's properties in the agricultural portfolio, can we please be informed how many of these properties have been disposed of?

Can we also be informed –

- A) how much rent the Council should have received from the remaining properties since then
- B) how much rent is in arrears, or has been written off
- C) what the Council's liabilities have been in terms of maintenance etc.?"

A. Since October 2008 one whole farm has been sold plus two areas of farmland totalling approximately 20 acres. Another farm is currently "under offer".

1. The Council should have received approximately £210,000 from remaining properties since October 2008.
2. £66,027 has been written off and rent arrears as at the end of May 2012 total £2,500.

3. Approximately £196,000 has been spent on maintenance on the farms since June 2008 excluding the Smithills Estate core area.

The Committee also 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 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2012; and
- (b) Corporate, Strategy and Budget Policy Development Group held on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

Resolved – (i) That the question submitted and its response be noted.

(ii) That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting commenced at 5.00p.m. and ended at 5.45 p.m.)