

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

MEETING, 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2013

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

### Also in attendance

Councillor Morris	-	Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio
Mr. S. Harriss	-	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	-	Deputy Chief Executive
Ms. H. Gorman	-	Borough Solicitor
Mr. M. Veigas	-	Chief Officer Support
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Adia, Critchley, Francis, Gillies, Watters and Zaman.

Councillor I. Ibrahim in the Chair.

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

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 were submitted.

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

### **7. 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.

## **8. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION SERVICES (EXCLUDING HOUSING SERVICES) PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE – FINAL OUTTURN 2012/2013 REPORT**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which provided members with information relating to the financial and performance final outturn position for Development and Regeneration excluding Housing Services for the 2012/2013 financial year.

Members were advised that in line with the Community Strategy all performance targets had been met and the specific areas of risk which had been identified were in relation to the 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 final outturn position for Development and Regeneration excluding Housing Services was an underspend of £344,000 after reserve movements and in respect of capital expenditure this totalled £3,063,000 against a budget of £9,360,000.

The report also stated that the department had a final outturn total general reserve of £387,779 and the budgeted efficiency savings for the department was £936,000 and all planned efficiencies had been achieved.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **9. BOLTON ECONOMIC STRATEGY – KEY EMPLOYMENT SITES**

The Chief Executive gave a presentation which provided an update on key developments within Bolton.

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

- The progress and developments with Logistics North (Cutacre) which was now recognised as a major strategic site within the region;
- The current situation with Horwich Loco Works;
- The completed and on-going developments within the Town Centre and the new Town Centre Strategy which had been approved by the Cabinet in June, 2013;
- The economic issues which the town faced;
- The components of the new Strategy and the overall approach which had been adopted;
- The specific actions which were proposed to deliver the investment priorities; and
- The allocation of resources to support the specific actions.

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

- What were the current proposals for the Hardman's site and the strategy for the development of Central Street;
- Future funding arrangements for the Food and Drink Festival;
- The plans for the night time economy; and
- The promotion of Logistics North.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **10. BOLTON TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT**

The Chief Executive gave a presentation which provided an update on the refurbishment of the Town Hall, the One Stop Shop and the Albert Halls complex.

Members were informed of the work which had taken place to date and the current situation with regard to the sub-contractors and suppliers.

Information was also provided regarding the next steps during August to December, 2013 and it was stated that the project was still on track for completion in November/December, 2014 and that the budget set was being achieved.

Finally, information on the proposals around the disposal of the buildings which would be freed up by the town hall refurbishment was also outlined.

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

- Concerns were expressed by some members regarding the approach to the civic area; and
- The current situation with regard to local contractors from within Bolton being successful in bidding for contracts.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **11. 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.

## **12. 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 16<sup>th</sup> July and 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2013;
- (b) Economy and Development Policy Development Group held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2013; and
- (c) The Cabinet held on 16<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2013.

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

(The meeting commenced at 3.00 p.m. and ended at 4.25 p.m.)

D6

## **NOTES**