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## **ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION SCRUTINY C**

**27 MARCH 2006**

Councillors Williamson (Chair), Lord (Vice Chair), Allen (as deputy for P. Briere), Collison, Critchley, Hamilton, Ibrahim, Mrs. Rothwell, R. Silvester, A. Walsh, J. Walsh and R. Wilkinson (as deputy for Morgan)

Councillor D. Wilkinson - Executive Member Development and Regeneration

Councillor Hayes - Executive Member Environmental Services

Mr. D. Grogan - Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services

Mr. K. Davies - Director Development and Regeneration

Mr. P. Crosbie - Assistant Director Environmental Services

Mr. J. Layer - Assistant Director (Highways and Maintenance)

Mr. M. Cox - Deputy Director, Environmental Services

Mr. T. Hill - Chief Planning Officer, Development and Regeneration

Mr. D. Smith - Policy Accountant, Environmental Services

Mr. J. Smethurst - Chief Housing and Regeneration Officer

Mr. T. Crossley - Strategic Finance Manager, Environmental Services

Mr. M. Williamson - Democratic Services Officer

Councillor Williamson in the Chair

### **53 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th February, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

Following consideration of the minutes, members were advised that further to Minute 42, Proceedings of the Meetings of the Executive Member for Environmental Services, the Council was currently trying to establish contact with the owner of the land at Longcauseway, to discuss purchasing the land.

Legal advice had been sought in relation to purchasing the land through a Compulsory Purchase Order, however,

this approach would take a considerable amount of time and was not the preferred route.

In relation to the revocation of the Traffic Regulation Order at Bath Street Car Park, APCOA had removed the pay on entry system and replaced it with a pay on exit system. This had resulted in the Car Park being operated in a way that no longer required a Traffic Regulation Order to be in place.

Questions were raised in relation to Car Parks being open on Sundays for a thirteen week trial period. The Executive Member for Environmental Services agreed to investigate the issue. The Assistant Director, Democratic Services, also agreed to take up the issue of the Adults Services Department liaising with APCOA in relation to car parks remaining open for patrons who attended to watch events within the Albert Halls that had the potential to over run their scheduled finishing time.

*Attached Reports:*

[Minutes of the Previous Meeting](#)

[Minutes of the Previous Meeting](#)

## **54 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Member for Environmental Services held on 20th February and 15th March, 2006 were submitted.

Following consideration of the minutes a question was raised in relation to Minute 65, the Highway Project for Disabled People and Older People – Pedestrian Access and Mobility Draft Code of Practice. Concern was expressed that members of the Scrutiny Committee had not had sight of the draft code of practice. The Executive Member for Environmental Services agreed that the code of practice would be emailed to any member who requested it, and a copy would be made available in each of the Members Room.

In relation to Minute 66, West Pennine Moors Bridleway Strategy, concern was again expressed that members of the Scrutiny Committee had not had sight of the strategy. The Executive Member for Environmental Services agreed that the strategy would be emailed to any member who requested it, and a copy would be made available in

each of the Members Rooms.

Further to Minute 67, Newport Street Bridge – Approval to Increase Budget, a request was made that the Council looked at how future contracts were entered into with Network Rail and what safeguards for the Council were in place, so not to incur similar budget increases in any future contracts.

A question was raised in relation to Minute 72, Chorley Old Road, Bolton – Chorley New Road to Moss Bank Way Proposed Traffic Management Measures – Objections. The question related to the changes to the lane markings around Doffcocker Road, and what provision there was now for buses. The Executive Member for Environmental Services agreed to investigate the issue.

In relation to Minute 75, Churchgate Consultation with Local Businesses, concern was expressed that members had not received any detail on the consultation that had taken place. The Executive Member for Environmental Services agreed to make available details of the consultation within each of the Members Rooms.

Further to Minute 78, Central Street Development – Highway Alterations necessitated by Private Development, a question was asked in relation to what highways work was being undertaken at Duke Street. Members were advised that the highways work at Duke Street was intended to realign and improve the junction with Bark Street.

**Resolved – (i) That the minutes of the proceedings be noted**

**(ii) That the Executive Member make available the Highway Project for Disabled People and Older People – Pedestrian Access and Mobility Draft Code of Practice to members, and a copy of the Draft Code of Practice be placed in each Members Room.**

**(iii) That the Executive Member make available the West Pennine Moors Bridleway Strategy to members, and a copy of the Strategy be placed in each Members Room.**

**(iv) That the Executive Member undertakes an investigation into how the Council enters future contracts with Network Rail and what safeguards the**

**Council has in place in future contracts.**

**(v) That the Executive Member undertakes an investigation into the provision for buses on Doffcocker Road in light of the recent changes to the lane markings.**

**(vi) That the Executive Member make available the Churchgate Consultation with Local Businesses to members, and a copy of the Strategy be placed in each Members Room.**

## **55 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Member for Development and Regeneration held on 17th February and 14th March, 2006 were submitted.

Further to the Monitoring Report appended to the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Member held on 14th March, 2006, concern was expressed in relation to the Heritage Management arrangements for Smithills Hall Park, in respect of the treatment of volunteers. The Executive Member advised Members that the changes to the Heritage Management arrangements had been made as the Trust was not fulfilling its obligations, and therefore, the Service Level Agreement with the Trust was terminated in order to improve future developments. The work that had been undertaken by the volunteers had been appreciated and it was hoped that any future developments would not have a negative impact on the volunteers or the work they had carried out.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings be noted.**

## **56 DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Development and Regeneration Policy Development Group held on 7th February and 7th March, 2006 were submitted.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings be**

**noted.**

## **57 HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP MINUTES**

An extract of the minutes of the proceedings of the Housing Policy Development Group held on 7th March, 2006 was submitted.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings be noted.**

## **58 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the Environmental Services Policy Development Group held on 14th February and 8th March, 2006 were submitted.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings be noted.**

## **59 FORWARD PLAN**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted the Committee's Forward Plan for the submission of items to this Committee. The document contained a list of the items identified by Members to be submitted to future meetings of this Committee.

Members requested that the following items be included in the Forward Plan for the next meeting of the Committee:-

- Car Parking Strategy within the Town centre;
- Bridleways Strategy; and
- Contractual arrangements with Network Rail and issues around the development of bridges within the Borough.

**Resolved – That the report be noted and that the items be included on the Forward Plan for investigation at the next meeting of the Committee**

*Attached Reports:*

## [Forward Plan](#)

### **60 WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE - RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided a response to questions that had been raised at the previous meeting of the Committee in relation to the Waste Collection Service within the Borough.

Members were advised that the report addressed the following topics:-

- phase five rollout of the managed waste collection service;
- Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS);
- East Bolton and Great Lever recycling evaluation;
- the Local Authority's recycling performance;
- "opt-out" arrangements in 2003/04; and
- HWRC performance.

Members were informed that the phase five rollout consisted of approximately 13,000 properties, largely in the wards of Great Lever, Rumworth, Hulton and Harper Green. A significant amount of work with residents was needed in order to have a successful implementation. It was stated that the completed rollout of phase 5 would reduce operating costs by approximately £12,000 per month, this had been built into the budget for 2006-07. It was anticipated that the service would be a position to implement phase five in early June, 2006.

The report went on to advise members that the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) was launched in April, 2005. A fixed penalty of £150 per tonne would be incurred if a disposal authority breached its landfill allowance target in any year. Members were informed that it was anticipated for 2006/07, that the financial consequences of LATS would be aggregated within the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority levy budget. In future years, the LATS penalties would be delivered to each collection authority based on individual

performance. On this basis, collection authorities would be rewarded for reducing the amount of municipal waste presented for disposal.

In respect of East Bolton and Great Lever Recycling Evaluation, the report stated that in March, 2004, the first participation survey was undertaken and produced the following results:-

- Great Lever area 18.23% participation;
- East Bolton area 16.07% participation; and
- combined 17.15%

Further surveys had been carried out on a quarterly basis and the level of participation had remained between 18% and 20%.

Members were advised that as part of the successful DEFRA 2 bid, the Council gained funding for the purchase and supply of 25,000 green bins for garden waste. In the spring of 2003, it was decided to supply the bins on an "opt-in" basis. To date, a total of 14,000 bins had been issued and the remaining stock had been placed in storage.

Furthermore, it was reported that the future management arrangements of the Raikes Lane HWRC site would form part of the new disposal contract with GMWDA. It was recognised that longer term inward investment via GMWDA would be required to provide long term appropriate facilities.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

*Attached Reports:*

[Waste Collection Service - Response to Questions Raised](#)

## **61 DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION 2005/06 BUDGET, EFFICIENCY AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING - 3RD QUARTER**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which set out the Development and Regeneration 2005/06 budget monitor at the end of the third quarter.

The report stated that the revised revenue budget stood at

£14.2million and the approved capital spend stood at £2.9million. The overall revenue budget spend was broadly on target with no major individual overspends expected. The overall projection was around £70,000 overspend. The capital programme was expected to slip by £483,000.

Members were further advised that items that had been identified on the annual efficiency statements were on target to be achieved and the quarterly monitored performance indicators continued to exceed their original targets for the second quarter. Financial risk monitors had assessed items which might place further pressures on the revenue budget as well as monitoring the progress made in implementing the approved budget growth and reduction options.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

## **62 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - MONTH 9 PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING 2005/06**

A report of the Director of Environmental Services was submitted which provided information in relation to the financial position of the Environmental Services portfolio at the end of the third quarter, 2005/06.

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

- performance information;
- revenue expenditure;
- capital expenditure;
- reserve movements; and
- Gershon targets.

Comments were made on the projected increased costs in relation to Environmental Care, specifically the increased cost in the Domestic Waste Collection Service.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

*Attached Reports:*



### **63 MONITORING REPORT 2005/06 RESERACH GROUP PTP SECTION, DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION DEPARTMENT**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which set out the Policy and Transport Planning Section's Research Groups monitoring report for 2005/06.

The Research Group fulfilled the following key roles as set out in the Section's Service Improvement Action Plan:-

- the collection, analysis and dissemination of social and economic information, including the 2001 and other Census data;
- provision of analytical support for bidding of external resources; and
- information for Spatial Planning and the Local Transport Plan.

Furthermore, information was provided on the significant research tasks that the Section had undertaken during 2005/06.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

### **64 CHAIRMANS CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chairman thanked all Members and Officers for their attendance and views expressed during the course of the Municipal Year.

In turn the Chair and Vice Chair were thanked for their efforts during the Municipal Year.