



ECONOMIC REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

DATE: 03/10/2013

PRESENT MEMBERS

Councillor Elizabeth Monk in the Chair.

Councillors Anne Kelly, Arif Khan, Andrew Newhouse, Peter McCann and Lian Pate

OFFICERS

Mike Cook	- Director of Economic Regeneration
Paul Gatrell	- Head of Housing and Development Control
Ryan Gifford	- Support Officer
Imelda Grady	Democracy Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors Howard Baker, Executive Member for Environment and Housing and Shah Hussain, Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development

17. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Janet Brown, Marcus Johnstone and Andy Tatchell

18. Minutes

IT WAS AGREED

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th August 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19. Notice of key decisions

Members considered the Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings for the period October 2013 to January 2014 and were invited to comment on those items that fell within the remit of the Committee.

Mike Cook update members on

- Burnley Local Plan – this would not go to the Executive in October and would be taken at a future meeting following member briefings and a joint meeting between Burnley and Pendle councils.
- Weavers Triangle Regeneration Programme phase 2 needed to be removed from the Notice as the Director of Resources had been given delegated authority to authorise spend
- Burnley Wood CPO was on track to go to the Executive but was dependent on the outcome of a planning application

Councillor Pate asked when the Burnley Wood CPO would go to committee and Mike Cook explained that the intention was for it to go to the October Executive but this was dependent on the responses received from the statutory consultees, if there were any issues this would delay the process and it would then depend on how long it would take to resolve those issues.

20. Selective Licensing Trinity
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The Head of Housing and Development Control updated members on the case for re-designating the Trinity Selective Licensing Area for a further five years.

He explained that members were being consulted on the proposal ahead of a decision being taken by the Executive.

The report detailed the results of the statutory consultation exercise, and the proposals for the fee structure. The responses from landlords showed that 52% were not in favour of redesignating the area but that 91% of residents were in favour of the proposal.

In response to the landlords concerns about the level of fees the new fees had been reduced but would still cover the budget required to maintain Trinity as a selective licensing area.

Mike Cook said that selective licensing was an important tool in bringing about the wellbeing of an area by improving living standards.

Councillor Pate asked if selective licensing displaced some tenants and Councillor Baker said that the rationale was to improve the properties and stabilise an area but that the collaborative work that was done by the various agencies helped some of the more challenging tenants.

Members said that the reduction in the fees ought to be highlighted in the report to demonstrate that the landlords responses had been taken on board. Members also noted the positive responses from the support agencies who would continue to be involved in the selective licensing area.

IT WAS AGREED That the Executive be recommended to approve the Trinity Selective Licensing Designation Area and the fee structure.

21. Community Strategy and Strategic Plan update.

Mike Cook gave an update of the Community Strategy and the Strategic Plan and said that it was a timely and positive response to the challenging budget situation which would help the Council plan for change, as well as setting out its vision for the future, and how it would deliver core quality services.

Councillor Pate asked how the Council would be involved in the Gannow Big Local scheme which aimed to improve the lives of local residents and the environment in which they lived. Mike Cook said he would provide Councillor Pate with this information.

Councillor McCann asked when the review of the market was anticipated and Mike Cook said that independent consultants were gathering evidence and an interim report would be taken to the Executive for discussion by early in the New Year.

IT WAS AGREED. That the updates be noted .

22. The state of the local economy

Ryan Gifford updated members on the state of the local economy and reported that the number of JSA claimants had fallen since the August and was lower than it had been twelve months ago. This was positive news and was similar to the trends in the North West and nationally.

There had been no large redundancy notifications from Job Centre Plus and the number of employees in Burnley had increased between 2009 and 2011 by 7.8%. Health and manufacturing were the two sectors which had the largest share of employees.

The Business Support Team were working with 36 companies who were looking to relocate or move within Burnley and progress was being made on the Burnley Bridge site with an anticipated completion date of Easter 2014. Grant support had been given to Sweet Dreams Ltd to enable it to expand its business and create new and safeguard current jobs.

The Business Support Team was also working on business seminars and

were using the Council trailer for drop in sessions for businesses at the Rossendale Business Park .

The funding programme update detailed those companies that had received financial assistance to enable business growth.

Members agreed that this was a positive report for Burnley.

IT WAS **That the update be noted .**
AGREED.

23. Feedback from the regeneration tour .

Members who took part in the recent regeneration tour of the Borough agreed that it had been a worthwhile exercise and provided a good insight into the progress being made with various sites in Burnley and Padiham.

24. Work Programme .

Members were informed that the Executive had endorsed the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee's Post Office Review Group.

Members requested an updates on the Empty Homes Cluster and the Brunley Branding Strategy be made at the next meeting.

That an update on the markets be brought to the January meeting.