



COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Tuesday, 1st October, 2013

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillor Paul Campbell - in the Chair.

Councillors Jonathan Barker, Bea Foster, Anne Kelly, Andrew Newhouse, Paul Reynolds and Betsy Stringer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor John Harbour	- Executive Member for Leisure & Culture
Councillor Tony Harrison	- Executive Member for Community Services

OFFICERS

Mick Cartledge	- Director of Community Services
Joanne Swift	- Head of Streetscene
Mike Waite	- Head of Corporate Engagement
Saima Afzaal	- Assistant Democracy Officer

20. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Tom Forshaw.

21. Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th August 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22. Order of Agenda

The meeting agreed to vary the order of business and the agenda as follows:- Items 7, 10, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13.

23. The Executive's Notice of Key Decisions

The Executive Notice of Key Decisions for October to January 2014 was received for comments relating to the remit of this Committee.

There were no items for discussion.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the Executive Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings be noted.

24. Action Plan – Dog Services Working Group.

Joanne Swift briefed Members on the agreed timescales set out in the action plan proposed by the dog services working group highlighting potential areas for consideration.

She indicated that a meeting of the working group scheduled for 3rd October 2013 would review existing promotional materials and consider future areas of work. She briefed Members on the recent campaign that was currently running with 2BR as part of the council's commitment to the national "Love Where You Live" campaign, which aimed to encourage people to be proud of where they lived and took an active role in keeping their community clean and tidy.

Members made the following comments:-

- Members felt that the free dog chipping events were very successful and proved to be positive to promote the vital element of responsible dog ownership by helping dog owners get their dog chipped.
- Members asked whether future dog chipping events would be held in every ward.

Joanne Swift highlighted that building on the success of the first event held earlier this year which saw 131 dogs chipped similar dog chipping events would continue to be held by working in collaboration with the Dogs Trust on national campaigns.

She further indicated that a range of ward initiatives were planned to raise awareness, the location of events would be reviewed and alternative options considered by providing a targeted approach in certain parts of the Borough.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the finalised actions arising from the Working Group be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

25. Community Strategy and Strategic Plan Updates

Members were invited to comment on the draft Community Strategy for

Burnley and on the draft People and Places section of the Strategic Plan 2013/16. Mick Cartledge explained that this was an early draft of the documents and currently work in progress.

He reported that the community Strategy set out the actions and transformational projects that the Council and its partners would deliver to improve the Borough.

He asked Members to feedback any comments they had on the documents identifying any target areas where additional or amended actions were required.

Members made the following points:-

- Economy challenges – does the community strategy include the review of the Town Centre and Burnley Market?

Mick Cartledge advised that the strategy contained a pledge to make major improvements to the pedestrianised area of the town centre.

- What type of lower priority services would be reduced or discontinued for the Council to remain financially viable in the future.

Mick Cartledge advised that the Council faced significant financial challenges ahead and would continue to review its services to manage the reduction in its resources in a way that protected priority services.

- Members were pleased that overall standard of education was continuously improving however, a breakdown of data for students residing and attending Schools in Burnley would measure level of progress accurately.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the report and comments be noted.

26. Community Engagement Strategy
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Mike Waite reported on the current and planned corporate activity for community engagement and sought views on the future development and delivery of this activity.

He outlined the key actions for future work on the development of engagement with residents.

He indicated that the Council had been committed to support a range of corporate communications work which was delivered through the Chief Executive's Office. He further outlined the main current and planned community engagement activities, as set out in the report.

Members made the following points:-

- It was highlighted that problems with internet access in rural areas

was evident, a recent Lancashire wide initiative was currently in place to improve speed and connectivity.

- In respect to Local Democracy week held in October, would similar events be held in the run up to elections?
- Turnout on Elections – Members felt that that the challenge remained to improve turnout on elections.
- Members indicated that the new Councils website was encouraging and user friendly.

Mike Waite advised that the local democracy week was a national campaign held in October. The Council continued to deliver work to engage young people in democracy by working closely with Schools and Colleges. The involvement of Members of the Youth Council in the forthcoming Burnley Question Time, and the use made of the Council Chamber by the Burnley Pupil Parliament.

He indicated that the Council would continue to build on delivering a range of activities in the run up to elections to encourage people to vote. This would include a number of approaches which included voter registration and promoting postal voting campaigns targeted in key areas.

He further highlighted that one of the major communications campaign between mid Oct - mid January was to promote the Councils website. This would include surveys for feedback on future improvements and promoting how the website can be used for transactions and for tracking jobs and queries.

IT WAS AGREED That the update be noted.

27.	Work Programme
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IT WAS AGREED That the work programme for the next meeting be agreed as follows:-

DATE OF MEETING	AREAS TO BE CONSIDERED
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26/11/2013

- Community Safety Mid-Year update
- Mid-year performance report
- Update on Playing Fields
- Report on Dog Fouling Working Group

28.	Exclusion of The Public
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Reason for Decision

That the public be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on the item relating to Minute 29 in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972, relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

29.	Leisure Trust
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Mick Cartledge briefed Members on the progress for the proposed future delivery of a leisure trust highlighting future changes and priority areas for consideration.

He set out the key aspects of proposed project documents highlighting technical and operational proposals outlined in the report to ensure the delivery of existing services continued.

- A number of comments and questions emerged highlighting priority areas in the delivery of service.

Mick Cartledge advised that he noted Members comments and highlighted that a number of these actions were under consideration.

IT WAS AGREED

That the update be noted.