



ECONOMIC REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

DATE: 19/06/2013

PRESENT MEMBERS

Councillor Lian Pate in the Chair

Councillors Janet Brown, Marcus Johnstone, Anne Kelly, Arif Khan, Andrew Newhouse, Peter McCann and Andy Tatchell

OFFICERS

Mike Cook	- Director of Economic Regeneration
Paul Gatrell	- Head of Housing and Development Control
Colin Hill	- Head of Facilities Management
Rob Dobson	- Corporate Policy Officer
Imelda Grady	- Democracy Officer
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1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Liz Monk and from Kate Ingram and Ryan Gifford.

Apologies were also received from the Executive Member for Environment and Housing, Councillor Howard Baker and the Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development, Councillor Shah Hussain.

2. Minutes

IT WAS AGREED

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

3. The Role of Scrutiny

Members considered the role of Scrutiny and received information on Committee's remit as outlined in the Strategic Plan 2013/14 relating to the Economic Regeneration Directorate.

The information was provided to assist the Committee in setting its work programme for the 2013/14 municipal year.

IT WAS AGREED

That the report be noted.

4. Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings

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

Members asked for an update on the Burnley Market Programme and whether the deadline for reporting to the Executive would be met. Colin Hill said that a strategic review of the markets was to be undertaken as part of the conditions of the Government's efficiency support grant and that a report on the proposals for the open market would be taken to the July Executive.

Members asked for clarification of the terms of the Market Charter and Colin Hill explained that the Market Charter conferred rights of protection but that the Council was not obliged to have a market. If the market was lost then the rights of protection would also be lost.

Paul Gatrell updated members on the Empty Homes Programme and explained the time constraints involved in acquiring properties by compulsory purchase.

5 Year End Performance Report 2012/13

Members received a report on the year end performance results for 2012/13 for those services within the remit of the Committee.

The report highlighted where performance against key indicators had been on or off target.

The report was backward looking and Members were informed that the management of the Technical Centre had now been transferred from the Council to Barnfield, and that the footfall in the town centre was down by 5% and not 11% due to a shift from Saturday to Sunday shopping.

**It was
agreed**

That the report be noted.

6. State of the Local Economy

Members were updated on the state of the local economy which looked at the emerging trends at a local, regional and national level in respect of unemployment, worklessness, job vacancies and business' 'births and deaths'.

Councillor Brown asked for clarification on how the £1000 matched funding start up grant was paid to businesses and how many businesses

stayed trading after the first year. Mike Cook agreed to find this out and report back.

Members welcomed the increase in the number of apprenticeship placements at local colleges and recognised the importance of raising apprenticeship awareness with local businesses.

Members expressed concern about the lack of knowledge that the Job Centre staff seemed to have when referring clients to the college for courses, leading to misunderstandings and frustrations on the length of a course and its content. It was agreed that the Job Centre should be made aware of this.

7. Update on the Homelessness Prevention Programme and Strategy

Paul Gatrell informed members of the emerging priorities within the homelessness prevention programme and strategy. He said that there were no major gaps in provision but there were two areas where improvements could be made –

- working with agencies dealing with ex-offenders and the challenges they faced in accessing accommodation; and
- joint working with the Young Peoples Service and other relevant agencies to improve the protocol for dealing with 16-17 years olds in housing crisis.

Paul also said that a watching brief needed to be kept on the welfare reforms and changes to benefits that impacted on housing provision.

8. Work Programme 2012/13

Members considered the extract from the Annual Scrutiny Report which related to the committee.

Members considered the Literacy and Numeracy Review and were informed that the Job Centre now commissioned the services of Burnley College for all its clients which meant there were no longer any gaps in provision and that the review could be suspended.

In order to make progress with the work programme it was agreed to hold a separate meeting at which all members would be invited to put forward ideas for future scrutiny which could be scoped and timetabled for the year.

IT WAS AGREED

That a work programme meeting be held at 6.00p.m. on Thursday 4th July 2013 and letter be sent to all members of the committee to attend with ideas for scrutiny projects.