



ECONOMIC REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Wednesday 30th January 2013

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillor Liz Monk in the Chair.

Councillors Tony Harrison, Anne Kelly, Arif Khan, Peter McCann and Lian Pate

OFFICERS

Mike Cook	- Director of Economic Regeneration
Paul Gatrell	- Head of Housing and Development Control
Colin Hill	- Head of Facilities Management
Kate Ingram	- Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy
Ryan Gifford	- Support Officer
Imelda Grady	- Democracy Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Andy Tatchell – Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development

25. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Marcus Johnstone and Tracy Kennedy.

26. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

27. The Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings

Members gave consideration to the Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings and were invited to make comments on those items relating to the remit of the Committee.

There were no items that required scrutinising.

28. The Council's strategic plan 2013

Members considered the draft Strategic Plan 2013 regarding the Prosperity section.

The Executive would be asked to endorse the Strategic Plan and it would be considered for approval by Full Council on 28th February 2013.

In respect of PR3d – implement the borough's branding strategy - Members asked what the current position was in respect of the strategy. Mike Cook said this was the fourth year of the strategy which included initiatives such as the Bond Holder Network. He agreed to report back on other aspects of the strategy.

In respect of PR4b - Develop the Supply Chain Village at the Michelin site - Members were supportive of the Supply Chain Village but asked if anything was being done to improve the road network around the site. Currently the roads were congested at peak times with school and works traffic. The school bus service had been withdrawn by County leading to more car usage, there was no other network bus service to the site which together with current works traffic created significant delays to journey times. If the traffic issue were not addressed it could deter the relocation of businesses to the site. Mike Cook said he would pick this issue up with the County Council to see if anything could be done to alleviate the problems.

IT WAS AGREED

- (1) That a report be brought back on the branding strategy.
- (2) That the Director of Economic Regeneration contact Lancashire County Council regarding the traffic flow at the former Michelin site.

29. State of the Local Economy

Members received a report on the state of the local economy which showed emerging trends at the local, regional and national level in respect of job vacancies and support for businesses.

Kate Ingram highlighted two different data sets which had been added to the report in respect of enterprises and business start ups and the Centre for Cities outlook. These helped to give a bigger picture of what was happening in Burnley and other areas.

Members noted that the number of JSA claimants had fallen and were now lower than 12 months ago.

The Annual Population Survey showed a higher figure for those unemployed but the survey was based on very small samples and could not be relied to any great extent. .

There had not been any updated figures on worklessness released by the Department for Work and Pensions since the August report to committee and the next release would be in February 2013.

The existing National Statistics on Jobcentre vacancies data set had been discontinued and there would be no further releases. Statistics could now be found on line at <https://jobsearch.direct.gov.uk/Reports/Reports.aspx>

There had been a net gain of 30 new businesses in 2011.

The cities outlook 2013 provided an economic index of the 64 largest cities and towns in the UK and members were encouraged that it showed Burnley's economy to have been resilient during the economic downturn.

The report also showed that Burnley college had an overall success rate of 77.7% which put it in the top 25% of providers in the Country.

In respect of support for businesses, activities had reduced but this was due to a number being between contracts and therefore not in a position to deliver.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the report be noted.

30. Homelessness

Members were reminded that the committee had agreed to commence a review into homelessness during the second half of the year. Imelda Grady asked the committee to be clear on the remit of any review before a review group was established. She referred to a previous request by the Leader of the Council to consider the impact of the introduction of the bedroom tax and other welfare reforms might have on homelessness.

Members expressed concern about the introduction of Universal Credit which required claimants to register on line and questioned whether there were sufficient public access to computers and if claimants were computer literate. It was agreed to consider what other scrutiny committees were doing in relation to this and to report back.

Paul Gatrell agreed to bring an update on the homelessness review that was to be undertaken which would include some information on the prevention strategy.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

(1) That a verbal update on scrutiny work programmes be brought to the next meeting.

(2) That an update on the homeless review, including information on the prevention strategy, be brought to the next meeting.

31. Work Programme 2012/13

Literacy and Numeracy

A meeting of the review group was to be called to consider the responses to the questionnaire which had been circulated to providers of basic skills delivery in Burnley. The review group would also arrange a visit to Jobcentre Plus and would report the outcomes to the next meeting of the committee.

Site Visits

It was agreed to defer site visits until April/May but that Colin Hill and Padiham's Town Centre Manager be invited to the next meeting to give an overview on the town centre management programme for Padiham.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the work programme be as follows -

27th March

Notice of key decisions and private meetings

State of the Local Economy

Homelessness - to consider the Homelessness Prevention Programme

Padiham Town Centre Management Programme

other Scrutiny work programmes

Site visits – to arrange a visit to Padiham

Any emerging issues