



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Tuesday 12th August 2014

PRESENT MEMBERS

Councillor Carmichael in the Chair.

Councillors Briggs, Cunningham, Ellis, Fifield, Graham, Heginbotham, Johnstone, Monk, Reynolds and Sumner

OFFICERS

Steve Rumbelow	-	Chief Executive
Mike Cook	-	Director of Economic Regeneration
Colin Hill	-	Head of Facilities Management
Kate Ingram	-	Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy
Marie Shaw	-	Markets Manager
Jeremy Richards	-	Communications Officer
Elaine Newsome	-	Democracy Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors Baker, Harbour, Hussain and Townsend

18. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker, Frayling, Kelly, Lishman and Stringer.

19. Minutes

IT WAS AGREED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th July 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20. Order of the Agenda

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the Markets Review be brought into the public section of the meeting and considered immediately following the report on the Local Plan Process.

21. Public Question Time

Mr Chris Lucas addressed the Committee under the right to speak policy on governance and best practice in relation to the evolving Travellers Site component of the draft Local Plan.

22. Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings

The Committee received for information, the Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings for the period August to November 2014.

23. Local Plan Process

The Committee received a presentation on the progress, process and timetable for developing Burnley's Local Plan. The Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy outlined the steps to be taken and consultation requirements in developing the strategy which would culminate in a public examination of the proposals. Members noted that all elements of the plan were required to be supported by an evidence base.

The Committee discussed how Members could be actively involved in supporting officers to develop the Local Plan. The Director of Economic Regeneration outlined proposals for regular all Member briefings and encouraged Councillors to attend and participate. It was further suggested that a cross party working group of Councillors with relevant experience or interest in planning matters should be established and it was highlighted that both activities would demonstrate Councillor involvement in preparing the Local Plan for public examination.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee be requested to discuss and agree arrangements with political Group Leaders for the establishment of a small cross party group to work closely with officers in the development of the draft Local Plan.

24. Markets Review

Members received, for information, a presentation on the outcomes of the consultants' review of the Market.

The Head of Facilities Management outlined the current economic climate and trends in which the market was operating. He reported on the declining current and projected future footfall trends alongside the challenges and barriers to future improvements including the need for significant capital investment and continued competition from local retail outlets. The Committee were advised that the Council continued to support market tenants through a variety of different initiatives including the offer to support internet trading activity which had been under-utilised.

In response to a question on the impact of retaining the current market, the Committee were advised that the consultants had projected that the current rate of decline would increase in pace and that financial losses to the Council may be significant.

The Head of Facilities Management outlined the involvement of the market tenants in the consultative exercises to date and in response to a question on their views on a future solution, advised the Committee that there had been no single preference identified by tenants.

Following questions on specific detail in the consultant's report around potential relocation, discussions with neighbouring ground floor retailers, and the value of the current market site, it was agreed that the consultant's report would be circulated to Committee Members and made available all market tenants in advance of a further detailed report being submitted to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 16th September 2014.

25. Report from the Welfare Reform Working Group

The Committee received the initial report of the Welfare Reform Working Group which gave details of the outcomes from its first meeting on the 23rd July 2014.

The Chief Executive outlined the key areas which the Working Group had committed to reviewing and it was noted that members of the group would be attending the September meeting of a partners who were locally involved in addressing the issues and challenges arising from the national reforms and welfare initiatives.

The Committee noted comments from those working group members who were present at the meeting who confirmed that the working group had discussed at length a variety of issue and had narrowed the focus of their future work to

concentrate on the wider impacts of welfare reform alongside scrutiny of those Council projects directly supporting the nationally required changes.

Members further noted that three reports covering key welfare issues were proposed to be included in the work programme for the September meeting.

26. Work Programme

It was noted that the content of the Work Programme for the September 2014 meeting was extensive and Members discussed the potential to skip the Housing Programme to the October meeting.

IT WAS AGREED

That the Chair be requested to liaise with Officers to agree the work programme for the September meeting and that subject to confirmation of any variance to the content, the Work Programme for the September meeting of the Committee was agreed as follows:

Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Q1
Housing Programme
State of the Local Economy
Markets Review
Discretionary Housing Payments
Universal Credit Roll-out
Council Tax Support Scheme

27. Exclusion of the Public

IT WAS AGREED

That the public be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on the items relating to Minutes 13 & 14 since 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

28. Change Programme

Prior to the next meeting of the Executive, the Committee considered the initial business case report which supported the procurement of a strategic partner for the Council's Change Programme.

In response to questions from Members, the Chief Executive advised that:

- alternative options for future service delivery had been explored;
- organisations mentioned in the report were those that had responded to an initial exercise to gauge interest in partnership working toward future

service provision;

- the involvement of other local authorities primarily concerned their involvement in the OJEU notice in order that they had the opportunity to procure services from a preferred supplier;
- officers would look to liaise with Lancashire County Council in relation to their recent experience of outsourcing, particularly with respect to lessons learned;
- subject to approval by the Executive, a procurement exercise would commence with appropriate mechanisms in place to identify and manage risk.

**IT WAS
AGREED**

That the report be noted