



# SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### PRESENT MEMBERS

Councillor Tatchell in the Chair.

Councillors Baker, Birtwistle, Margaret Brindle, Cunningham, Heginbotham, Johnstone, Lubna Khan, Malik, Newhouse, Reynolds and Royle.

### OFFICERS

Mick Cartledge	- Director of Community Services
Helen Seechurn	- Director of Resources
David Donlan	- Accountancy Division Manager
Howard Hamilton-Smith	- Principal Accountant
Chris Gay	- Performance and Committees Manager
Ryan Gifford	- Assistant Economic Development Officer
Alison McEwan	- Democracy Officer

### IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Wajid Khan	- Executive Member for Resources and Performance Management
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<b>82. Apologies</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Greenwood

<b>83. Minutes</b>
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### IT WAS AGREED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

<b>84. Additional Item of Business</b>
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The Chair informed the Committee that he had requested that the Committee receive a briefing on the procurement of a Committee

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Management System which was being taken to the Executive on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

**IT WAS  
AGREED**

That an additional item – Item 14 – Committee Management System be added to the Agenda.

<b>85. Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings (NKDPM)</b>
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Members discussed the following reports listed in the NKDPM:

Public Space Protection Order: What was this and how did it work? If introduced, the PSPO would give the Council an additional tool to deal with inappropriate behaviour such as begging, unlicensed street collections and other nuisance issues around the Town Centre. Fixed penalty notices would be issued to offenders, and for persistent offenders, this would help to build up a case for further action to be taken against them.

**IT WAS  
AGREED**

That Members noted the NKDPM

<b>86. State of the Local Economy</b>
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Ryan Gifford presented the report, which outlined support being provided to businesses both within and outside of Burnley by the Economic Development Team, and key indicators which highlighted the State of the Economy in Burnley.

Members discussed the following:

- Were active enterprises those who were paying business rates (NNDR)? This wasn't the case – businesses could include work from home businesses and businesses that were exempt from NNDR due to the small business rate relief scheme.
- Business births – How many of the 360 births this year were owned by Burnley residents? There was no way to find this information. If an existing company moved into the Borough, did this count as a birth? No, but it was counted as an additional business in the total number of businesses in Burnley.
- Was it possible to compare in and out of work benefits? There may be information available, but for the purposes of the report, out of work benefits was the focus.
- What was the reason for the increase in claimants of carers allowance? This wasn't known, but there could be a variety of reasons, such as carer's charities publicising the benefit to enhance take up, and people who hadn't previously claimed replacing other benefits that had been cut by claiming CA.
- The lack of broadband services to rural communities, and the effect

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on businesses. The Lancashire Broadband project had made superfast broadband available to over 95% of population of Lancashire. The broadband extension project (due for completion by end 2017) would connect the remaining percentage, which were often harder to reach, more inaccessible properties, such as remote farms. Random boxes appeared to have been missed out of the upgrade. This wasn't the case – those boxes formed part of the extension project.

- Other areas affected by flooding – Lowerhouse, Brunshaw and Thompson Park – will there be funding available? The Padiham funding from the Government related specifically to flooding caused by Storms Desmond and Eva, and there was no funding available for one off flash flooding.

**IT WAS  
AGREED**

That Members note the report.

<b>87. Revenue Budget Monitoring Q1 2016/17</b>
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David Donlan introduced the report, which informed Members of the forecast Revenue budget outturn for 2016/17.

Members discussed the following:

- A forecast reduction in Markets income. This was in part due to the closure of the open market, and a forecast reduction in income for the closed market. This was being constantly monitored.

**IT WAS  
AGREED**

That the report be noted.

<b>88. Capital Budget Monitoring Q1 2016/17</b>
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David Donlan outlined the report which provided an update on capital expenditure and highlighted any variances.

Members were asked to note the revised recommendations which had been approved by the Executive.

**IT WAS  
AGREED**

That the report be noted.

<b>89.</b>	<b>Revenue Budgets 2017-20 – Latest Position and Savings Proposals</b>
<p>Helen Seechurn introduced the report which updated Members on the proposals to balance the Council’s revenue budgets for 2017-20. She explained that this was a new way of working – looking at three years rather than just a single year. She added that although the required savings had been identified for 2017-18, there was still a long way to go to ensure a balanced budget for the following two years.</p> <p>Members discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Were there any plans to use reserves to close any future funding gap, and what level of reserves did the Council hold? This was a matter for the Executive to consider however reserves were held to support transformation and growth priorities.</li> </ul> <p><b>IT WAS AGREED</b> That the report be noted</p>	
<b>90.</b>	<b>Review Groups</b>
<p>Members outlined progress made by the Review groups. A new round of meeting dates would be circulated week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> September.</p>	
<b>91.</b>	<b>Work Plan</b>
<p>The Chair introduced the work plan, and added that Members could propose additional items for inclusion on the plan if they wished.</p>	
<b>92.</b>	<b>Committee Management System</b>
<p>Chris Gay briefed Members on the proposed introduction of a Committee Management System, which would automate Democratic services, and lead to the introduction of paperless meetings from March 2017.</p> <p>Members discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training. Some Members were concerned about the introduction of the new technology and associated hardware. It was confirmed that a training programme for Members would support the introduction of a Committee Management System.</li> <li>• Would Members be able to access via their own devices rather than using multiple tablets? Members would be provided with tablets through which meeting agenda’s would be accessible via an app, although initial thoughts were that Members own devices could be used.</li> </ul>	