

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 10 February 2009

Present: Councillor Dennis Edgerley (Chair) and Councillors Nora Ball, Mike Devaney, Marie Gray, Adrian Lowe, Mark Perks and Joyce Snape

Officers in attendance: Donna Hall (Chief Executive), Lesley-Ann Fenton (Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance)), Jamie Carson (Corporate Director (People)), Jane Meek (Corporate Director (Business)), Ishbel Murray (Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods)), Carol Russell (Head of Democratic Services) and Ruth Hawes (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

09.OS.10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Alan Cain, Harold Heaton, Kevin Joyce, Rosie Russell and Peter Wilson.

09.OS.11 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

09.OS.12 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No Members declared an interest in respect of items on the agenda.

09.OS.13 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No members of the public requested to speak at the meeting

09.OS.14 EXECUTIVE CABINET - 12 FEBRUARY 2009

The Chair reported that there had been no requests from Committee Members for specific consideration of reports to be considered at the meeting of the Executive Cabinet on 12 February 2009 other than those already on the agenda.

09.OS.15 BUSINESS PLAN MONITORING STATEMENTS - THIRD QUARTER OF 2008/2009

The Committee received a summary and the third quarter Business Plan Monitoring Statements from the following Directorates:

(a) Business Directorate

Members discussed the Growth Point bid and raised several queries with the Corporate Director (Business).

(b) Neighbourhoods Directorate

Members noted that the street cleansing team had won a national award and were updated on the Families First programme. The Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods) advised that performance measures were being determined for the neighbourhood action plans linked to the Corporate Strategy.

(c) People Directorate

It was noted that the Directorate's performance indicators were on track. A report would be presented to a future meeting regarding play rangers and work undertaken with Groundwork.

An officer was requested to give assistance with a project regarding allotments in Astley Village.

(d) Business Transformation

The Chief Executive advised that the target set for NI181 new benefit claims /change in circumstances could be seen as ambitious but we are still likely to be top quartile performance. The Customer Relationship Management project was now on track and the shared services with South Ribble had taken a lot of time, but would deliver significant savings.

(e) Policy and Performance Directorate

It was anticipated that the Council would find out early March whether we had secured Beacon status for 'Better Outcomes for people and Places'.

RESOLVED- The Third Quarter Business Plan Monitoring Statements be noted.

09.OS.16 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT - THIRD QUARTER OF 2008/09

The Committee considered the report setting out performance against the Corporate Strategy and the Council's National Indicators for the third quarter of 2008/09, 1st October to 31st December 2008.

In response to a query the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Performance) would arrange for a report on the performance of the Revenues and Benefits team on all relevant indicators to be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED

- 1. The report be noted.**
- 2. A report on the performance of the Revenues and Benefits team be presented to a future meeting.**

09.OS.17 CHORLEY PARTNERSHIP'S PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THIRD QUARTER OF 2008/09

Members received the report outlining the Chorley Partnership's performance over the 3rd Quarter of 2008/9 on the Local Area Agreement and the Sustainable Community Strategy projects. Some statistics relating to crime were tabled and discussed.

It was noted that the mortgage rescue scheme would be promoted by staff within the one stop shop with customers who would benefit from it.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

09.OS.18 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee received the Forward Plan for the period 1 February 2009 to 31 May 2009.

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan be noted.

09.OS.19 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND REPORTS FROM THE TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

RESOLVED – That the work programme be noted.

(a) Joint Scrutiny Inquiry with Preston and South Ribble on Affordable Housing

The Chair reported that the last meeting had been productive. Several recommendations had been identified on the supply of land and identifying smaller sites on boundaries between the boroughs for affordable housing. The inquiry would be drawing to a close in the next few months.

(b) Local Strategic Partnership

Councillor Mike Devaney advised that the Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership had been interviewed. His feedback had been interesting and potential recommendations had been made, including the suggestion that right commercial and industrial units should be ready for businesses to move into. It was noted the positive attitude from Council officers at Chorley had been a key factor in his business moving to Chorley.

(c) Housing Allocation Policy

The report of the task and finish group was tabled. Councillor Mike Devaney explained that no customers would lose out and the new policy would be easier to understand and transparent.

RESOLVED

The following recommendations be submitted as part of the Housing Allocations Policy consultation process:

- 1. Existing tenants could benefit from a mechanism to transfer to a house that became available in another location and subject to ensuring the policy complies with the law officers will develop a mechanism for transfers.**
- 2. A system should be devised to preclude customers with a certain level of savings and or capital assets from housing allocation to ensure more deserving customers are not disadvantaged.**
- 3. When the Policy has been finalised Members might find a Member Learning Hour useful on the Housing Allocations Policy and Choice Based Lettings.**

09.OS.20 ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THE CHAIR DECIDES IS/ARE URGENT

Members discussed holding a review of the year event following the next meeting. The Committee would start at the earlier time of 6pm.

The event would include a brief overview of the achievements made this year, followed by a self-assessment session. The revised Overview and Scrutiny toolkit would be launched, finishing off with a discussion about the work programme for next year. All non-Executive Cabinet members would be invited.

Chair