

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 15 December 2005

Present: Councillor J Walker (Chair), Councillors T McGowan, M Perks and Mrs S Walsh (Associate Chairs) and Councillors E Bell, Mrs P Case and P Goldsworthy

06.OS.74 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Wilson.

06.OS.75 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

None of the Members disclosed any interests in relation to matters under consideration at the meeting.

06.OS.76 SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES - PREFERRED OPTIONS DOCUMENT AND DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Committee received a report of the Head of Development and Regeneration on the draft Preferred Options Document and Supplementary Planning Document on Sustainable Resources that will form part of the Local Development Framework. The Executive Cabinet at its meeting on 1 December 2005 requested this Committee to approve the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel to examine how Council can encourage the use of renewable energy within the Borough and how the Council can take a lead on this issue on a cost neutral basis.

Members expressed a view that this was a large topic for the Panel to consider and this Committee had not been informed what specific areas to look at and required more information.

The Committee **AGREED** 1) That clarification be sought on the requests from the Executive Member for Customers, Policy and Performance and that he be invited to attend the next meeting.

2) That the Head of Development and Regeneration establish what other Councils are doing on this Sustainable Resources issue.

06.OS.77 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING - 2005/06

The Committee received a report of the Director of Finance on the setting out of the current financial position of the Council, compared against the budgets and efficiency saving targets it set itself for 2005/2006 for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.

The report indicated that significant effort had been made by finance officers, in conjunction with Service Heads to reduce the overspend by £106,000 with further savings being investigated, with the position improved since the last monitoring report as a result of actions taken.

The Director of Finance in response to a request informed Members of the promised Grant Settlement and what was to be expected.

The Committee **AGREED** to note the report and the action to be taken.

06.OS.78 CONTACT CHORLEY - ACHIEVING THE STRATEGY

The Head of Customer, Democratic and Office Support Services submitted a report explaining the measures to be undertaken during the next twelve months to enable the implementation of the third phase of the 'Strategy for an Accessible Public Service One Stop Shop Contact Centre' which was adopted in March 2002.

The Committee **AGREED** to note the report.

06.OS.79 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee received the Councils current Forward Plan which set out details of the key decisions which the Executive Cabinet's individual Executive Members or Officers were expected to take during the four-month period commencing 1 December 2005.

The Committee **AGREED** to note the report.

06.OS.80 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS

The Committee received and noted the updated reports from the Associate Chairs on the recent activities of their respective Panels.

06.OS.81 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (ENCLOSED)

The Committee received and noted the work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its three associated Panels for the remainder for 2005/06 which illustrated the status of current inquiries, ongoing items and issues currently being monitored.

06.OS.82 REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICES

The Chair accepted as urgent, consideration of this item, not included on the agenda in order to consider a request received from a Councillor for a scrutiny inquiry into a proposal to change collection points for waste and recycling, in particular the Withnell area of Chorley. The request raised a number of issues that required to be addressed.

The Committee accepted that there were problems in outlying areas of the Borough and that we were half way through the current enhanced recycling contract. The Withnell area had only just been introduced to the new Scheme and that answers and explanations to these difficulties and in other areas could be given by the Head of Environmental Services to the next meeting of the Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

The Committee **AGREED** that the next meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel considers with the Head of Environmental Services the current difficulties being experienced with the Councils refuse and recycling collection service.

Chair