

**COMMUNITIES, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Stott (Vice Chair in the Chair); Councillors Susan Emmott, Malcolm, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Wazir, West, Winkler and Zaheer.

**OFFICERS:** D. Bowler (Assistant Director - Place), M. Dalzell (Neighbourhoods Directorate and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Superintendent A. Mallen (Greater Manchester Police).

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Butterworth and Meredith.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

18 Further to the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillor Zaheer declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 4 (Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership - Performance Monitoring Report - 1st Quarter 2016/17) insofar as she was the Assistant to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio. Councillor Zaheer left the room during the consideration of this item of business.

Further to the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillor Zaheer declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 (RBH Performance Report), insofar as she had been appointed by the Council to the Rochdale Boroughwide Housing Representative Committee. Councillor Zaheer left the room during the consideration of this item of business.

**MINUTES**

19 **DECIDED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be approved as a correct record.**

**COMMUNITIES, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17**

20 The considered a report of the Assistant Director (Legal, Governance and Workforce) which presented the updated Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016/17, including the Committee's Action List.

The recommendations were put forward as Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 7 requires Overview and Scrutiny Committees to set a work programme and to report it to the Council.

**DECIDED – that (1) Work Programme 2016/17 as appended to the submitted report be noted;**

**(2) the actions list appended to the submitted report be noted.**

**ROCHDALE SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP - PERFORMANCE  
MONITORING REPORT - 1ST QUARTER 2016/17**

21 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods regarding the performance of the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership (RSCP) during the first quarter of 2016/17 (April – June). The Committee scrutinised the

Performance Management Bulletin which was attached to the report that provided Members with a detailed summary of how the RSCP was performing against specific targets.

***The Safer Communities Partnership Plan identified approximately 40 targets which were achieved through the implementation of annual multi-agency action plans that were written for each of the specific strategic priorities.***

***Each quarter the RSCP compiled a performance bulletin. The bulletin examined both the performance in relation to targets and the actions implemented as part of the multi-agency action plans. The performance bulletin was used by the RSCP to highlight areas of good practice and performance and also to understand under-performance so that corrective action can be identified and implemented.***

***The Partnership's Bulletin highlighted seven strategic priorities as follows: to increase confidence and satisfaction; to reduce crime; to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol; to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour; to prevent offending (and re-offending) by children and young people; to prevent adult re-offending; to develop community cohesion. It was against these priorities that the Committee scrutinised the performance of the Partnership.***

***In considering the report Members sought clarification from officers and Superintendent Mallen, who was attending the meeting on behalf of Greater Manchester Police, on a number of pertinent issues including the 101 phone line, the future of various projects that were funded, or partially funded by the European Union in light of the outcome of the EU Referendum, the prevalence of police cameras in the Borough and the recruitment of additional police officers in the Borough.***

***A Member referred to previous reports which separated out the crime statistics of Heywood town centre from the Heywood North Ward (as the town centre is wholly located in the Heywood North Ward), as it was felt that the inclusion of the data gave a false impression of crime in that Ward.***

*DECIDED – That (1) the report be noted;*

*(2) that future performance monitoring reports of the Safer Communities Partnership be requested to separate out the crime statistics for Heywood town centre from the remainder of the Heywood North.*

## **RBH PERFORMANCE REPORT**

22 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods which provided Members with an update on the performance of Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH) for quarters 3 and 4 in 2015/16 (October – March) in relation to the achievement of the aspirations, commitments and promises set out in the Council's Service Level Agreement with RBH. Promises were initiatives or projects that RBH had committed to deliver. Commitments were described as pre-transfer service levels that RBH were required to maintain and aspirations were the things that RBH would like to do, but were not guaranteed to do so as there was no specific funding in its business plan and delivery could be adversely affected by issues such as the impact of the welfare reform agenda. The report also provided some additional key performance information and updated Members on the organisations mutualisation process, development programme and on how RBH was working in partnership with the Council, local agencies.

In considering the report, the Committee sought clarification on the numbers of empty properties in RBH's portfolio, noting that this had encouragingly fell from approximately 555 in 2014/15 to the current figure of around 260; the effects on tenants of the welfare reform agenda; the eligibility of tenants to apply for a mortgage to purchase their property; commending the number of apprentices being employed by RBH and the customer access contract that was due to expire on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 which it was reported was the result of RBH intending to withdraw from a Service Level Agreement with the Council; and the proposal of RBH to employ their own occupational therapist rather than relying on services that were provided by the Council. The Assistant Director (Place) undertook to write to Members of the Committee confirming the situation regarding tenants who were eligible to apply for mortgages to purchase their properties from RBH.

**DECIDED – That (1) the report be noted;**

**(2) the Assistant Director (Place) be requested to write to Members of the Committee regarding the eligibility for tenants who were eligible to apply for a mortgage to purchase their property from RBH.**

#### **WINTER SERVICE POLICY 2016/17**

23 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods that sought the views of the Committee on a review and proposed update to the Council's existing Winter Service policy document, prior to its submission to the Cabinet.

The Committee was advised that Councils are recommended to review and update their highway related policy documents on a regular basis to make sure that they are fit for purpose and relevant. Also, as a result of improved technology in 2013 winter weather forecasts received by the Greater Manchester districts were now climate domain based and treatments could only be targeted to those domains where required; the treatment routes had been realigned accordingly.

The Committee was advised that there had been no significant changes to the overall Policy other than at Section 10 of the Policy, which dealt with "Treatment Types and Priorities". The Council will undertake the following treatment types in any of the climatic domains across the borough: pre-treatment - 'precautionary' salting; post-treatment - continuing salting following the formation of ice; clearance of ice and snow; and dealing with continuous severe conditions.

**DECIDED – That the Committee supports the proposed revised Winter Service 2016/17 policy document and recommend that the document be formally approved by the Cabinet.**

#### **VEHICLE ACCESS CROSSING POLICY 2016/17**

24 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods that sought the views of Members on the Vehicle Crossing Access policy document which was attached at Appendix A to the report, and also on a proposal for the introduction of an administrative and supervision charge to the cost of the delivery of works in line with the Council's annual standing charges for administration and supervision charges of £107.00.

The Director of neighbourhoods advised that members of the public were not allowed to drive over a footway or verge unless a vehicle crossing point had been authorised and constructed properly. A facility for crossing over a public footpath or verge, for a vehicle to get to a domestic property from the road, was known as a "dropped kerb"; "crossover"; or "vehicle crossing". It would have to be built to specific standards, approved by the Council as the Local Highway Authority; and in some cases planning

permission would be needed. A Vehicle Crossing Access Policy would ensure that the Council regulated the provision of vehicle crossing facilities; that the location and use of vehicle access and dropped kerbs were safe and that they were made to appropriate standards.

The Director added that a Vehicle Crossing Access Policy should reduce the number of unauthorised crossings across the Borough and create a fairer and more equal arrangement for car and property owners. Such a Policy should limit the amount of pavement damage caused by vehicles using unauthorised vehicle crossings and reduce budget pressures for funding associated repairs.

**DECIDED – That the Committee supports the proposed Vehicle Access Crossing Policy and recommend that the document be formally approved by the Cabinet.**

### **PARKING ENFORCEMENT POLICY**

25 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of neighbourhoods which informed Members of the need to review the current Parking Enforcement Policy and propose alternative options for a new policy. In light of recently reported concerns that were raised by elected Members regarding Parking appeals, together with the fact that the existing Enforcement Policy was developed four years ago, it was considered an appropriate time to review and update this policy. A revised policy gave the opportunity to update contact details and reference points and allowed for an improved format which was designed to be more accessible.

Members were informed that Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA 2004) introduced a number of changes in connection with traffic law and set the principles for a complete change in direction in respect of parking enforcement. One of the requirements was for local authorities to produce and publish a clear and transparent enforcement policy which sought to prevent any inconsistencies of approach towards enforcement.

Rochdale Council produced a parking enforcement policy to comply with the Secretary of State's Statutory Guidance which was approved by Members on the 29th May 2012. The policy was introduced to ensure fairness, transparency and consistency in dealing with informal challenges and appeals against penalty charge notices issued to vehicles parked in contravention of parking restrictions. Parking enforcement had a high profile among the public and a careful balance was needed to be taken between meeting the needs of local residents, business and visitors whilst still maintaining highway safety and reducing congestion. The enforcement policy outlined the Council's fair and consistent approach to the appeals process whilst taking in to account its statutory responsibility to carry out effective parking enforcement. An updated enforcement policy would, it was reported, continue to provide a greater understanding for the reasons behind Civil Parking Enforcement and result in a higher level of compliance.

**DECIDED – That the Committee notes the report and the proposed changes to the policy, as detailed at paragraph 3.14, and recommends that the policy be approved and adopted by the Cabinet.**

### **GMCA/AGMA SCRUTINY POOL**

26 **DECIDED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool held 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016 be noted.**