

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, 8 February 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Butterworth (In the Chair); Councillors Susan Emmott, Malcolm, Meredith, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Stott and Zaheer

OFFICERS: D Bowler (Assistant Director Place), H Bellis, M Dalzell and J McAuley (Neighbourhoods Directorate), M Robinson (Assistant Director Planning) and D Cooke (Economy Directorate) and C Denyer (Resources Directorate)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Detective Chief Inspector John Harris (GMP)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Wazir, West and Winkler

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

34 There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

35 **DECIDED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 9th November 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

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

36 The Committee 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.

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 the Work Programme 2016/17 as appended to the submitted report be noted;

DISCRETIONARY CRISIS FUND AND LOCAL WELFARE PROVISION 6 MONTH PERFORMANCE REPORT

37 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods which informed Members of the Discretionary Crisis Fund's performance over the first six month period of 2016/17, April – September 2016, which is Year 4 of the scheme.

The Discretionary Crisis Fund offered support of those setting up home when resettling from temporary accommodation that may need help in acquiring

essential household items. The scheme also provided a mechanism to make small crisis awards for those who found themselves in financial difficulty for emergency household fuel or clothes.

The local welfare provision also funded small contributions to a number of Food Banks and grant funds to a number of community based projects via the Innovation Fund.

Members of the Committee, in scrutinising the report, asked for consideration to be given as to the how the fund could be better promoted to increase awareness of the fund.

**DECIDED – That (1) the report be noted;
(2) an informal meeting of Committee Members be convened to discuss the operation of the Discretionary Crisis Fund;
(3) the Cabinet be requested to continue to support the Discretionary Crisis Fund and local welfare provision.**

STREET LIGHTING PERFORMANCE REVIEW

38 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods the purpose of which was to provide an update to Members on the Street Lighting PFI.

The Street Lighting PFI Client Management Team had been working closely with the Service Provider to implement the improvements requested by previous meetings of this Committee and of the former Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it was now considered that the Street Lighting Service had addressed the previous concerns.

The Committee noted that as a result of the improved relationship between the parties and as a gesture of goodwill the Service Provider has taken the decision to withdraw all existing contractual disputes and that this had been received favourably by the Council.

In considering the report Members of the Committee raised issues relating to the financial adjustments which had been applied as a means of incentivising the Service Provider to maintain performance standards and requested that the detailed financial information be circulated to Members of the Committee.

**DECIDED – that (1) the Street Lighting Performance Review be noted;
and
(2) the Director of Neighbourhoods be requested to circulate to Members of the Committee details of the financial adjustments applied as a means of incentivising the Service Provider.**

ROCHDALE SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP - MONITORING: QUARTER 2 - 2016/17

39 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods which provided Members with a summary of how the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership (RSCP) had performed against its targets during the

second quarter of 2016/2017 (July - September 2016). In presenting the report the Director referred to a strategic assessment that was in progress and was intended to inform the strategic priorities of the Partnership. Future reports to the Committee were expected to reflect these changes.

The Committee considered future performance monitoring arrangements and the Committee requested that the RSCP performance indicators also be included in the Neighbourhood Directorate performance dashboard.

A Member once again requested that the crime statistics for Heywood town centre be separated from those of 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) future performance monitoring reports of the RSCP be requested to separate out the crime statistics for Heywood town centre from the remainder of the Heywood North.

(3) the RSCP's performance indicators be included on the Neighbourhood Directorate performance dashboard.

(4) the Director of Neighbourhoods be requested to meet with the Chair of this Committee and the Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide challenge to the data provided within the Performance Bulletin.

DIRECTORATE PLANS 2016-17 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

40 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Economy and the Director of Neighbourhoods which presented the positions of their respective Directorates at the end of Quarter Three (31st December 2016) and of the activities contained in the Economy Directorate Plan 2016/17 and the Neighbourhoods Directorate Plan 2016/17.

In terms of the Economy Directorate 91.67% (22 out of 24) of the actions included in the Directorate Plan 2016/17 were not yet completed but were on target for successful completion by the 31st March 2017. Of the two other actions one had been successfully completed and the other was not completed by the target date, due to circumstances outside of the Directorates control.

The Director of Economy also submitted an additional appendix to his report that provided Members with performance information on the activities of the Rochdale Development Agency which are undertaken on behalf of the Council, for the first three quarters of 2016/17 (April - December).

In terms of the Neighbourhoods Directorate 42.86% (12 out of 28) of the actions included in the Directorate Plan 2016/17 were not yet completed but were on course to be successfully completed before the end of March 2017. Of the remaining sixteen actions eight were completed successfully and by the target date whilst six actions (relating to working in partnership with land owners and developers to bring forward a supply of good quality housing

sites; the launch of the new place branding project and Rochdale brand; the formulation of a 5-10 year Residential Growth Strategy; exploration of an option to deliver Town Centre Housing; the completion of the development of new Communications Strategy; improvements to roads, footpaths bridges and structures and an increased percentage of roads that are of an acceptable standard) had not been completed by the target date with a further two actions (relating to the delivery of a specific plan of shared ICT services with Oldham Council; and the development a new 3-year Homelessness Strategy) were not completed due to circumstances outside the Directorates control.

DECIDED – That the report be noted.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SCRUTINY STUDY GROUP

41 The Chair provided an update on the work of the Energy Scrutiny Study Group.

The Committee was advised that an interim report would be submitted to the meeting of the joint GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool scheduled to be held on 10th March 2017.

DECIDED – that the report be noted

GMCA/AGMA SCRUTINY POOL

42 **DECIDED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool held on 9th December 2016, be noted.**