

AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 24th November 2011 at Retford Town Hall

Present: Councillor R B Carrington-Wilde (Chair)
Councillors H Burton, I J Campbell, D Challinor, P Douglas, C Entwistle,
G Freeman, M T Gray, B Jones, P C Offer, C Palmer, A A D Tromans,
Mrs C Troop, C Wanless and Mrs V Wanless

Officers: G Blenkinsop, S Brown, A Burton, C Crossland, M Hill, L Hull,
M Ladyman, R Theakstone, R Wilkinson and T Winfield

Standards Committee Members: Mr B Letherland

Also present: Councillor J Evans

(The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and read out the Fire Alarm/Evacuation Procedure.)

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs V A Bowles and D Potts.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

(b) Officers

There were no declarations of interest by officers.

36. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22nd September 2011

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2011 be approved.

37. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action be received.

38. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

Key Decisions

None

Other Decisions

39. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

(a) Business Support Post Business Link

(At this point Councillor P C Offer entered the meeting)

Members were presented with an update of the measures, both in place and proposed, of the business support service that Bassetlaw District Council will be able to offer once the existing Business Link Service ceases on the 25th November 2011.

Members received a slideshow presentation from the Economic Development Manager regarding: current provision; the new business link offer; potential projects and the proposals.

Elected Members asked questions/ raised issues regarding initiatives for young people in music and media.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

(b) Update on Landlords Accreditation Scheme

The Committee were updated on the East Midlands Landlord Accreditation Scheme implemented within Bassetlaw.

The Director of Community Services informed the Committee that the scheme encourages and rewards good property standards and management practice in the private rented sector. To date 32 landlords have signed up to become accredited landlords in Bassetlaw, covering 61 properties within the district.

Elected Members asked questions/ raised issues regarding: how many landlords are in the district; what power does the council have to protect private tenants; links with choice based lettings; empty homes strategy; targets for the number of landlords signing up to the scheme.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

40. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

(a) Budget Monitoring and Capital programme Update Report to 30 September 2011

Members were informed of: the spending position for the period 1st April to 30th September 2011 for the council's General Fund, Housing Revenue and Capital Programme; any significant variances from the approved budgets; the requested approval for variations and additions to the existing Capital Programme; proposed resourcing of the Capital Programme and the level of Council capital resources available, including capital receipts; updates on regeneration projects and sites that are not monitored through the Council's Capital Programme; updates on Treasury Management Budget issues; and the regular quarterly update on performance against the approved Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for the period ending 30th September 2011.

The report was presented at the Cabinet Meeting on the 1st November 2011, giving details on: General Fund Revenue; Housing Revenue Account; Capital Programme Expenditure; Capital Programme Resourcing; Capital Programme Expenditure, Capital Receipts; Updates on Key External Regeneration Sites; and Treasury Management.

The Head of Finance and Property commented that it is anticipated that there will be an overspend of £0.256m on the overall General Fund budget, this is primarily due to shortfall in fees and charges income.

An Elected Members asked questions regarding 73 Bridge Street, how much has been spent and how much more will be spent to complete the scheme.

In response to the question raised regarding 73 Bridge Street the Head of Finance and Property informed Members that £0.5m was originally approved and a further £45,000 has been approved to complete the scheme.

RESOLVED that the Budget Monitoring and Capital Programme Update Report to 30th September 2011 be noted.

41. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

(a) Corporate Plan Scorecard – 2nd Quarter 2011/12

Members were presented with a report which provided an update regarding the performance of the Councils Corporate Plan 2010-2013. The Scorecard covers the 4 priorities of the Corporate Plan: Customer Satisfaction; Environment; Economy and Housing.

The Director of Corporate Services commented that under each priority is an update of the Corporate Plan projects and that beneath the projects are the Council's Performance Indicators that link to the Corporate Plan Priorities. She informed Members that when the new corporate plan is finalised the organisational scorecard will replace the corporate plan scorecard.

Elected Members asked questions/ raised issues regarding: covalent; targets for affordable homes; partnership plus; graffiti and fly tipping.

In response to issues raised by Members the Performance Officer commented that Directors and Heads of Service update Covalent as near to the committee as possible so information is up to date but that more rigorous notes could be added regarding actions.

RESOLVED that the Corporate Plan Scorecard be received and performance noted for Quarter 2 of 2011/12.

(b) Service Scorecards – 2nd Quarter 2011/12

Members were presented with a report which provided an update regarding individual Service performance. The scorecards covered four key areas: Customer, People, Process, Financial. The information used to populate the report is held on Covalent which all can access.

Each Head of Service or their representative presented their scorecard report, copies of which were appended to the report.

Elected Members asked questions/ raised issues regarding: the enterprise zone; recycling; derelict buildings; rent arrears; business rates and the average time to re-let a property.

In response to questions raised by Members regarding recycling the Director of Community Services informed members that a presentation was given at the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the Environmental Development Officer and that he would ask her to circulate information to Members to inform them of the Councils initiatives.

An Elected Member asked that thanks be given to the Communications Team for all the work that they have done to send out positive messages to the public.

RESOLVED that:

1. Information regarding recycling initiatives be circulated to Members.
2. Thanks be given to the Communications Team for all the work that they have done to send out positive messages to the public.
3. the Service Scorecards are received and performance noted for Quarter 2 2011/12.

(c) Organisational Scorecard Report

Members were presented with a draft Organisational Scorecard at the Committee in July. It was proposed that the Organisation Scorecard will replace the Corporate Plan Scorecard in the future. Members were welcomed to make comments or suggestions on the proposal, no comments had yet been received from Members.

The Director of Corporate Services informed Members that the Organisational Scorecard Report will not be progressed until the next financial year when the new corporate plan and new priorities are finalised.

Elected Members asked questions/ raised issues regarding: financial performance indicators; benchmarking with other authorities; Langold Park and Parish Councils being involved with CCTV.

RESOLVED that the Organisational Scorecard be approved and adopted with effect from the 1st April 2012.

SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

None.

Other Decisions

None.

42. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

The Chairman reminded Members that the meeting originally scheduled for the 15th December 2011 has been postponed and will now take place on the 9th January 2012.

As there was no other urgent business to consider, the Chairman closed the meeting.