



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Wednesday, 11th January, 2023 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillors G Barton, A Royle (Vice-Chair), G Birtwistle, J Launer, A Lewis, G Lishman, S Lone and J McGowan

OFFICERS

Paul Gatrell	– Head of Housing & Development Control
Kate Ingram	– Strategic Head of Economy and Growth
Joanne Swift	– Head of Streetscene
Mick Cartledge	– Chief Executive
Lisa Fay	– Principal Environmental Health Officer (Food)
Kieron Roberts	– Parks Development Manager
Andrew Leah	– Property Services Manager
Jill Wolfendale	– Principal Environmental Health Officer
Carol Eddleston	– Democracy Officer
CJ Walmsley	– Democracy Officer

69. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Baker, Hall, L Khan and Whitaker.

70. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

71. Additional Items of Business

There were no additional items of business.

72. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Barton declared a personal interest in Item 10, Community Safety Strategy Update, insofar that tackling serious and organised crime related to her job.

Councillor Lewis declared a personal interest in Item 15, Memorial Park Wheeled Sports Area, insofar as he is a Padiham Town Council Member.

73. Exclusion of the Public

Exclusion of press and public was as set out in the agenda.

74. Public Question Time

No questions, statements or petitions had been received from members of the public.

75. Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings

Members noted the Notice of Key Decisions and Private Decisions (NKDPM) published on 13th December 2022 and were reminded that, when they received notification of each NKDPM being published, they should ask the Chair to request any items of interest to be brought to Committee.

76. Lancashire 2050

A report was submitted which updated Members on the progress in developing the Lancashire 2050 Strategic Framework.

It was recommended that the outline Lancashire 2050 Strategic Framework that would guide further development of shared detailed priorities and actions with partners and stakeholders across the whole of Lancashire be endorsed; and that it be agreed that the Leader of the Council continues to work with Lancashire Leaders and make representations to that forum on any matters arising from the Council's consideration of the report.

Concerns were raised over social housing in Lancashire, being some of the worst in the country. It was felt that this was not sufficiently reflected in the report, particularly with regards replacement housing. Members were advised that a more detailed document would be circulated ahead of the next full Council meeting.

It was reported that the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper in February 2022 set out a proposed devolution framework, to be enacted through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. Clarity on the ongoing policy direction and timeframes was still awaited.

IT WAS AGREED THAT: the report be noted.

77. Resident Satisfaction Survey

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

78. Community Safety Strategic Update

A report was submitted that provided an update on Burnley's community safety performance as part of the required statutory duty, in accordance with the Crime and

Disorder Act 1998 and sought approval of the Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership's strategic priorities for 2022-2025, namely: -

- maintaining low crime and antisocial behaviour
- targeting repeat offenders and those causing the greatest harm
- serious violence
- road safety
- tackling serious and organised crime
- domestic abuse

Statistics were requested in respect of the effectiveness of the alleygates schemes for increased home security. The Committee was advised that the project officer could provide the statistics directly.

IT WAS AGREED THAT: the report be noted.

79. Food Safety Delivery Plan 2023

The Food Safety Service Delivery Plan for 2022/2023 was submitted for consideration. The Food Standards Agency's (FSA) "Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls by Local Authorities" set out what the FSA expected from local authorities in their delivery of official controls on feed and food law. In recognition of the challenges local authorities faced in delivering statutory food functions whilst having to prioritise protecting communities from Covid 19, the FSA had published the Recovery Plan, of which the delivery plan intended to meet the requirements.

In 2021/22 a total of 540 Official Control Interventions had been completed. The workplan for 2022/23 would continue to align with the FSA Recovery Plan, and where possible the Food Safety Team would move at a faster pace in realigning with the intervention frequencies and other provisions set out in the Food Law Codes of Practice.

IT WAS AGREED THAT: the report be noted.

80. Health and Safety Delivery Plan 2023

The Health and Safety Intervention Plan 2022/23 was submitted which had been produced to outline the health and safety regulation duties undertaken by the Council's health and safety team.

Clarification was sought in respect of enforcement action figures, with no notices, caution or prosecution being issued in 2021/22. It was explained that this was due to the level of proactive working.

Concerns were raised over the condition of pavements in relation to ice, and whilst this was the responsibility of highways, it was felt that grit bin refusal was an issue and Ward Councillors could raise this directly with Lancashire County Council.

IT WAS AGREED THAT: the report be noted.

81. Empty Homes Programme

A report was submitted that sought approval from the Executive to make several Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) for long term vacant properties in the private sector. It also sought approval to dispose of the properties in accordance with the Council's Disposal of Empty Dwellings Policy and scheme of delegation or to Calico Homes as appropriate.

Clarification was sought in terms of compensation and the Committee was advised that there was an obligation to pay market value.

IT WAS AGREED THAT: the report be noted.

82. Environmental Enforcement Services Procurement

A report was submitted which sought approval from the Executive to undertake the re-procurement of the Council's environmental enforcement service for the borough. This provided continuity of service for environmental enforcement services and ensured that a suitable provider was appointed through a tender exercise compliant with the Council's Contract Standing Orders and the Public Contract Regulations 2015. It would continue to deliver its 'Clean Burnley' strategic priorities; provide robust enforcement to challenge and change behaviours where these persisted, regarding littering, dog fouling and excess side waste; and maintain the cleanliness and enforcement across the whole of the borough.

Some discussion took place around the scope and limits of Kingdom Environmental Services issuing Fixed Penalty Notices, along with deployment of resources.

IT WAS AGREED THAT: the report be noted.

83. Memorial Park Wheeled Sports Area

A report was submitted that sought Executive approval to accept the tender submitted by Clark and Kent for the construction of a wheeled sports area at Park Road.

In light of the 'Make Space for Girls' initiative, a question was put regarding the exploration around gender balance. A consultation had taken place the previous year which was being taken into consideration. The scheme was part of a larger project to develop most of the facilities on Park Road. The project would include the upgrade of the existing ball court, repainting and relining of the tennis courts, upgrade of the existing play area to improve inclusivity and refurbishment of the youth shelter.

IT WAS AGREED THAT: the report be noted.

84. Work Programme 2022/23

IT WAS AGREED: that the work programme for 2022/23 be noted.

85. Exclusion of the Public

Members resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting before discussion took place on the following items of business on the grounds that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted if the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

86. Lower St James's Street Heritage Action Zone

A report was submitted on Lower St. James's Street Heritage Action Zone Creative Hub project.

IT WAS AGREED THAT: the report be noted.

87. Burnley Bus Station Facilities Management Services Procurement

A report was submitted on the Burnley Bus Station Facilities Management Contract.

IT WAS AGREED THAT: the report be noted.

88. Stables Cafe Lease

A report was submitted on the Stables Café lease variation.

IT WAS AGREED THAT: the report be noted.