



SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Wednesday, 27th June, 2018 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillors A Tatchell (Chair), M Brindle (Vice-Chair), T Commis, I Emo, D Ferrier, M Johnstone, S Khan, G Lishman, M Lishman and P Reynolds

OFFICERS

Asad Mushtaq	– Head of Finance and Property
Paul Gatrell	– Head of Housing & Development Control
Howard Hamilton-Smith	– Finance Manager
Alison McEwan	– Democracy Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Foster, L Khan, and Malik.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings

Members considered the Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings.

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS & PRIVATE MEETINGS BE NOTED.

4. Section 106 Agreements

The Head of Housing & Development Control gave a presentation on Section 106 Agreements related to planning applications.

Members considered the following:

- How S106 Agreements were devised, and by who. Drafted related to policies (such as the Local Plan) or by statutory consultees such as Highways or Education who would supply suggested clauses according to their policies.
- Policies re flood risk. These would be dealt with as a condition attached to approval of the planning application rather than as part of the S106 agreement.
- How ward councillors would be made aware of relevant S106 Agreements – particularly open space and foot/cycle way improvements. Any planning obligations sought as part of a planning application would form part of the consideration of that application and would be contained within the planning file and available for comment from any interested parties.

The Chair thanked Mr Gatrell for an informative presentation.

5. Strategic Partner Annual Update - Liberata

Ian Brotheridge, Liberata's Regional Contract Director gave a presentation updating Members on the aims and performance of the Strategic Partnership Contract.

Members discussed the following:

- The number of transactions overall had increased – was this related to Revenue & Benefit queries? There had been an increase in calls related to garden waste collections and council tax bills, but also a number of calls related to the roll out of Universal Credit. From other contract areas, experience suggested this could take 12-18 months to reduce.
- Jobs created through the contract – were these jobs for local people. They tended to be filled by people from within the east Lancashire and the surrounding areas.
- Retention of TUPE'd staff – out of 104 people TUPE'd to Liberata, 88 were still employed 2.5 years later.

Members thanked Mr Brotheridge for his presentation.

6. Final Budget Outturn Report 2017/18

Members considered a report on the 2017/18 budget outturn position.

Members discussed the following:

- The difficulties of forecasting income, which is dependent on a variety of factors. Monthly monitoring involving Heads of Service is undertaken to provide an updated position.

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7. Treasury Management 2017/18 - review of activity

Members received a report outlining the Council's Treasury Management activity for 2017/18.

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8. Year End Performance Report 2017/18

Members considered a report on the 2017/18 Year End Performance data which highlighted performance of strategically significant, or strong or poor performance.

Members discussed the following:

- 80% of calls were answered within the target time – was there any data about how many calls were resolved successfully? Also with the calls not answered within target time how much was this missed by?
- There had been a reduction in visitor numbers at Towneley Hall since charges had been introduced. Were there any other reasons for the fall in numbers, and had any consultation been carried out since the charges had been introduced?
- It was pleasing to see the number of empty homes that had been brought back into use, but it was a long standing issue, and the number that remained empty would take a number of years to tackle.

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

9. Scrutiny Review Groups

The Dementia Services Review group was still active, and a meeting to review progress would be scheduled over the summer period.

It was proposed that a meeting be held to measure progress against the recommendations in the Railway Review that had been completed some time ago.

A number of topics were identified to be researched and scoped as potential future reviews.

10. Work Programme 2018/19

The draft work plan for 2018/19 was noted.