

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**6.00 P.M.**

**10TH MARCH 2021**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors Tricia Heath (Chair), Paul Anderton, Stephie Barber, Alan Biddulph, Abi Mills, John Reynolds, Alistair Sinclair, Merv Evans, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Caroline Jackson and Cary Matthews and David Whitaker (Substitute for Mandy King)

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors Mandy King and Stewart Scothern

Also in Attendance:- Councillors Merv Evans, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Caroline Jackson and Cary Matthews

Officers in attendance:-

Kieran Keane	Chief Executive
Mark Davies	Director for Communities and the Environment
Sarah Davies	Director of Corporate Services
Jason Syers	Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer
Jenny Kay	Civic & Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer

The Chair advised that she would accept requests from non-Members to speak at the meeting of the Panel in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15.

**28 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

The Minutes would be signed in due course.

**29 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR**

There were no items of urgent business.

**30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor David Whitaker declared in an interest in respect of Minute 31 as a member of Acorn.

**31 DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCILLOR CAROLINE JACKSON**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Caroline Jackson, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing to the meeting.

An update was provided for the Committee on the newly established LATCo for Housing. The details of the LATCo were now to be worked through such as contracts for Council services - Legal, Human Resources and Housing which the LATCo would pay for providing. There was also the need for training for the new Shareholder Committee and Directors of the LATCo.

The Committee went on to discuss other areas of the Housing Portfolio including the impact of COVID on the Housing service.

It was suggested that a Housing Recovery Informal Task Group be scoped to consider the impact of COVID. This was unanimously agreed.

Members went on to discuss the Government's white paper on social housing, the possibility of introducing the Selective Landlord Licensing scheme, Mainway, private landlords relating to antisocial behaviour and the latest position on repairs to Council houses.

It was further agreed that the work of the Task Group should include working with the police on issues regarding anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol problems and how they impacted on residents and good landlords.

***Resolved :-***

- (1) That the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing be thanked for her attendance at the meeting.
- (2) That a Housing Recovery Informal Task Group be scoped to consider the impact of COVID on housing within the district. To include working with the police on issues regarding anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol problems and how they impacted on residents and good landlords.

**32 WORK PROGRAMME REPORT**

An update on the Work Programme was provided for the Committee.

It was noted the findings of the People's Jury on Climate change was now timetabled for September.

It was reported that the Chair had met with the Chair of the Property Portfolio Informal Task Group and officers to discuss the way forward for the Group. The Task Group needed to be rescoped and focused as the circumstances had changed since the Task Group last met.

Members were also reminded that items would be requested for the Work Programme in the annual press release shortly. The Committee was encouraged to forward any suggestions to Democratic Services.

**Resolved :-**

That the updates be noted.

**33 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Stephe Barber and unanimously agreed :

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

**Resolved:-**

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

***The ‘live’ Teams meeting concluded at 6.40pm  
and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee convened in  
a private Teams meeting to consider the exempt item.***

**34 FEEDBACK FROM THE MORECAMBE HIGH STREET BID**

The Chairman welcomed the Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Sustainable Economic Prosperity and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Recovery & Resilience to the meeting.

The Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration provided the Committee with an overview of the recent Future High Street bid for Morecambe.

Members were advised of the application process and the reasons the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government gave for the bid being unsuccessful. The bid was one of many Lancashire bids that were not successful with only one in the county securing funding.

It was suggested that an Informal Task Group be established to consider the bid and report back to the next meeting of the Committee and that the 2 Cabinet Members be invited to the April meeting to consider the Task Group’s findings.

**Resolved :-**

- (1) That the Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Regeneration and the Cabinet Members be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

- (2) That an Informal Task Group be established to consider the bid and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.
- (3) That the 2 Cabinet Members be invited to the April meeting to consider the Task Group's findings.

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Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Jenny Kay, Democratic Services - email [jkay@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:jkay@lancaster.gov.uk)**