

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

6.00 P.M.

4TH AUGUST 2021

PRESENT:- Councillors Richard Austen-Baker (Chair), John Reynolds (Vice-Chair), Alan Biddulph, Adrian Duggan (substitute for Stewart Scothern) Mandy King, Jack Lenox and Abi Mills

Also in Attendance:-

Councillors Caroline Jackson, Joan Jackson and Jack O'Dwyer-Henry

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors Stewart Scothern and Alistair Sinclair

Officers in attendance:-

Stephen Metcalfe
Jenny Kay

Principal Democratic Support Officer
Civic & Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer

8 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th June 2021, were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

9 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of Urgent Business.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

11 DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Chair welcomed the Leader of the Council, Councillor Caroline Jackson to the meeting. It was noted that all members of Budget and Performance Panel had been invited for this item.

The Leader provided the Committee with an overview of the priorities that had been agreed during the pandemic by Cabinet last year which were :-

- A Sustainable District
- An Inclusive and Prosperous Local Economy
- Healthy and Happy Communities
- A Co-operative, Kind and Responsible Council

With the emerging themes relating to these priorities being :-

- Climate Emergency
- Community Wealth Being
- Community Engagement

Members were advised that 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) had been established to monitor and measure the success of each priority.

The Leader explained that overarching all the priorities and services provided by the Council was the deficit of £1.8million therefore savings had to be made. Prior to COVID, Outcome Based Resourcing was being investigated and it was hoped this would be implemented for the 2023/24 budget.

It was reported that the Council's large projects such as the recent acquisition of the Frontierland site, Canal Quarter and Mainway were moving forward while smaller projects such as Selective Landlord Licensing would be introduced at little cost and would have a great impact on people's lives.

Councillor Caroline Jackson informed Members that Lancashire County Council was currently engaging with District Councils to open dialogues on important issues for local authorities with Highways being top of all district Councils' lists.

The Chair invited the Committee and the members of the Budget and Performance Panel present to ask questions of the Leader.

The Committee went on to ask a number of questions relating to staffing, Chief Executive recruitment, the opening of the Town Halls for officers, the future Capital Investment Strategy, weeds in the district, affordable housing, the Council's engagement with the local community and the importance of the SDGs being achievable and measurable.

Resolved:-

That Councillor Caroline Jackson be thanked for her attendance and her informative presentation to the Committee.

12 CONSIDERATION OF ANY COUNCIL OR CABINET REFERRALS

There were no referrals to consider.

13 WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

The Committee was requested to consider the list of suggestions for the Committee's Work Programme that had been received from members of the public and Councillors. It was reported that the Chair of the Committee and the Budget and Performance Panel Chair along with the Pre-Scrutiny Champion had met with the Council's Executive Team to discuss the outstanding Work Programme and the suggestions that had been submitted for the forthcoming year.

The Committee considered the suggestions and agreed to the following being included in the Committee's Work Programme and also referrals to Budget and Performance Panel :-

Resolved:-

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Action</u>
Town centres to be re-imagined – incorporating vacant shops and markets.	Scoping meeting to be arranged and establish an Informal Task Group.
Complaints received by the Local Government Ombudsman.	Refer to B&PP.
Focus on one Council Service each year beginning with Planning.	Scoping meeting to be arranged and then the Committee to agree which type of Task Group to be established.
Key Performance Indicators and Sustainable Development Goals.	Refer to the Budget and Performance Panel to work with the relevant Cabinet Member.
Local Authority Trading Companies (LATCos)	Retain on the Work Programme and ask for an update in 6 months on the Housing LATCo and any other proposed LATCos. Invite the Leader, relevant Portfolio holders and Members of the Budget and Performance Panel to the meeting.

Existing Task Groups and Working Groups

Name	Progress	Action
Review of Recycling Working Group – requested by Council.	Met in June 2021.	Meeting again later in the year.
Property Portfolio Informal Task Group.	Met once. Wait until commissioned piece of work undertaken and report back to the Task Group.	Revisit in the New Year.

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Chair

(The meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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