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PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD Agenda

Date Wednesday 31 January 2024

Time 6.00 pm

Venue Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL

Notes 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires any advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Paul Entwistle or Peter Thompson in advance of the meeting.

2. CONTACT OFFICER for this Agenda is Peter Thompson Tel. 0161 770 5151 or email

Item No

5 Minutes of Previous Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board Meeting (Pages 1 - 8)

The Minutes of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board held on 6th December and 21st December 2023 are attached for approval.

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Present: Councillor McLaren (Chair)
Councillors Ghafoor, Ibrahim, Iqbal and Moores

Also in Attendance:

Councillor Arooj Shah- Leader of Oldham Council

Councillor Elaine Taylor- Deputy Leader of the Council and
Cabinet Member for Housing and Licensing

Councillor Chris Goodwin- Cabinet Member for
Neighbourhoods

Emma Barton- Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Paul Clifford- Director of Economy

Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart- Strategic Planning and Information

Peter Richards- Head of Planning

Dave Benstead- Chairman of Oldham Economic Board

Peter Thompson -Constitutional Services

Durga Paul- Constitutional Services

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ghafoor and Hince

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

5 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, held 8th November 2023, be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment that the.... 'Scrutiny Board agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to examine Homelessness comprising Councillors McLaren, H. Harrison, Ghafoor and Surjan.'

6 **OLDHAM ECONOMIC REVIEW UPDATE**

Councillor Shah, Mr. D. Benstead (Chair of the Oldham Economic Review Board) and the Director of Economy presented an update on the Oldham Economic Review (OER).

The Board were given a summary of six recommendations to advance the levelling up of Oldham.

1. The Long Game
2. Economic Purpose
3. Business and Innovation
4. Institutions
5. Skills and Jobs
6. Civic Pride and 'A Sense of Place'

The Oldham Economy Board (OEB) had been established to drive the OER and were taking an 'Action focused' approach to levelling up. Officers gave some insight into the work already being done with STEM Programmes being rolled out to Oldham Schools, business support with The Hive due to complete in January 2024 and the first two district plans were scheduled to start by March 2024.

The Board stressed the importance of education and suggested this be a starting point. They also advised that the process of obtaining funding needed further coordination as their current approach seemed fragmented.

The Board support efforts by the OEB to boost the economy. The Scrutiny Board feel that they can assist the OEB to develop a more robust economic strategy for the economy.

Resolved:

1. That report and presentation are noted and welcomed.
2. The Chair agreed to arrange a further meeting with key officers to agree a framework for to assist with the development of the Borough's economic strategy.

7

EMERGENCY PLAN: LOCAL REVIEW

The Deputy Chief Executive (Place) provided the Scrutiny Board with an overview of the Council's Emergency Plan. Feedback and comments on the report were welcomed in addition to advice on how to raise both engagement with members and awareness of Emergency Plan Training, that was scheduled to be held in January 2024.

This annual report provided an update on the current emergency response on-call structures and potential areas to review. The keys areas reviewed include Emergency Planning Structure, current on call structures for Gold, Silver and Bronze Officers, possible changes to Gold, Silver and Bronze Structures from January 2024, a summary of incidents in 2023, completed training 2023 and planned training 2024.

Members of the Board noted that a training session was scheduled for early 2024. The Chair suggested that training on Emergency Planning be made mandatory for all members.

Resolved:

1. The Scrutiny Board note the Emergency Plan.
2. The Board recommend that Emergency Plan Training be made mandatory to all members.

8

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

The Scrutiny Board considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) which sought permission to approve the publication and consultation of the draft version of a new Local Plan for Oldham (referred to as the Draft Local Plan in the report).

The council was required to prepare a Local Plan to ensure that it has an up-to-date and comprehensive planning framework to support the borough's economic, environmental and social objectives. Oldham's Local Plan will guide development in the borough up to 2039. Once adopted, it would replace the current Local Plan (the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD) which was adopted in November 2011 and any saved older planning policies from the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2006.

The Draft Local Plan follows on from public consultations that were carried out on the Issues and Options for a new Local Plan in Summer 2021. It builds also upon the comments the authority has received and has been informed by on-going studies and pieces of evidence that have been completed since the Issues and Options consultation. The Draft Local Plan is accompanied by an Integrated Assessment (IA), which incorporates the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA), and by a Habitat Regulations Assessment. The Draft Local Plan and associated appendices, IA, IA Scoping Report Update, HRA, Consultation Statement and Issues and Options Comments and Response Schedule are attached at Appendix 1 to 8. Approval is sought to publish and consult on the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents, with consultation commencing no earlier than 10 January 2024 for six weeks. Note, following approval there may be further formatting amendments made to the documents to address accessibility requirements prior to publication for consultation.

The Scrutiny Board in considering the report noted that Cabinet would be discussing the matter at the Meeting on 11th December 2023.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet be requested to support the recommendations in the report that the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents, including the Integrated Assessment and Habitat Regulation Assessment, be approved for publication and consultation commencing no earlier than 10th January 2024 for six weeks.
2. That a progress report on the Draft Local Plan be presented to the Scrutiny Board in approximately six months (June 2024).

9

ECONOMY DIRECTORATE - PERFORMANCE MEASURES & BUSINESS PLAN REPORT

The Scrutiny Board received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) which provided Scrutiny of Corporate Performance Aims, in respect of the Place Directorate which aimed to provide assurance that the Council's corporate priorities were aligned to the needs of residents (resident focus).

The report highlighted that the Council's services were good and were on track to achieve objectives. Any services that were not on track, or had been identified as risks, were being supported or

challenged to rectify this. The purpose of this report was to provide an overview of corporate performance against agreed service business plan measures for the Q2 period. The current reporting format has been developed as an interim solution, with a view to bringing more mature performance reporting online once the BIPS Programme and Digital Services Foundation Project had been completed.

The report referred to a new software system (Locata) which assisted with the effective delivery of the housing register and allocation service and a member requested training on the software system.

Members requested that Key Performance Indicators be numbered in future reports.

Resolved:

1. The Scrutiny Board note and welcome the report.
2. That Members be provided with training on the Locata software system.

10 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Board considered its Work Programme for 2023/24.

The Board confirmed that a Task and Finish Group has been established comprising Councillors McLaren, H. Harrison, Ghafoor and Surjan to examine homelessness.

Resolved:

1. That the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board's Work Programme 2023/24 be noted.
2. That a Task and Finish Group be established, comprising Councillors McLaren, H. Harrison, Ghafoor and Surjan, to examine the issue of homelessness.

11 **KEY DECISION DOCUMENT**

The Board considered the Key Decision Document, which records key decisions that the authority is due to take.

Resolved: That the Key Decision Document be noted.

12 **RULE 13 AND 14**

The Chair reported that there was nothing to report under this heading.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 8.00pm

Present: Councillor McLaren (Chair)
Councillors Ibrahim, Iqbal, Moores and Williamson

Also in Attendance:
Councillor Goodwin – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Nasir Dad – Director of Environment
Peter Thompson – Constitutional Services

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ghafoor and Hindle.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions for this meeting of the Scrutiny Board to consider.

5 **DON'T TRASH OLDHAM: YEAR END REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS**

The Scrutiny Board received a report of the Director of Environment reviewing progress of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' initiative. Clean streets and tackling issues of fly tipping and littering that blight the Borough's communities remained a priority for Oldham residents and for the Council. The second iteration of the Don't Trash Oldham (DTO) campaign had commenced in October 2022, and was in addition to community engagement, it also focused on betterment/transforming communities by working with ward members, which was supported by a limited budget for each area, which could be used to realise the requests of Councillors.

The Director's report therefore provided an end of year report and detailed the outcomes and achievements over the last twelve months; it examined the lessons learned (what has worked and what could be improved) and proposed some new measures/targeted interventions for the future which aimed to strike a balance between new ways of working whilst addressing the ongoing environmental challenges faced by the residents of Oldham and the Council's approach in tackling such challenges.

The Director of Environment reported that from October 2022 to October 2023, the DTO campaign had morphed into a betterment phase to transform neighbourhoods and build on the legacy work from year one of the programme (2021- 2022). This was backed up by intensive **Page 5** and clean up activity in

highlighted 'hotspot' neighbourhoods. The accepted aim of this programme was to 'make a difference' by undertaking work which was more than the first version of the DTO campaign. This included visibly improving areas, ensuring detailed attention and physical improvements that were not always deliverable as part of routine work.

The report also outlined proposals on how the legacy of DTO campaign would become embedded and what this would look like moving forward. There was a recognition that given the work completed over the last two iterations of DTO, a sustainable approach was needed to ensure previous gains would not be lost and a more durable model be adopted moving forward which would meet the needs of the borough, the residents and ensures a clean environment for all.

Integral to the option approved at cabinet in September 2022 was a targeted approach in the known hotspot locations with enforcement and a dedicated clean-up to influence a sustained behaviour change amongst residents.

The report looked at targeted 'hot spot enforcement and clean-up work. Focused activity involved consistent enforcement and clean-up work across five of the inner Oldham-town wards, namely: Alexandra, Medlock Vale, St. Marys, Waterhead and Werneth. Coupled with this work, the Council's Enforcement Officers and Environment Marshals served legal notices to ensure private yards were cleared and that any defects were resolved. Part of this work involved a range of visits, advice and enforcement actions undertaken, as follows:

- 4,996 service requests (average of 416 per month)
- 1,741 enforcement actions taken (average of 145 per month)
- 41 prosecutions taken to court or submitted to legal
- 166 FPNs served

The Don't Trash Oldham campaign was one of the Councils most high profile and successful communications campaigns of the last several years – both in terms of output and engagement. The campaign had attracted interest from other local authorities and has been replicated across the country. In 2022, it had shortlisted for a Local Government Chronicle Award.

In terms of options for the future, the Director of Environment reported advised that it is was clear that, over the last two years, both the DTO and Betterment campaigns had delivered significant improvements boroughwide, changed behaviours, and where necessary, secured legal action against individuals and businesses that were committing environmental crimes. It had also become clear that, in some areas, fly tipping remained a problem and although there have been some improvements, overall, the problem remained persistent.

In addition to the above, as the campaigns had delivered their priorities, additional issues have also been identified that require attention, with the main ones being unadopted/unregistered

alleys and gully cleaning (boroughwide). Given the above, and the need to consider additional/different options to build on the successes and to focus resources where needed the most, the report detailed six options which it was felt could deliver a longer lasting and effective approach and build on the successes of the last two years.

Option 1 – to continue to target known hotspot locations with focused enforcement and quick pick up to remove the waste as soon as possible to deter further fly-tipping. Option 1 was fully budgeted as part of the DTO/Betterment savings identified in 2022/23.

Option 2 – involved merging the Hot spot enforcement/fly-tipping team in the Environmental Health service with those already in place in Environmental Services to create one larger, more responsive team that combines enforcement and street cleansing/ pick up.

Option 3 – would aim to maximise opportunities to bid for extra resources from Government to tackle fly-tipping issues on the back of the success of the DTO/Betterment investment.

Option 4 – involved new borough-wide approaches to gully cleaning to address the persistent complaints regarding the Service. Based on a 15-month plan, requiring additional investment, which had already been requested as part of the 2024/25 budget options.

Option 5 – would see the District Teams continuing to work alongside Environmental Services to support Members and community groups to take part in social action within their neighbourhoods, including those people wishing to organise litter picks, enhance open spaces, or improve the condition of their alleyway.

Option 6 – this would see the expansion of the role of the team and undertake work on unadopted alleys. Expanding the role to unadopted alleys would significantly increase the workload and expectations would have to be managed. Option 6 was currently unbudgeted.

Members of the Scrutiny Board commended work that had been done thus far in terms of making Oldham a tidier and cleaner place and, in doing so, commended and endorsed Options 1 – 5 above, whilst feeling that Option 6 was probably not deliverable at the present time.

Members noted that paragraph 3.3 of the report noted the lack of resident engagement and compliance and it was evident that a considerable amount of fly-tipping was being generated by properties that backed onto empty spaces which would result in alternative models for enforcement, such as the use of CCTV where appropriate. Be considered. In this regard members sought clarification on the role of Landlords and whether the

Council's selective Licensing Policies could be used to get Landlords to show more responsibility.



Oldham
Council

Resolved:

1. That the Scrutiny Board notes the achievements of the Don't Trash Oldham Campaign across the borough over the last twelve months.
2. That the Scrutiny Board endorses and commends Options 1 – 5, detailed at paragraph 4 (Future Options) of the submitted report.
3. That the Committee request a further update report on the Don't Trash Oldham Campaign in approximately 12 months.
4. That the Committee request a report, to a future meeting, detailing the Council's work in terms of its Selective Licensing policies.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 7.30pm