

SCRUTINY BOARD (SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AND CULTURE)

THURSDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor M Rafique in the Chair

Councillors J Akhtar, D Cohen, M Lyons,
P Wadsworth, R Harington, M Ingham,
J McKenna, B Urry and S Bentley

1 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

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There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

3 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

4 Late Items

Agenda item 11a – Work Schedule was admitted to the agenda.

5 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Urry declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10, 2011/12 Q4 Performance report and Refresh of the Council Business Plan 2011-15, as a Member of Roundhay Environmental Action Project (REAP).

At this point Members raised the issue of the new rules with regards to declaring interests after the 1st July 2012. Members were informed that training will be available for Members.

RESOLVED – That the dates for the Member training be circulated along with a briefing note on the new arrangements.

6 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Chapman, Cllr S Bentley was in attendance as substitute.

7 Minutes –

The minutes of the meetings held on the 19th and 23rd of April 2012 were approved as a correct record.

8 Changes to the Council's Constitution in relation to Scrutiny

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presented his report which provided the Board with information on recent amendments to the Council's

Constitution, as agreed by council on 21st May 2012, which directly relate to and/or impact on the work of Scrutiny Boards.

RESOLVED – That the amendments to the Council’s Constitution outlined in the report be noted.

9 Co-opted Members

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presented his report which sought the Board’s formal consideration of the appointment of co-opted Members to the Board.

RESOLVED – That only where required for specific Inquiries will co-opted members be appointed to the Board.

10 Equality Improvement Priorities 2011- 2015

The Senior Policy and Performance Officer presented a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance). The report brought the new Equality Improvement Priorities and the revised Equality and Diversity Policy.

Members discussed the item in detail. They questioned the officer present as to the amount of monitoring that took place in relation to compliance with the Council’s Policies on equality.

Members expressed the importance of the continued efforts of the Chief Executive to ensure that 100% of staff receive an appraisal with the hope that this would identify any issues that staff may be facing with regard to discrimination.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (b) that a report be submitted detailing the ethnicity of the work force within the City Development Directorate.

(Councillor Wadsworth entered the meeting at 10.20am during the discussion of this item)

11 2011/12 Q4 Performance Report and Refresh of the Council Business Plan 2011-15

The Director of City Development (Martin Farrington) presented a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance). The report presented to Scrutiny a summary of the quarter 4 (year end) performance data for 2011/12 which provided an update on progress in delivering the relevant priorities in the Council Business Plan 2011-15 and City Priority Plan 2011-15.

The Head of Strategic Planning, Policy and Performance (Paul Maney) was also in attendance to help answer Members questions.

Members discussed the report in detail. Officers were questioned about the procedures surrounding Section 106 agreements and how best to ensure money from these agreements can be used to benefit communities in Leeds. Members also asked about planning application numbers and discussed the difficulties in getting developers to build on brown field sites.

Members also considered the importance of ensuring Leeds has a low carbon economy Members agreed that better infrastructure and public transport could help achieve this. A discussion was held on the appropriateness of the indicator used in relation to marketing and promotion of the City and whether conversion rates should be used rather than Inquiries.

Discussion was also held on the rationale behind making targets for the number of Inquiries. That manufacturing should also be included in the BUS 2 indicator (apprenticeships) and the objective of the Quality Bus Contracts.

Also that written answers be provided:

- In relation to the number of apprenticeships; and
- In relation to library usage and the inaccuracy of previous figures.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Board note the Q4 performance information and the issues that were highlighted within the City Priority Plan Performance report;
- (b) that a report be received with regards to developments in Quality Bus Contracts; and
- (c) that the further information requested be provided.

(Councillor Bentley left the meeting during the discussion of this item at 11.30am)

12 Sources of work for the Scrutiny Board

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presented his report which provided information and guidance on potential sources of work and areas of priority within the Board's terms of reference.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the following areas of Scrutiny be considered for the forthcoming municipal year:
 1. Marketing and promotion of the City, including accessibility and value for money of the cultural events and activities provided by the City;
 2. The use of Bus Lanes by Hackney Carriage vehicles;

3. The role of Leisure and Culture in the promotion of Public Health; and
 4. Bus Services in Leeds.
- (b) That the Chair be authorised in conjunction with officers. To draw up inquiry terms of reference for subsequent approval by the Scrutiny Board.

13 Work Schedule

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presented a report which considered the Board's work schedule for the forthcoming municipal year.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

14 Date and time of next meeting

10am, Tuesday 12th July 2012.