

**IMPROVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**  
**9 September 2008**  
**(2:00 – 4:00pm)**

**Present:**

Councillors:

DAR Forster	A Smith
O Hedley	KW Stansfield
GK Robinson	K Watson
JM Salter (in the Chair)	

Officers:

R Bowles (Assistant Chief Executive)  
J Kellett (Chief Finance Officer)  
T Watson (Director of Regeneration)  
H Finnimore (Director of Customer Services)  
D Harris (Democratic Services Officer)

**Apologies:**

Councillors: R Betton, MM English, JR Fergus, EM Walton  
Officers: P Wilding (Interim Deputy Chief Executive)

**1 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2008 were received.

**2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor KW Stansfield declared an interest in agenda item 3 – Affordable Housing – as a member of the Board of Teesdale Housing Association.

**3 AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Reference from June meeting**

Members were circulated with an update report on Affordable Housing Provision, as requested at the last meeting of the Improvement and Performance Board, held on 10 June 2008. The Director of Regeneration reported on progress to date towards the annual 'target' of the provision of 25 units of affordable housing per year, and the projected performance for 08/09, noting that progress on development of the land at Station Terrace, Cotherstone, which had been gifted to facilitate the formation of a Community Land Trust, had stalled due to legal difficulties, albeit it appears that resolution is imminent. The current position regarding the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document was outlined, noting that the final report of the 2007 interim update of the Teesdale District Housing Needs Survey was awaited.

Members requested that updates be given at the next meeting on (a) progress of the housing needs survey and (b) development of the land at Station Terrace, Cotherstone.

**4 RECYCLING: Reference from June meeting**

Members were circulated with an update report on Refuse Collection and Recycling Performance, as requested at the last meeting of the Improvement and Performance Board, held on 10 June 2008. The Assistant Chief

Executive reported that most targets had been regularly exceeded, with the exception of (a) those linked to the anaerobic digester, which had been out of action, and (b) BVPI 91a and 92a (% of households resident in the authority's area served by kerbside collection of recyclables), where it was felt that the target had been an ambitious one, bearing in mind the number of distant, outlying homesteads.

Members noted that the donation to Rotters had not been included in the reported costs and the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that £53,000 had been given this financial year.

Members had learned that some recycled materials from the UK had ended up being tipped abroad and requested whether Overview & Scrutiny could investigate the destination and manner of disposal of Teesdale's recycling, as part of the review of Waste Management currently being undertaken by the Finance Panel.

(Update – this investigation will be undertaken by Gary Hutchinson and Nadia Wetherall and reported back to the next meeting).

## **5 PROGRESS REPORT**

Members were circulated with a copy of the progress report covering the period April to May 2008. The report updated members on progress made in the delivery of the Council's Improvement Programme, which was now concentrating on activity associated with the transition to the new authority together with the maintenance of current service standards. The Director of Customer Services presented the report and outlined the key achievements of improvement projects for the period.

Members noted the report.

## **6 CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES**

Members were circulated with a copy of the Corporate Plan Update Report for the period Quarter 1 2008/09, which updated members on the progress made in the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan. The Assistant Chief Executive presented the report.

Members noted the report and requested that:

- dog fouling incidents reported through CRM be plotted onto a GIS map in order to highlight 'hot spots' and that the mapping be brought to the next meeting (Gary Hutchinson and Madeleine Hill to take forward)
- an update on the new industrial units at Stainton Grove be brought to the next meeting. Members were concerned that early tenancies be sought as the building would be subject to rates on its completion (Sue Berresford to take forward)
- clarification be sought regarding how the ownership and responsibility for the Council's play areas at Scar Top, Demesnes and Stainton Grove will be taken forward through LGR (Emma Martin to take forward via CMT agenda)

## **7 PERFORMANCE REPORT (Quarter 1)**

Members were circulated with a report which provided an analysis of the Council's performance during Quarter 1 (April-June 2008) against the National and Local Indicators which make up the Balance Scorecard. The report identified areas where performance had remained strong or improved and areas where there had been a decline in performance and/or a need for remedial action.

A summary of performance was noted as follows:

	On Target %	Below Target %
Balance Scorecard	78	22

(9 indicators were not currently applicable as they are assessed annually or quarterly)

Members noted the report.

## **8 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

Members were circulated with a report which updated them on the progress of the management of corporate risks to the authority. The Chief Finance Manager presented the report, noting that risk assessments contained within committee reports were yet to be reviewed. It was expected that training on this issue for officers and members would be undertaken before the next meeting.

Members noted the report.

## **9 BUDGET MONITORING 2008/09**

Members were circulated with a report which advised them of the position in relation to revenue and capital expenditure and income to 30 June 2008 for the financial year 2008/09. The Chief Finance Officer presented the report, which had been taken to Executive Committee on 8 September.

Members expressed concern regarding the under-use of the Hole-in-the-Wall car park and the current shortfall in car park income for the year. They noted that an earlier recommendation for improved signage to the car park had not yet been taken forward.

Members noted the report and requested that the issue of the Hole-in-the-Wall car park be placed on the next agendas for CMT and Executive Briefing (Emma Martin and Mike Dennis to take forward)

## **10 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were circulated with a report which gave details of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme for 2008/09, which had been agreed by Council on 27 August.

Members noted the report.

## **11 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE TASK & FINISH REPORT**

Councillor A Smith verbally reported that the Performance Monitoring Task and Finish Group was continuing to monitor the percentage of high/low risk food premises inspections carried out within the financial year. It was noted that new software, currently being rolled out nationally, would enable figures to be more meaningful.

Members noted that staffing issues in the Planning section had impacted on performance figures. This would be exacerbated by the imminent loss of two senior members of staff – the Director of Regeneration and the Strategic Planning Manager.

Members noted the report and it was agreed that the issue of Planning staffing be taken forward to the next meeting of CMT (15 September). (To be taken forward by Trevor Watson).

## **12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 2 December 2008 at 2:00 pm in the Council Chamber.

DH/ 17September 08

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