
RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 20th July, 2021

- Present:** Councillor Paddy Short (in the Chair),
Councillors Carole Haythornthwaite and Andrew Clegg
- In Attendance:** Councillor Paul Cox, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Markets and Town
Centre
- Apologies:** Councillors Michael Hindley, Patrick McGinley and Tim O'Kane
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82 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hindley, O'Kane and McGinley.

Absent from the Committee were Councillors Mahmood and Aziz.

83 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations.

84 Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

Resolved - **That the Minutes be received and approved as a correct record.**

85 Confirmation of Work Programme

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report requesting that the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave consideration to and commented on the draft work programme for 2021/22. He informed the Committee that it was their role to approve the work programme but also pointed out that there were gaps in the work programme to accommodate additional items being added and brought forward for scrutiny during the year. He pointed out that items for consideration should be forwarded to himself to be considered in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.

Resolved - **That the work programme for the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2021/22 be agreed.**

86 Nomination of Co-optees

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report to inform Members of the nominated Co-optees for the 2021-22 Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He explained

that up to four member of the public could be appointed to the Committee and that it was the intention of such Co-optees to be non-political.

The Chair informed the Committee that they had received three nominations for the role of Co-optee; Bernard Dawson, Doug Hayes and Stephen Button (all former Councillors with relevant experience of Scrutiny Committees). He requested that the Committee gave consideration to the three proposed nominations.

Resolved - **That the Resources Committee approved the following three proposed nominations as Co-optees of the Committee for 2021/22: Bernard Dawson, Doug Hayes and Stephen Button, for proposal of formal approval at Full Council.**

87 Consideration of Scrutiny Protocol

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report for the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to give consideration to the adoption of a protocol for Scrutiny Panels/Task and Finish Groups. He explained that the Council's constitution allowed the Committee to establish Panels to scrutinise specific topics. The report set out the process for the running of these Panels. He requested that the Committee gave consideration to adopting the process.

Resolved - **That the Scrutiny Panel protocol be adopted as detailed in Section 3 of the report, attached to the agenda.**

88 Temporary Rent Concessions for Indoor Market Hall Traders

The Executive Director – Environment and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Town Centres and Markets, Councillor Paul Cox, reported on temporary rent concessions for indoor market hall traders.

Councillor Cox gave details of continued rent reductions and discussions that had been held with market traders. He outlined the history of rent reductions in the market and compared rates across Lancashire. He referred to the changes that had been applied after lockdown and efforts that had been made to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the markets. He pointed out that proposals for change had come from the market traders themselves and explained the difficulties faced by changes in shopping habits to the retail industry. The Committee was informed of the importance of adapting and changing to meet these challenges and to entice people back to the markets. He reported that they encouraged traders to promote themselves online as much as they could and this aspect of trading was a significant part of new tenancy leases. He reported that pop up stalls were doing really well and were another option to offer people using the market. Work had also been done with the events team and Sunday Markets were successful. He informed the Committee that they had not wanted to make major changes during the present difficult times but preferred to let things settle down before planning any further changes.

The Chair referred to reduced capacity due to works taking place and asked if this would continue.

Councillor Cox explained that the Market Traders had raised the issue of capacity outside the market hall and they had worked with them to improve the situation.

Steve Riley explained that Traders signed up to leases lasting 3 years with a 6 month break clause. The Committee was informed that all leases lasted the same length of time. Further information was also provided on the different payment options.

The Chair asked if payment on the same day was being phased out and if there was any scope to use 'Boost' to promote the Market Hall. Councillor Cox agreed that payment on the same day was being phased out and that they had done a lot a work with the press to advertise the market in a positive way. He indicated that they were aiming to attract younger people to the market by providing social space and food places. The aim was to provide experiences and offer something different.

Steve Riley referred to proposal to increase footfall through town centre events but advised of the financial risks of putting events on in the town centre which later, may have to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Councillor Cox referred to efforts they had made to look at how other towns were promoting and managing their markets for ideas and to use best practice from this.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

Signed:.....

Date:

Chair of the meeting
At which the minutes were confirmed