

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Bi-annual Scrutiny Report
Committee: Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Date: 9 January 2012
Cabinet Member: -
CMT Member: Anthony Payne (Director for Development & Regeneration)
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Ref: GP-OSP 2011/12
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Executive Summary:

This report sets out a review of the Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the period June 2011 to September 2011.

Corporate Plan 2011-2014:

The Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel provide strategic scrutiny of the following City and Council Priorities and key areas:

- Delivering Growth
- Raising Aspiration
- Reducing Inequalities
- Value for Communities
- The strategic and operational activities of the Department for Development & Regeneration

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

None

Other Implications: e.g. Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management and Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion:

None

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

That the report is noted.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

N/A

Background papers:

Growth and Prosperity OSP terms of reference

Sign off: N/A

Key achievements during the period June 2011 to September 2011.

Plymouth Community Homes

The panel hosted a further review of Plymouth Community Homes to receive progress against the commitments made to tenants in Plymouth on transfer of the housing stock. The panel was informed that 65 of the 125 promises have been met and that customer satisfaction had increased, albeit there was still work to be done to increase it further to above average. The panel requested information on the promises that PCH were hoping to meet next year

Highways Maintenance

The panel sought reassurance that appropriate progress was being made by officers following the task and finish review last year. They were informed that the task and finish had made a significant difference to service levels, value for money and provided a greater emphasis towards Highways Maintenance in the Capital programme. Operation Upgrade took place in which £1m of extra resources were made available to upgrade the road network and an Invest to Save bid is still on schedule for pavement repairs

Highways Coordination

The panel requested information on the role of the Council in the management of street works, having been concerned about some of the road closures across the city. It was subsequently agreed that major works should be communicated to Ward Members in advance and that members support officers in their quest for the requirement for at least 12 months notice by the utility companies

Winter Maintenance Preparation

The panel set up a task and finish to review the preparedness of the Council for the winter weather. The panel were assured of the arrangements in place with the Transport & Highways Partnership to protect the primary and secondary routes across the city, but identified no strategic coordination for the management of non HMPE land or gritting provision. This has led, historically, to unplanned and reactive decisions being made and resulted in undue pressure on the salt supplies held by the Transport & Highways Partnership

The panel made a number of recommendations, not least for the Council to procure additional salt stocks which will ensure guarantee greater capacity for the city wide gritting service. The ability to treat areas of high footfall and high dependency will reduce the negative impact on the economy in the event of another harsh winter. The panel also recommended that the Departments of Corporate Support and Development & Regeneration, be responsible for the development and implementation of an operating model that will ensure optimum value for money. This will include the responsibility and arrangements for the distribution and spreading of the supplies to non HMPE locations and the identification of corporate resources.

Economy and Growth Board Update

The panel received an update on the Growth Board and Plymouths main economic issues. The panel discussed the over reliance on the public sector, the high proportion of claimants aged 18 – 24 and high rates of economic activity. They were reassured by the plans to tackle Worklessness in the city and the focus on future job creation, productivity and economic inclusion. The panel agreed

to consider a task and finish group to review what training and employments opportunities were being provided for young people.

Subsidised Bus Services Briefing

The panel scrutinised the Public Transport budget to establish the criteria for subsidising bus services, and the budget available.

Connectivity (Road/ Rail/ Digital)

The panel were updated on the work being undertaken to lobby for the improvements to road and rail travel to and from Plymouth. The present Great Western franchise is terminating at the end of March 2013 and the panel were reassured of the progress and the aim for a three hour direct journey time from Plymouth to London without having to realign the network

This report describes the work of the Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel during the period June 2011 – September 2011. This includes the following meetings:

- a) 13th June 2011
- b) 11 July 2011
- c) 5 September 2011

Task and Finish Meetings took place on:

- 8 /15 September 2011 – Winter Maintenance Preparation.

The Panel, through effective strategic and operational scrutiny, supports the following Cabinet members and CMT officers

Title	Name
Cabinet Member (Planning, Strategic Housing and Economic Development)	Councillor Fry
Cabinet Member (Transport)	Councillor Wogens
Director for Development and Regeneration	Anthony Payne

Scope of the Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel are primarily concerned with the strategic scrutiny of the following Corporate Improvement Priorities and key areas:

- Delivering Growth
- Raising Aspiration
- Reducing Inequalities
- Value for Communities
- The strategic and operational activities of the Department for Development and Regeneration

Members of the Panel and their attendance

June – September 2011	Name	Attendance (3 meetings)
Councillor (Chair)	Nicholson	3
Councillor (Vice Chair)	Coker	3
Councillor	Berrow	3
Councillor	Churchill	3
Councillor	K. Foster	2
Councillor	Martin Leaves	2
Councillor	Murphy	3
Councillor	Mrs Nelder	1
Councillor	Dr Salter	2
Councillor	Wheeler	3
Councillor	Williams	3
Councillor	Wright	3
Lead Officer	G. Peele	3
Democratic Support	H. Rickman	3
Councillor	Mrs Aspinall	2 as substitute
Councillor	Lock	1 as substitute
Councillor	Mrs P. Nicholson	1 as substitute

Task and Finish Group attendance

Winter Maintenance Preparation	Name	Attendance (2 meetings)
Councillor (Chair)	P. Nicholson	2
Councillor	Coker	2
Councillor	Berrow	2
Councillor		2
Councillor		2
Councillor	Murphy	2
Councillor	Williams	2
Councillor	Wright	2
Lead Officer	G. Peele	2
Democratic Support	H. Rickman	2
	Churchill	

The detailed terms of reference for the Panel are contained in Appendix I.

Appendix I

Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

- To review new and existing policies and consider how they may be improved and developed;
- To monitor the budget and performance of the Cabinet Member, Department and partners to ensure that the priorities for the area are being delivered upon;
- To monitor performance against the relevant Corporate Improvement Priorities;
- To review Policies within the Budget and Policy Framework;
- To consider Equality Impact Assessments against new and existing policies;
- To investigate local issues to find out how the council and its partners can improve to meet the needs of local people;
- To make recommendations about service delivery to the Cabinet (via the Board)
- To review and scrutinise the performance of partner organisations
- To set up Ad-Hoc Working Groups as and when required;
- To produce quarterly progress reports to go to the management board

Cabinet Members

- Transport
- Planning, Strategic Housing and Economic Development
- Customers Services (Street Scene, Waste and Sustainability)

Directorate

- Development and Regeneration
- Planning
- Transport
- Strategic Housing
- Economic Development
- Sustainability and Climate Change

Corporate Priorities

- Monitor performance against the relevant corporate priorities

LSP Link

- Wealthy Theme Group

Membership

The Chair of the panel shall serve on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The Growth and Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be chaired by a Member of the majority political group with the vice-chair from the opposition political group. All Members of the panel will adhere to the general rules of Overview and Scrutiny.