

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Select Committee No 1 – Townships

12 March 2008

Present at the Meeting:

Councillor J S Birch (Chairman)
Councillor B Bourne
Councillor S Loudon
Marion Andrews (Community Rep)

.1 Apologies for absence: Councillor P A Tushingham, Councillor H L Cadman. Councillor M Klieve, Councillor R Splaine

.2 Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 February 2008 were approved as a correct record.

.3 Discussion with Mrs J Redfearn (Chief Executive): The select committee had asked to speak to the Chief Executive of Wigan Council to discuss concerns around the future of Townships. They also wanted the opportunity to talk through emerging themes for recommendations. Mrs J Redfearn referred to the minutes of the last Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) board meeting which stated that Townships will continue to be an important part of our overall approach. Mrs J Redfearn also stated that she hoped this select committee could put forward recommendations that could influence the debate on our future approach.

There was then a general discussion around emerging thoughts and how these fit in with other developments across the council and within the LSP. It was agreed that in order to make our emerging recommendations work we would need to touch on other areas of development. Three main areas that feel important relate to structure, systems and culture.

Mrs J Redfearn encouraged the select committee to draw conclusions and recommendations together quickly to ensure this could influence the ongoing discussions at the LSP.

Res: the select committee agreed to meet informally as soon as possible, to begin drawing information for the report together. A date of Tuesday 18 March at 2pm was agreed. Any members who could not make it to a day time meeting will be contacted and given the opportunity to meet with Mr J Winterbottom at a time convenient for them.

Chairman