

THE CABINET

MEETING, 6TH JULY 2015

Councillor Morris	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Mrs. Thomas	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member

Cabinet Members

Councillor D. Burrows	Police and Community Safety
Councillor Cunliffe	Public Health
Councillor Chadwick	Highways and Transport
Councillor McKeon	Education and Schools
Councillor Lewis	Housing and Social Inclusion
Councillor Zaman	Development and Regeneration

Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Donaghy	
Councillor Murray	
Councillor Greenhalgh	
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	
Councillor Cox	
Councillor Allen	
Councillor Hayes	
Councillor Richardson	(as substitute for Councillor Parkinson)

Officers

Mr. P. Najsarek	Chief Executive
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Ms D. Ball	Assistant Director
Ms S. Schofield	Assistant Director
Ms L. Ridsdale	Assistant Director
Mrs. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Ms. S. Johnson	Borough Treasurer
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Morris in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Adia, J. Byrne, A. Ibrahim, I. Ibrahim and Parkinson.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11th May, 2015 were submitted and signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of apologies from Councillor Lewis.

2. MINUTES OF AGMA/COMBINED AUTHORITY

The Minutes of the meetings of the AGMA/Combined Authority held on 29th May, 2015 were submitted for information.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AND AREA WORKING – PROPOSED DEVOLVED PROJECT BUDGETS 2015/16 – 2016/17

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report that outlined a proposal to save £150,000 from the Neighbourhood Management / Area Working devolved budgets, together with a proposal to devolve the revised budget to Neighbourhood Management / Area Working.

The proposal would leave the amount available for Neighbourhood Management and Area Working at £300,000 with highways funding remaining at £192,000 per annum.

If the revised budgets and allocation to areas were agreed for a two year period, the services would be able to deliver a two year programme of £1.134m as follows:-

£750,000 projects (£450,000 from year 1 and £300,000 from year 2); and
£384,000 Highways (£192,000 from year 1 and £192,000 from year 2)

Delivery would take place over the remaining period up to 31st March, 2017.

It was explained that the allocation to wards was based on a long standing formula (shown below) which increased the level of targeting according to the greatest level of need/deprivation and a clear and agreed framework to guide local decisions by Ward Members in consultation with partners and local people:-

Pot A – Targeted Neighbourhood Renewal (£187,500 for 2015/6 and 2016/17);

- allocate 25% to the existing neighbourhood renewal areas that were within the 15% most deprived areas. Allocation based on population size to ensure both level of deprivation and the scale of need in the area was taken into account.

- as many of the target areas did not correlate exactly with ward boundaries, the budget would be allocated to the appropriate ward based on population.

Pot B – Allocation based on wards (£375,000 for 2015/6 and 2016/17)

- allocate 50% based on relative deprivation across all wards to ensure that deprivation beyond the 11 target areas was taken into account.

Pot C – Flat Rate (£187,500 for 2015/6 and 2016/17)

- for the remaining 15% allocate at a flat rate across all the wards.

Pot D - Highways (£384,000 for 2015/6 and 2016/17)

- allocate as a flat rate across all 20 wards giving each ward £19,200.

The table at Appendix B showed the proposed allocations for 2015/16 and 2016/17.

A proposed framework for guiding decision making at a local level was set out in the report and, in terms of how decisions were made, the current approved framework would be retained. It was explained that the framework helped to ensure that decisions were based on local issues shaped by Ward Members whilst ensuring the Council had appropriate oversight, particularly on those issues related to neighbourhood renewal in the most deprived communities.

The Cabinet indicated that the future operation of area forums would be monitored with a view to possibly providing more flexibility regarding their function.

Resolved – (i) That the proposals to save £150,000 from Neighbourhood Management / Area Working devolved budgets for 2015/16 and 2016/17, together with the devolvement of the revised budget to Neighbourhood Management / Area Working, be approved.

(ii) That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet setting out proposals to achieve the balance of £100,000 budget reduction from staff salaries/non devolved budgets.

5. WASTE SAVINGS 2015 - 17

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report that set out the details of the plans to achieve the £1.25m savings target for waste previously identified.

Members were reminded that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 10th November, 2014, considered a report entitled 'Financial Forecast and Budget Process 2015-17' which identified the Council's saving target for the period 2015-17 as £43 million which included a savings target for Environmental Services of £5.3 to £6.3 million during 2015-17.

It was explained that the costs of disposing residual waste in Bolton had increased significantly in recent years from approximately £16 million in 2011/12 to approximately £20 million in 2014/15. This reflected new facilities coming on line as part of the Greater Manchester 25 year PFI arrangement, the capital investment in sustainable infrastructure and the rising cost of landfill tax (increasing at £8 per tonne per year) which reached £80 per tonne in 2014/15.

Capture rates showed that the service was capturing a large amount of garden waste, but approximately 23% of garden waste still remained in the grey bins. Food waste showed the lowest capture rate and had significant room for improvement.

The report highlighted that approximately 20% of residents were still not doing any recycling, 20% were recycling everything they could and the other 60% were doing some recycling but not all the time and not all waste streams.

The allocation of the majority of waste disposal costs across the Greater Manchester PFI arrangement was dependent on the tonnages of each waste stream delivered by each authority. As other Greater Manchester authorities introduced changes that significantly reduced the tonnages of residual waste they collected, the cost per tonne of residual waste increased.

The Council currently operated a managed weekly waste collection service, which was introduced in May, 2013 and cost approximately £7.8 million per year.

A potential savings target to achieve £1.25 million had been identified that involved further reducing the amount of waste sent for disposal, through providing slimmer grey bins and more support to further increase recycling.

The above option formed part of the budget consultation in November, 2014 and it was noted that 51% of residents agreed with the proposal to exchange the current 240 litre grey bins for the slimmer 140 litre bins and to continue to collect them every fortnight. Consequently, this proposal was recommended for implementation between June, 2016 and November, 2016. The total cost of the required investment amounted to £2.624 m which resulted in a payback period of 2.7 years based on projected saving of £1.25 m per annum.

It was proposed to undertake a borough wide engagement campaign during 2015/16 to inform residents of the changes and support them to recycle their waste in the lead up to the changes.

The alternative option of introducing three weekly waste and recycling collections was considered and, although it required lower capital investment, the impact on staff and customers was found to be much greater.

Resolved – (i) That the proposal to exchange all grey 240 litre wheeled bins for 140 litre wheeled bins and to continue to collect all waste and recycling bins at the current collection frequency be approved.

(ii) That the immediate implementation of the replacement bin policy change be approved.

(iii) That the changes to the waste audit policy be approved.

(iv) That it is noted that consideration was given to an alternative way to achieve the savings.

(v) That the Assistant Director of Community Services be authorised to tender for the purchase of the required bins and the associated exchange program.

(vi) That the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to award the contract to the successful company.