

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 6th OCTOBER, 2015

Present – Councillors Spencer (Chairman), Silvester (Vice-Chairman), Allen, L. Byrne, Donaghy (as deputy for Councillor Evans), Harkin, Hayes, Kellett, Pickup, Richardson, Shaikh, A. Walsh and J. Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Councillor Chadwick	Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Community Services
Councillor D. Burrows	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services Police and Community Safety
Ms. S. Johnson	Borough Treasurer and Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy and Deputy Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr. J. Kelly	Head of Service Highways and Engineering
Mr. A. Grundy	Trees and Asset Officer
Mr. J. Hall	Lancashire Wildlife Trust
Mr. S. Cartwright	Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Mr. I. D. Mulholland

Principal Democratic Services
Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Evans and Haslam.

Councillor Spencer, Chairman.

12. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th August, 2015 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be received and signed as a correct record.

13. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Borough Solicitor submitted the updated work programme report for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the updated work programme be noted.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES –FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER ONE

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided details of the financial quarter one position for the Environmental Services portfolio for the 2015/16 financial year.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- the revenue expenditure underspend;
- the variation of security services;
- the loss forecast regarding the markets;
- fleet purchases and liaison with Wigan Council; and
- Bow Street Car Park and the timing of the demolition.

Resolved – (i) That the position be noted.

- (ii) That members of this Committee be furnished with details of the timescale for the demolition of Bow Street Car Park.

15. WARRANTIES REGARDING CONTRACTS ON ROAD REPAIRS INCLUDING WHAT WE HAD AND HOW THEY WERE NEGOTIATED

Mr John Kelly, Head of Highways and Engineering gave a presentation on warranties regarding contracts on road repairs, including what we had and how they were negotiated.

By way of background information, members were advised that warranties were used in respect of works for the Highway Authority, works on the highway by others and reactive works.

In respect of the contract defects correction period for works on The Highway it was explained that traditionally this was one year from contract completion.

Mr Kelly went onto explain matters around the restrictions and protections regarding each type of activity.

With regard to guarantee periods the Committee was informed that shallow street works had a two year guarantee period from the completion of a reinstatement and deep street works a three year period.

For defects reinstatement was guaranteed for two years from remedial.

Me Kelly went on to explain matters around the Council's Asset Protection Programme and performance in this regard.

In conclusion, members were advised of matters around a recent pot hole review and that prevention being better than a cure.

Members in their discussions referred to-

- warranty periods and defects inspections;

- performance statistics and the asset protection programme; and
- matters around pot hole management.

Resolved – That Mr Kelly be thanked for his informative presentation and that the position be noted.

16. WATER COURSES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE – DEVELOPMENT OF THIS ASSET

Mr Andy Grundy, Tree and Asset Officer gave a presentation which appraised the Committee of water courses and their environmental value and the development of this asset.

By way of background information members were advised that there was around 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across the UK, now overseen by the Canals and Rivers Trust.

The Committee was advised that parts of the river network were owned by private owners and Bolton Council, who had responsibility for the bank and watercourse in its ownership.

The presentation went onto cover matters around land drainage and flood control and highlighted that the Council was the Land Drainage Authority and the Lead Local Flood Authority for the area.

Members were apprised of matters around biodiversity and ecological designations and their benefits including recreation and heritage.

In conclusion, the Committee were informed of matters around the development of the Borough assets.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- the lack of life in Hall Lee Bank water course ;
- the possibility of securing monies on the back of Transport for Greater Manchester's development of transport corridors;

- the possible aspiration of having migratory fish gaining access to the Irwell catchment area; and
- the industrial heritage in the Borough.

Resolved – That Mr Grundy be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

Lancashire Wildlife Trust

The Committee also received a presentation from James Hall and Stephen Cartwright from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust on their work in Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside.

Members were advised that the Trust had been working in Bolton since 1988 and based at the Environmental Resource Centre in Brightmet since 2007.

Members were advised of the various sites where the Trust was involved and in Bolton there were 26 such places.

The meeting was informed of the various schemes being undertaken and planned including the River Croal landscape approach, river corridor maintenance work and the Kingfisher Trail.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- where the public could get further information on the Kingfisher Trail; and
- the need for more Environment Agency investment in the Borough.

Resolved – That Messrs Hall and Cartwright be thanked for their informative presentation.

17. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

The minutes of various meeting relevant to the remit of this Committee were submitted, viz –

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- Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services held on 21st September, 2015; and
- Environment and Waste Policy Development Group held on 2nd September, 2015.

Resolved - That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.00pm)

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NOTES