

# **Bolton Council**

## **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

## **SUMMONS AND AGENDA**





## **BOLTON COUNCIL**

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Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall on Wednesday next, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

### **1. Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 (Section A).

### **2. Constitution**

Motion in the name of Councillor Cox –

That the amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation for 2021/2022, as circulated, be approved.

### **3. Recommendation to Council**

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Cox –

That the changes to polling places and districts for May, 2022 elections, as detailed in the report now circulated, be approved.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

That the proposal to opt into the sector-led option through Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2023, as detailed in the report now circulated, be approved.

- 4. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies**
- 5. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)**
- 6. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)**
- 7. Committee Proceedings**

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee (See Section C)

- 8. Scrutiny Committees**

To receive and consider the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committees:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

- 9. Motions under Standing Order No.4**

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Silvester –

This Council believes that planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes.

This Council strongly disagrees with and criticises the Conservative Government's proposals to take away planning decisions from this Council and hand them to development boards appointed by Ministers in Whitehall. These new quangos are proposed to help zone areas for development. Residents living in areas zoned for growth would find that they no longer have an automatic right to object to individual planning applications on their own doorsteps; no right to object to oversized blocks at the end of the street; no right to object to concreting over precious green space, and no right to object to new developments that overburden local infrastructure such as roads, doctors' surgeries, schools or public transport.

This Council opposes such changes proposed by the Conservative Government and therefore calls upon the Secretary of State for Housing to protect the right of residents throughout the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton to object to individual planning applications.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Haworth –

The Council is extremely concerned that there is a government consultation in England on a plan to move the qualifying age for free prescriptions in England from 60 to 66 years of age. Subsequently, thousands of 60 to 66 year olds in the Bolton Borough, in receipt of prescriptions for medicines and health care products, would be affected by this change.

The pandemic has impacted health inequalities and wellbeing and it is imperative to avoid changes that will impact people's lives negatively going forward. If implemented, this charge of people from 60 to 66 years for prescriptions for physical and mental health needs in Bolton could easily roll back progress made in the start to tackling health inequalities and increasing wellbeing here.

We ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Public Health and the Minister for Mental Health, outlining the Council's concern that the raising of prescription charges on people of 60 to 66 years of age in England will have a marked effect on already problematic health inequalities in the Bolton Borough.

We also call on our local Members of Parliament to support the Council motion and reject the plan to have 60 to 66 year olds pay prescription charges.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor McMulkin -

Many people will have read in horror the events surrounding Sarah Everard's brutal murder; many will have been shocked by the events however for many women and those who work in women's aid organisations there was no sense of shock. The brutal attack and murder of women is a day-to-day occurrence that they deal with. Sarah's murder made front page news predominantly because the perpetrator was a serving police officer. Since the murder of Sarah Everard, more than 80 women have been killed - these women did not make the front page news.

Misogyny runs to the core of our society. We live in a society where women and girls are constantly subjected to inappropriate behaviour that is seen as the entitled right of men. Sexism is outlawed by the statute books and yet it is experienced by women on a daily basis.

The time for action is now. Each year, I attend a memorial walk in memory of the oldest known victim of domestic abuse, a young woman named Ellen Strange, who was brutally murdered by her husband in 1761 on Holcombe Moor. Some 260 years later we wring our hands and prevaricate about change as each week more women are murdered and subjected to abuse.

I therefore call upon the Council to take urgent action to:

1. Convene a Women's Forum by March 2022, which will include groups such as YES Matters, Endeavour, REIGN, GMP, TFGM, Bolton University to name but a few; and
2. Formulate and implement a strategy from the measures agreed by the Forum that would make our Borough a safer place for women and girls

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Baines -

Council recognises the harmful impact of advertising on Children within the Borough in relation to Vaping products and will aim to support and promote a tobacco-free and Vape-free Borough in order to protect the current and future health, wellbeing and prosperity of children, families, and the wider community.

#### Background

Smoking remains the biggest cause of preventable death and a significant indicator of inequalities in the UK. Eradicating smoking is highlighted as a prominent issue in the 2019 NHS long term plan

The Council receives guidance from NICE and what was PHE (now the OHID - Office for Health Improvement and Disparities) on vaping as a quit aid. There is increasingly robust evidence of their effective use in driving smoking rates down. However, people who use vaping products should be supported to use regulated nicotine products and to ultimately stop smoking and vaping completely.

Some products would seem to be designed in such a way to entice children and young people to take up vaping (using bubble gum, gummy- bear and other similar flavourings).

This introduces a dependency on nicotine at a young age, via a route of administration which is not in itself without harm. Additionally, it creates an additional economic burden which given that smoking rates are highest amongst our most economically deprived neighbourhoods is felt most acutely by those who are least well off.

Council acknowledges its share of responsibility to try to ensure good public health in the population by:

1. Protecting children and young people against advertising and against the sale of products designed to entice young people to use nicotine products (either tobacco and/or vaping)
2. Promoting Smoke free environments which will also include the absence of second-hand vape, including playgrounds and other outdoor and indoor venues

Further, that Council should seek to:

- Actively promote a wider understanding of the impact of vaping on children and young people.
- Work with retailers to encourage them to challenge buyers of vaping products for proof of age, if there is any doubt that they are under the age of 18.
- Ask national government to do more to prevent the marketing of vaping products which are targeted towards young people.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Heslop -

At the full council meeting of 6th October, Cllr Paul Heslop asked a question about traffic management at Remembrance Sunday events that aimed to establish how much the council will be billed in respect of Bolton Town Centre along with the other outlying towns in the borough.

Information received since suggested that whilst Bolton's Remembrance Sunday event is being financially supported by the Council, the other towns in this borough are not receiving the same financial support for their towns' Remembrance Day events and that the events organisers – usually ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen – must pay for their own traffic management.

This Council agrees that all Remembrance Sunday Events - at every cenotaph/war memorial in this borough - are of equal importance. This Council also agrees that the cost of traffic management in the other towns in this borough should not fall upon the event organisers. This Council requests that a PDG is called to consider what options there are for supporting these other events.

(f) Motion in the name of Councillor Challender –

The Money and Pensions Service (MaPS), which funds much of the debt advice provision in Bolton, is recommissioning services at present.

The recommissioning process is changing how independent, quality assured, community-based debt services will be delivered from 1 April 2022, with more than a 50% reduction in face-to-face provision for residents. Contracts for future debt advice services are currently based on pre-pandemic estimates of demand.

Demand for debt advice has increased sharply in recent months. The recent removal of the Universal Credit uplift, the ending of the Government's furlough scheme, rising energy prices, and the end of the moratorium on evictions will all contribute to a challenging winter for many local residents.

This Council is concerned that focusing on the provision of remotely delivered services at the expense of accessible, locally provided, face-to-face debt advice will adversely affect many local residents. This includes:

- Vulnerable people (who for example, may be suffering from addictions, victims of domestic abuse, and those who are at risk or are homeless.)
- People with poor mental health.
- Digitally excluded people.
- People with low levels of literacy.
- Non-English speakers.
- Those with complex cases.

This Council believes that:

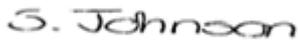
- Good quality, accessible, face-to-face debt advice cannot be replicated remotely. To do so inhibits the ability to focus on place-based and locality-based partnership initiatives.
- The recommissioning of debt advice services should be suspended for minimum of twelve months to allow independent research to be carried out into future demand.
- Funding for face-to-face community-based debt advice should be increased, not reduced, enabling the most vulnerable to access the support they need.

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions outlining the Council's concerns

about the impact of the planned significant reduction in face-to-face debt advice, and to call for the recommissioning of debt advice services to be delayed for at least twelve months.

- Write to all three local Members of Parliament, asking them to support the content of this motion and requesting that they in turn contact the DWP to reject the move away from face-to-face debt advice.



SUE JOHNSON  
Acting Chief Executive  
Town Hall, Bolton

17<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

The proceedings of the Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 4<sup>th</sup> October to 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, together with the Chief Officers Appointments Panel, are included for information only in a separate volume.



## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Brady (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Ayub, Connor, Dean, Finney, Galloway (as deputy for Councillor Morgan), Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and T. Wilkinson.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Morgan and D. Wilkinson.

### **14. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 16th September, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered certain applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

The following Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business:-

| <b>Member of Council</b> | <b>Application Number</b> | <b>Nature of Interest</b>   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Councillor Ayub          | 10723/21                  | He has previously expressed support for the application.<br>He withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application. |

Councillor Grant, in his capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the meeting and spoke in respect of application numbered 11245/21.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in relation to the following applications:

10023/20

10723/21

07489/19

Resolved - That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place be dealt with, as follows:-

| <b>Application Number</b> | <b>Proposal and Location</b>   | <b>Decision</b>   |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| 07489/19                  | Change of use from office (Class B1) to school (D1) for a temporary period until 31 <sup>st</sup> July, 2024 and retrospective planning permission for the erection of a perimeter fence and access gates at The Olive School, Waterloo Street | <p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (16):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Galloway, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Members voting against approval of the application (1):</p> <p>Councillor Haworth</p> |

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| 10023/20 | Demolition of existing building and erection of 1 no.4 storey building consisting of 4no. self-contained Flats at 172 St George's Road | <p><b>Deferred for further information.</b></p> <p>A motion to defer the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>An amendment to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>The amendment was put to the vote.</p> <p>Members voting for the amendment to refuse the application (6):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Brady, Connor, Galloway, McMulkin and Walsh.</p> <p>Members voting against the amendment to refuse the application (11):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Dean Finney, Haworth, Hayes, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>The amendment was lost.</p> <p>The original motion to defer the application was then put to the vote.</p> <p>Councillors voting in favour of the motion to defer the application (17):</p> |
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|          |  | <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Galloway, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p>   |
| 10723/21 | <p>Removal of planter, change of use of land to residential, erection of a single storey extension at side and fencing at 10 Chedworth Grove</p> | <p><b>Approved, subject to conditions. The conditions to be delegated to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee in consultation with Ward Councillors.</b></p> <p><b>The Committee considered that the change of use and subsequent extension would improve the character and appearance of the application site and would improve the living conditions of the adjoining owner / occupier. The proposal would therefore comply with Core Strategy policies CG3.2, CG3.3, CG4.1.</b></p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (15):</p> |

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|          |   | <p>Councillors Allen, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Galloway, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Members voting against approval of the application (1):</p> <p>Councillor Walsh</p>   |
| 11245/21 | <p>Technical details application for the erection of 1no. residential detached dwelling in accordance with the grant of permission in principle 07758/20 on land adjacent 12 Chapel Street, Blackrod.</p> | <p><b>Approved, subject to conditions and additional condition regarding the provision of an electric charging point.</b></p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application, subject to conditions and additional condition regarding the provision of an electric charging point (17):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Galloway, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p> |

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| 12212/21                 | Provision of a 2 new air source heat pumps supplementing existing mechanical services to building at Horwich Area Office, Public Hall, 129-131 Lee Lane, Horwich, Bolton.   | <p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (17):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Galloway, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p> |
| Section 106 Modification | Proposed modification (deed of variation) to the Section 106 Agreement accompanying outline permissions 91080/13 (commercial site) and 91081/13 (residential site) on land between Britannia Way and Crompton Way | <p><b>Approved.</b></p> <p>Members voting for approval of the proposed modification (17):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Galloway, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p>  |

## 16. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS

The Director of Place submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 4.05pm)

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Brady (Vice-Chairman), Ayub, Dean, Finney, Hayes, Hill (as deputy for Councillor Connor), Iqbal (as deputy for Councillor Peel), McKeon (as deputy for Councillor Haworth), Mistry, Morgan, Radcliffe, Sanders, T. Wilkinson and D. Wilkinson

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen, Connor, Haworth, McMulkin and Peel

### **14. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **15. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered certain applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in relation to the following applications:

11486/21

Resolved - That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place be dealt with, as follows:-

| <b>Application Number</b> | <b>Proposal and Location</b>  | <b>Decision</b>   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| 11486/21                  | Reserved matters application for appearance, landscape, layout and scale for the erection of 205 no. residential dwellings and associated spine road pursuant to outline approval 91352/14 at Horwich Loco Industrial Estate, Chorley New Road, Horwich | <p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report now submitted, and that the Director of Place (Development) and Borough Solicitor, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee and the Horwich and Blackrod and Horwich North East Ward Councillors, be authorised to complete all the necessary legal formalities in this regard.</b></p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>An amendment to approve the application, subject to conditions as recommended in the report, and to authorise the Director of Place (Development) and the Borough Solicitor, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee and the Horwich and Blackrod and Horwich North East Ward Councillors, to complete all the necessary legal formalities, was moved and seconded.</p> |

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|  |  | <p>The amendment was put to the vote.</p> <p>Members voting for the amendment (11):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Dean, Finney, Hill, Iqbal, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Radcliffe, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Members voting against the amendment (4):</p> <p>Councillors Brady, Hayes, Sanders and D. Wilkinson.</p> <p>The amendment was declared carried.</p> |
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(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 3.10pm)

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## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Brady (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Ayub, Connor, Dean, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Rimmer (as deputy for Councillor Radcliffe), Sanders, Sherrington, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Radcliffe

## 16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 27th October, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## 17. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered certain applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

The following Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business:-

| <b>Member of Council</b> | <b>Application Number</b> | <b>Nature of Interest</b>  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Councillor Dean          | 12322/21                  | The application relates to his property. He withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application.                     |
| Councillor Hayes         | 10044/20                  | He has been involved in discussions with the applicant and objectors in his capacity as Ward Councillor but has not expressed a view on the application. |
| Councillor Walsh         | 10044/20                  | He has been contacted by two objectors but has not expressed a view on the application.  |

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| Councillor Rimmer                                    | 10044/20 | He has been lobbied by objectors but has not expressed a view on the application. |
| Councillors Connor, Finney, Morgan, Rimmer and Walsh | 12322/21 | The applicant is a member of the Bolton Conservative Party                        |

Members of the public addressed the Committee in relation to the following applications:

12097/21                      10044/20

Resolved - That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place (Development) be dealt with, as follows:-

| <b>Application Number</b> | <b>Proposal and Location</b>  | <b>Decision</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| 10044/20                  | Demolition of bungalows and erection of 43 no. dwellings comprising four storey block of 35 no. flats and 8 no. houses together with associated access, parking, landscaping and retaining wall along south western boundary on land at Grizedale Close | <p><b>Refused.</b></p> <p>1. The proposed four storey apartment building, by reason of its siting, height, scale and appearance, would not be in keeping with the character and appearance of the area, and would appear incongruous from surrounding viewpoints and the public rights of way that adjoin the site, contrary to Policies CG3 and OA5 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</p> <p>2. The proposed development would result in the unacceptable loss of trees and hedgerows from</p> |

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|  |  | <p>the site and fails to sufficiently safeguard and enhance biodiversity, contrary to Policy CG1.2 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</p> <p>3. The proposed apartments would not provide adequate internal living space for future residents, with all the apartments failing to meet the minimum space standards set out within the DCLG Technical House Standards - Nationally Described Space Standards (March 2015), therefore unduly harming the amenity of future residents of the apartments, contrary to Policy CG4 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</p> <p>4. The proposed access into the development via residential streets of limited width is substandard and the limited on-site parking proposed within the development would lead to further on-street parking pressures on these streets, to the detriment of highway and pedestrian safety and contrary to Policies P5 and S1.2 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> |
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|          |  | <p>Members voting for refusal of the application (18):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Haworth, Hayes, Finney, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p>  |
| 11585/21 | <p>Provision of a new air source heat pump supplementing existing mechanical services to building at Heaton and Lostock Neighbourhood Children's Centre, New Hall Lane</p> | <p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>Members voting for approval (18):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p> |
| 11991/21 | <p>Provision of new air source heat pump, supplementing existing mechanical services to building at Harvey Early Years Centre, Shaw Street</p>                             | <p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>Members voting for approval (18):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh,</p>                                |

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|          |  | D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.  |
| 12097/21 | Demolition of all buildings and structures and erection of a mixed-use development comprising 208 dwellings (use class C3), commercial floorspace (use class E), public square, landscaping, parking, highway works and other associated works at Moor Lane Bus Station, Moor Lane | <p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>An amendment to defer the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>The amendment to defer was put to the vote.</p> <p>Members voting for the amendment: (9)</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Sherrington and D. Wilkinson</p> <p>Members voting against the amendment (9):</p> <p>Councillors Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Morgan, Rimmer, Sanders, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Councillor Walsh used his second vote against the amendment and the amendment was declared lost.</p> |

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|                 |  | <p>Whereupon the original motion to approve the application was put to the vote:</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (11):</p> <p>Councillors Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Hayes, McMulkin, Morgan, Rimmer, Sanders, Walsh and T. Wilkinson</p> <p>Members voting against approval (4):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Mistry and Sherrington</p> <p>Members abstaining (3):</p> <p>Councillors Haworth, Peel and D. Wilkinson</p> <p>The motion was declared carried and the application was approved.</p> |
| <p>12322/21</p> | <p>Erection of first floor extensions at front, side and rear together with new openings and conversion of existing garage at 80 Somerton Road</p> | <p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>Members voting for approval (17):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Peel,</p>   |

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|  |  | Rimmer, Sanders,<br>Sherrington, Walsh, D.<br>Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson. |
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**18. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS**

The Director of Place (Development) submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 30<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 4.35pm)

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION  
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Flitcroft (Chairman), Dean, Galloway, Grant, Haslam, Haworth, Khurram, Jiva and Taylor-Burke.

(An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough)

Councillor Flitcroft, Chairman

**14. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 be submitted and signed as a correct record.

**15. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved – That, under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 (financial and business affairs) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in its exemption outweighs the public interest in its disclosure.

**16. APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS  
LICENCE – LER/19/21**

The Director of Place submitted a report which sought consideration of an application for a private hire drivers licence, where the applicant has alleged previous misconduct.

The applicant attended the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Dean and Seconded by Councillor Khurram that the application be granted, subject to the standard conditions, as detailed in the report.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Haworth, Khurram, Jiva, Dean, Galloway, Haslam, Taylor-Burke, Flitcroft and Grant.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

## **17. APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE – LER/20/21**

The Director of Place submitted a report which sought consideration of an application for a private hire drivers licence, where the applicant has alleged previous misconduct.

The applicant attended the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Galloway and Seconded by Councillor Haworth that the application be refused.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Haworth, Khurram, Jiva, Dean, Galloway, Haslam, Taylor-Burke, Flitcroft and Grant.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved –

That the application be refused on the basis that the Committee are not satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

The Committee also took account of the following –

- The offences of injury by dangerous driving and the prison sentence of 32 months and four year driving ban from 2013;
- The Committee's concern that the applicant showed reckless and endangerment of life and had showed a disregard for human life.
- Matters concerning the Council's Statement of Fitness and Suitability.

Members of the public, the elderly, infirm and children or vulnerable adults entrust their personal safety and wellbeing to private hire drivers whenever they take a journey. Passengers often travel alone and are vulnerable to inappropriate behaviour.

The Committee's primary duty is of concern for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

There is therefore reasonable cause to refuse to grant the private hire drivers licence.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.35 pm)

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**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION  
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Flitcroft (Chairman), Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Grant, Haslam, Haworth and Jiva.

(An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Taylor-Burke)

Councillor Flitcroft, Chairman

**18. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 be submitted and signed as a correct record.

**19. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved – That, under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 (financial and business affairs) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in its exemption outweighs the public interest in its disclosure.

**20. APPLICATION TO EXTEND A HACKNEY CARRIAGE  
VEHICLE LICENCE – LER/21/21**

The Director of Place submitted a report which sought consideration of a request by a hackney carriage vehicle proprietor who wished to renew a hackney carriage vehicle licence in February, 2022.

Members were advised that, at renewal, the vehicle would no longer comply with the Councils current hackney carriage vehicle age policy of 15 years and an application would be refused.

The applicant did not attend the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and Seconded by Councillor Dean that the application be deferred for further information on the condition of the vehicle.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Haworth, Jiva, Dean, Galloway, Haslam, Mrs. Fairclough and Flitcroft.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Councillor Grant

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

## **21. APPLICATION TO EXTEND A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE – LER/22/21**

The Director of Place submitted a report which sought consideration of a request by a hackney carriage vehicle proprietor who wished to renew a hackney carriage vehicle licence in March, 2022.

Members were advised that, at renewal, the vehicle would no longer comply with the Councils hackney carriage vehicle age policy of 15 years and an application would be refused.

The applicant attended the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Haslam and Seconded by Councillor Grant that the application be refused.

Whereupon, an amendment was moved by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and Seconded by Councillor Jiva that the

C6

application to extend a hackney carriage vehicle licence in March, 2022 be granted for a six month period.

For the Amendment, Viz –

Councillors Haworth, Jiva, Dean, Galloway, Mrs. Fairclough and Flitcroft.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Haslam and Grant

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the amendment was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 2.35 p.m.)

D1

**CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Veevers (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Hartigan, McKeon (as deputy for Councillor Peel), McMulkin, Mistry, Radcliffe, Walsh, Wright and Zaman.

Also in Attendance

|                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Councillor Cox | Leader of the Council       |
| Mr. T. Oakman  | Chief Executive             |
| Ms. H. Gorman  | Borough Solicitor           |
| Mrs. V. Ridge  | Democratic Services Manager |

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Connor, Jiva and Peel.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair

**14. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 were submitted.

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

**15. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR  
2021/2022**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the proposed work programme for 2021/2022.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2021/2022 be approved.

## **16. COVID 19 AND FINANCES UPDATE**

The Borough Solicitor advised that, since the last meeting, there was no further information in relation to Covid 19 finances.

Members were advised that the Council was still awaiting final guidance from the Department for Work and Pensions on some additional funding and once this had been received it would hopefully be reported to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

## **17. PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE COMMISSIONING OF SERVICES/CONTRACTS**

Ms. H. Gorman, Borough Solicitor, gave a presentation to members which outlined the processes and procedures relating to the commissioning of services/contracts.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- The purchasing guide document and link which was on the Council's website;
- Details on contract procurement; and
- Details on contract management.

Following the presentation, members made the following comments/observations:-

- Did the pre-tender evaluation questionnaire include questions regarding litigation/equality/discrimination etc;
- What checks and balances were in place, from a Bolton perspective, with contracts which included other local authorities/partners;
- How tenders were evaluated and how much weight was given to social value;
- The scope for improvement on value for money and local authority contracts;

- Reports on the progress being made with the new ICT Contract to be submitted to future meetings of this Committee;
- What safeguards were included in contracts in the event of things going wrong;
- Compensation claims;
- Issues around Robertsons;
- What weighting which was given to local provision when awarding contracts;
- The resources available within legal services to draw up and monitor/manage contracts.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and that the presentation on Robertson’s which was considered at a recent meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee be circulated to members of this Committee.

## **18. UPDATE ON BANK STREET DEVELOPMENT**

The Borough Solicitor provided a verbal update in relation to the Bank Street Development.

Members were advised that the claim in relation to the additional works incurred for the Bank Street Development had now been settled with Robertson’s. Following negotiations, the total additional cost of £186,000 had been split between the Council and Robertson’s and the Council had received £93,000. It was stated that Robertson’s had made the payment as a gesture of goodwill.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

## **19. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER 2021**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which informed members of the complaints made to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

A copy of the annual report was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and it contained details of the number of complaints received and those determined from 1st April, 2020 to 31st March, 2021.

With regard to Appendix 3 of the report, a question was raised regarding the amounts of financial redress which had been paid where this had been recommended as a remedy.

Resolved – That the report be noted and that information regarding the amounts of financial redress be circulated to members of this Scrutiny Committee.

## **20. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

The Committee received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- (a) The Cabinet held on 26<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2021;
- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio held on 27<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2021; and
- (c) The Executive Cabinet Member Stronger Communities Portfolio held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 6.40 p.m.)

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Pattison (Chairman), Abdullah (as deputy for Councillor Ibrahim), Ayub (as deputy for Councillor Khurram), Eckersley-Fallon, Grant, Hartigan, Haworth, Jiva (as deputy for Councillor Challenger), McMulkin, Radcliffe, Taylor-Burke and Walsh (as deputy for Councillor Rimmer)

Lay Members

Ms. A. Schenk - Health Watch Bolton

Also in attendance

Councillor Morgan - Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Councillor Baines - Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Mr. T. Oakman - Chief Executive, Bolton MBC

Ms. T. Minshull - Assistant Director for Commissioning

Ms. S. Long - Chief Officer, Bolton CCG

Ms. E. Steel - Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

Dr. S. Liversedge - Bolton CCG

Dr. N. Ratnarajah - Bolton CCG

Mr. I. D. Mulholland - Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Khurram, Rimmer, Challenger and Ibrahim and Fiona Noden, Bolton FT, Suzanne Hilton (Age UK) and Helen Lowey, Director of Public Health.

Councillor Pattison in the Chair.

## **11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 were submitted.

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

## **12. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2021/22**

The Committee received a report which set out details of the updated work programme.

Members discussed a possible item concerning grades of flu vaccine and the covid booster vaccine data.

Resolved – (i) That the updated work programme be noted.

(ii) That Ms. Su. Long be asked to circulate information to members of this Committee concerning grades of flu vaccine and the covid booster vaccine data.

## **13. PRIMARY CARE: ACCESS, DEMAND, INNOVATION, DIGITAL**

Ms. Su. Long, Chief Officer, Bolton CCG, Dr. Stephen Liversedge, Bolton CCG and Dr. N. Ratnarajah, Bolton CCG gave a joint presentation on primary care relating to access, demand, innovation and digital matters in Bolton.

The presentation specifically covered matters around the following-

- Local people raising concerns about access to GPs: difficulty getting through on the phone and frustration with not getting a face to face appointments;
- Concerns about General Practice access were not just a local issue;
- Pressure on General Practice had never been higher;
- Demand was increasing;
- The Number of GPs was reducing;

## E3

- Many General Practices had responded innovatively to the changes the pandemic has brought;
- GPs were providing a mix of face to face and other appointments and using teams of wider professionals;
- GPs were working long hours, were receiving abuse, and morale was suffering;
- Local work was ongoing to provide additional support and additional funding had been announced; and
- The need to work together to give the best support to local people.

The Committee was apprised of the detail of why there had been increased pressure on GP's and this included the fact that people were living longer, the support given to more out of hospital care and changing expectations and pressure had been increasing before the pandemic.

The pandemic had resulted in its own pressures which included that people were coming forward with symptoms they had had for sometime, increases in people suffering from mental or physical health, seeking the help of the GP whilst waiting on hospital lists and there being easier ways to access their GP.

The Committee was also informed that many GP's were retiring and fewer were coming into the profession.

Bolton was though consistently in the top performing areas in England for focus on health outcomes, for example:

- Cardio vascular health checks,
- Dementia diagnosis.

All Practices were offering face to face appointments (confirmed by CCG audit February 2021) and NHS England appointments data in June 2021 identified that 142,458 consultations were provided in one month by General Practice in Bolton.

The meeting was informed that local and national work to support recruitment and retention of GPs continued and NHS England had been encouraging GPs to move to managing

some consultations by phone, email or video for several years, due to the opportunity it gave to deal with more patients in a day and avoid people needing to travel for healthcare support.

Practices had changed to try to deal with more demand with fewer GPs, but were still struggling to cope with the workload. Practices were very unlikely to return to open access with crowded waiting rooms.

- Digital and phone access,
- Triage and directing people to the right professional
- Judgement on whether face to face or remote consultation was needed and were all here to stay.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Patients not aware of profound changes to the GP service – perhaps there should have been adverts;
- The winter payment by the BMA;
- Funding for GP's training;
- Where funding was being used;
- Thanks the GPs' for the fantastic job they did;
- Things will not be like the pre-pandemic situation;
- Attendances in GM and regarding Bolton and the waiting lists and managing this;
- Access to primary care and health watch looking at survey information; and
- Some people were vulnerable and scared and demand profiling issues.

Resolved – That Messrs Long, Liversedge and Ratnarajah be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation.

#### **14. ADULT SOCIAL CARE MARKET AND WINTER PLANNING**

Ms. Tracy Minshull, Assistant Director for Commissioning gave a presentation on matters concerning the adult social care market and winter planning.

Members were advised that winter pressures on the Health and Care system had already commenced -at least a month early. The impact of Covid remained and living with and impact of delayed care and Mental Health.

Nationally, social care workforce recruitment and retention was in crisis and locally providers reporting this was more difficult than ever before.

Demand for care at home was higher than in previous years - 20% increase since April 21; due to need, increase acuity and public perception of residential care (not choosing this option due to impact of COVID-19 pandemic on care home residents).

Demand for care at home from hospital and Intermediate Care services higher than in previous years. Homecare Local Framework providers were unable to take new work regularly due to workforce availability.

The impact of delayed operations and healthcare impacting on social care resulting in greater acuity of need and demand and increased to social care.

The Committee was also provided with statistical information regarding the provision of care homes in Bolton and the numbers of staff involved. There was recognition that the care workforce was a valued key contributor to the local economy but was a shrinking workforce due to changing demographics. It was vital to find ways to help providers sustain a high quality, skilled and agile employees: supporting providers with recruitment and retention was important.

Matters around covid vaccinations for residents and staff was also referred to.

Members were advised that refreshing the market position statements in line with the Bolton Vision: Start Well, Live Well and Age Well was a statutory duty –

- Implementing a commissioning intelligence toolkit (Springboard) supporting the evidence-based and outcomes-focussed commissioning practice;
- Continued support with:-
  - Business continuity;
  - Access to vaccination/booster;
  - Advice and information, webinars, training;
  - Quality audits;
  - Recruitment campaigns;
  - Safeguarding; and
  - End of Life care in reach.

In terms of winter planning, the Committee was advised of the key areas of communications and connecting and supporting people, staying well at home and managing risk, getting home from hospital and neighbourhood response.

Matters concerning the budget situation and pressures was also outlined to members together with the detail of the plan for the winter pressures scheme.

Member were advised that we might still not be able to deliver services to the scale, frequency or quality at the peak this winter –priority would be safety. The Pandemic and affects had highlighted an already fragile system and the need for sustainable funding was critical going forwards.

Members in their discussions referred to -

- CQC ratings;
- Care home assessments;
- End of life care and priorities; and
- Finances -£3 for infection, prevention and control grant and top up.

Resolved – That Tracy Minshull be thanked for her detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **15. ICP BUSINESS PLAN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRESS (HEALTH INEQUALITIES)**

Resolved – That this item be withdrawn and included on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **16. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

The following question was submitted by Councillor Haworth in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the response was prepared by the Director of Public Health and the Chief Officer, Bolton CCG.

**Q.**

Something had been happening after the government had lifted the Covid restrictions and unlocked almost everything. Steadily, over the past few weeks, the number of Covid cases in the country had been rising. From 30,000 nationally in September, the latest figures are almost 50,000 and sadly the numbers in hospital and those dying were also starting to rise. With Covid being a virus which could mutate quickly, was the Covid booster vaccination programme operating as speedily as the first vaccination programme and if not, why not? If there came a need to make the population of Bolton safer were we reliant on the government / the UK Health Security Agency to implement Plan B? What role was there for the Council to implement powers provided to local authorities for Covid management and how far would those powers go to keeping people here safe?

**A.**

### **COVID Booster Vaccination programme**

Almost four million people had already received their booster in just four weeks since the rollout began – more than double the rate of the initial rollout in December. While the NHS could only invite people to get their booster six months on from their second jab, millions of people were getting invited within days of becoming eligible and as there was plenty of capacity

available, the NHS message remained that when you were invited, you should book in immediately.

As of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 the latest public health position was as follows:

- All age case rate for Bolton was 290.4 per 100,000 population an increase of 8% on the previous 7 day reporting period.
- The case rate for people aged 60 years and above was 191.9 per 100,000 population; an increase of 22% on the previous reporting period
- Case rates were highest amongst those aged 0-59 years at 319.5 per 100,000 population an increase of 6% on the previous reporting period
- Positivity (the proportion of tests that were positive) had slightly increased to 7.9%

At the current time COVID-19 cases in Bolton continued to be high and although case rates were not as high as other areas, proactive steps were being taken to plan for any escalation and introduce measures locally that would mitigate risk and reduce transmission.

The COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) was currently being reviewed and sets out the system arrangements for testing, tracing and isolation support along with the continued vaccination programme roll out, underpinned by comprehensive communications and engagement plans. The Director of Public Health had a statutory responsibility for the LOMP, with local oversight and governance from the local Health Protection Board.

The LOMP was informed by the Government's COVID-19 Contain Framework (updated October 2021) and the COVID-19 Autumn and Winter Plan (2021) that included contingency arrangements ("Plan B") which would be activated if the NHS faced unsustainable demands and pressures. Those contingency measures were likely to include public communications around risk levels; mandatory vaccine-only

status certification for certain settings and mandating the wearing of face coverings in certain settings.

The government's COVID-19 Autumn and Winter Plan advised that The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020 had been extended until March 24<sup>th</sup> 2022. The regulations gave local authorities the power to issue a direction imposing restrictions, requirements or prohibitions in relation to individual premises, events and public outdoor places. To give a direction under these regulations, a local authority needed to be satisfied that the following three legal conditions were met:

1. That giving the direction responded to a serious and imminent threat to public health.
2. The direction was necessary to prevent, protect against, control or provide a public health response to the incidence or spread of infection by coronavirus in the local authority's area.
3. The prohibitions, requirements or restrictions imposed by the direction were a proportionate means of achieving that purpose.

For imposing those restrictions local authorities needed to demonstrate there was sufficient evidence and had to consider the advice of the Director of Public Health.

The Local Outbreak Management Plans sets out the plans for local outbreak management, situations of concern and responding to new and emerging variants, informed by robust national and local data, intelligence and surveillance. This provided the basis for the Director of Public Health to advise on whether additional restrictions under the Regulations needed to be imposed.

Bolton Council, alongside the nine other local authorities across Greater Manchester were launching a new campaign 'Covid Still Here' where we were raising awareness that COVID-19 was still here and had not gone away and we were strongly encouraging all persons to take LFD test twice weekly, to isolate if had symptoms and to take a PCR Test, to wear

## E10

face coverings in crowded spaces especially on public transport, to have the vaccine – including 1<sup>st</sup> dose; 2<sup>nd</sup> dose; 3<sup>rd</sup> dose and, to work from home if you could do.

As of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021, national government had not indicated that contingency plans (Plan B) would be initiated imminently. Bolton's Health Protection Board were taking proactive action to ensure local arrangements were in place in the event of Plan B being triggered. There were also plans in place to enhance the Local Outbreak Management Plan and ensure that there were strong arrangements in place for testing, tracing, isolation and vaccination over the coming months. One example of this enhanced, local approach was the recent position statement recommending additional measures for schools to implement to protect children and young people in educational settings. This included:

- Clear messaging and communications to encourage staff, visitors, students (year 7 and above), and their households to undertake twice-weekly lateral flow testing for people without symptoms
- Encourage the wearing of face coverings in communal areas for staff, visitors and students (year 7 and above)
- Household close contacts in KS2 and above who were exempt from isolation and were attending school were encouraged to carry out daily lateral flow testing for 10 days after the onset of symptoms (or positive test if asymptomatic) in the case in their household, and only attend school if their lateral flow test was negative.
- Consider opportunities to reduce indoor gathering and mixing between year groups, e.g. virtual assemblies
- Promote social distancing between staff within setting

The school based 12-15 years vaccination programmes was also currently being rolled out across Bolton. Uptake of the vaccine amongst this cohort had seen a positive start, with 5000 children of an eligible cohort of 15,481 (32%) having received the vaccine; therefore we still need to vaccinate a further 68% to have 100% uptake. Please note, children aged

## E11

12-18 years were currently only eligible for one dose and therefore would not be fully vaccinated against the virus.

The Committee also received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- (a) Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing held on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.
- (b) Executive Cabinet Member Adult Social Care held on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

Resolved – (i) That the members question and response be noted.

(ii) That the minutes of the meeting be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.07 p.m.)

E12

**NOTES**

**PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Bagnall (Chairman), Ayub, Brady, Eckersley-Fallon, Finney, Hartigan, Heslop, Hill, Ismail, McKeon, Peel, Sanders (as deputy for Councillor Weatherby), Sherrington, Walsh and Zaman.

Also in Attendance

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Councillor Mrs Fairclough | Executive Cabinet Member<br>Environmental Regulatory Services |
| Councillor Haslam         | Executive Cabinet Member<br>Highways and Transport            |
| Councillor Muslim         | Executive Cabinet Member<br>Environmental Services Delivery   |
| Mr. G. Brough             | Director of Place Development                                 |
| Mr. J. Dyson              | Director of Place Services                                    |
| Mr. A. Bolan              | Head of Service, Regulatory<br>Services                       |
| Mr. P. Mykytiuk           | Regulatory Services   |
| Ms. M. Horrocks           | Head of Economic Development                                  |
| Mr. I. D. Mulholland      | Deputy Democratic Services<br>Manager                         |

(Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Ismail and Weatherby and Warren as Executive Cabinet Member)

Councillor Bagnall in the Chair.

**8. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 were submitted.

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

## **9. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report which set out details of the updated Committee work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

## **10. TRADING STANDARDS**

Mr. Jon. Dyson, Director of Place Services, Mr. Andrew. Bolan, Head of Service, Trading Standards and Mr. Philip Mykytiuk, Regulatory Services, gave a presentation on Trading Standards and illicit tobacco.

The meeting was informed that illicit tobacco was cheap, easily available and was a global problem and included four types – illicit white, counterfeit, genuine cigarettes smuggled in without duty paid and non – UK hand rolling tobacco brands. The vast majority of illicit tobacco was smuggled in via container ships and was more attractive to organised criminals. The gangs behind this trade also had strong links to people trafficking, money laundering, child exploitation, narcotics and in some cases terrorism.

Members were informed that illicit tobacco was sold via boot sales, pubs and clubs, under the counter at retail premises, private (fag) houses and via Facebook.

The harm caused included –

- Lost duty;
- Serious and organised crime;
- Lost business;
- Damage to community cohesion; and
- Damage to health (Makes it easier for existing smokers to smoke more and harder to quit).

In terms of the combatting of the problem, the meeting was informed of targeted days of enforcement which were based on a multi-agency approach.

Members were advised of the success of licensing review hearings in relation to the seizure of illicit tobacco. In terms of the future, a new strategy of intensified activity was planned.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The statistics on smoking and correlation to areas of deprivation;
- Smoking cessation programmes;
- Enforcement matters and boosting enforcement capacity / resource;
- Deterrents from HM Government and any financial incentives for the Council from HM Government;
- Smoking addiction; and
- Police involvement.

Resolved – That Messers Dyson, Bolan and Mykytiuk be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **11. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION GRANT FUNDING**

Mr. Gerry Brough, Director of Place Development and Ms. Michelle Horrocks, Head of Economic development gave a presentation on development and regeneration grant funding.

Members were advised of the grants submitted in 2020/21 broken down by capital and revenue and the same for 2021/22.

Some examples of the grants were given-

- Future High Streets Fund – Farnworth (£13.272M);
- Towns Fund (£22.9m);
- Levelling Up Fund (£40m);
- Horwich Loco Works Housing Infrastructure Fund Grant;

## F4

- The Brownfield Land Fund; and
- Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme – background.

Members were advised that Place development had secured a total of £75.371 m during the past two financial years, i.e. (£14.076 and £61.295) and applications for a further £46.170m had been submitted. The application process was often long and difficult and required commitment of a substantial amount of effort, staff time and external input.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Heat from waste and grant issues;
- Heat from water and grant issues;
- Wasting energy;
- The per centage of grant we received compared with what was applied for;
- Possible scheme overlap;
- Decisions around areas to include in the bids;
- Grants being spent on what the bid was for;
- Monitoring and reporting on schemes and officer resource;
- Congratulations on the presentation and the work involved;
- Matters around competitive bidding;
- The impact of funds and opportunities;
- The Council's capital programme not being big enough;
- Town centre regeneration schemes funded from outside the Council; and
- The usefulness of having this grant information.

Resolved – That Gerry Brough and Michelle Horrocks be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **12. MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**The minutes of various meetings relevant to the remit of this Committee were also submitted, viz –**

- Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021;
- Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2021;
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021;
- Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021; and
- Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 8.03pm)

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## **PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Weatherby (Vice-Chairman), Ayub, Finney, Hartigan, Heslop, Hill, McKeon, McMulkin (as deputy for Councillor Ismail), Peel, Sherrington, Walsh and Zaman.

### Also in Attendance

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Councillor Mrs Fairclough | Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Regulatory Services |
| Councillor Haslam         | Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport            |
| Councillor Muslim         | Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery   |
| Councillor Hewitt         | Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning    |
| Councillor Warren         | Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration                      |
| Mr. G. Brough             | Director of Place Development                              |
| Mr. J. Dyson              | Director of Place Services<br>Assistant Director Economic  |

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mr. P. Whittingham   | Development and Regeneration          |
| Ms. M. Horrocks      | Head of Economic Development          |
| Ms. P. Clyne         | Licensing Manager                     |
| Mr. I. D. Mulholland | Deputy Democratic Services<br>Manager |

(Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Ismail, Bagnall, Brady and Eckersley-Fallon )

Councillor Bagnall in the Chair.

### **13. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 were submitted.

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

### **14. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report which set out details of the updated Committee work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

### **15. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE FINANCE OUTTURN REPORT**

The Directors of Place Development and Place Services together with the Director of Corporate resources submitted a joint report which set out details of the financial outturn position for 2020/21.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **16. LGA PEER REVIEW – TAXI LICENSING**

Mr. Jon Dyson, Director of Place Services and Ms. Patricia Clyne, Licensing Manager gave a presentation on matters concerning the LGA Peer Review relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles.

By way of background information, members were advised that in February, 2019 the LGA was asked to complete a Peer Review of the Taxi Licensing Service at Bolton Council.

Members were also reminded that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority were also progressing the development of a GM wide minimum licensing standards agreement which included many of the service changes and proposed improvements included in the LGA's 11 recommendations. In addition the DfT, in July, 2020, published new statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards.

The Committee was informed of the detail of the 11 specific Recommendations and their progress, the majority of which related to the finer detail of service delivery and operational management arrangements, viz –

- Developing a Bolton guide to good practice for elected members and officers;
- Introduce online applications;
- Review the taxi / private hire licence application form;
- Agree and implement key performance measures;
- Strengthen engagement with trade representatives and operators including regular formalised meetings with the trade;
- Agreeing a shared vision and improvement plan for taxi / private hire vehicle licensing;
- Undertake a thorough review of the licensing function including team resources, policies, procedures and data sharing protocols;
- Review governance and decision making in relation to the taxi / private hire vehicle licensing function;
- Review officer and member training;

- Develop a corporately agreed approach to internal and external communications for the taxi / private hire vehicle licensing function; and
- Develop, at pace, the necessary digital solutions for the delivery of the taxi / private hire vehicle function covering new applications, case management and reminders.

In conclusion, members were advised that the pandemic had had a huge impact on the team and service provision and the team had worked tirelessly over the last 18 months to ensure the service continued. In recognition of their hard work the team won two Bolton Best Awards in 2020.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Applying online and did you have to;
- Digital security;
- The changes seemed to be working as complaints reduced;
- Thanks to the hard work of the section;
- Consultations with the trade and minimum licensing standards;
- Use of grant funding;
- Safeguarding training - when undertaken and how was it know if done;
- Congratulations regarding the awards; and
- The digitisation programme.

Resolved – That Messrs Dyson and Clyne be thanked for their informative and detailed presentation.

## **17. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND RESILIANCE PLAN**

Mr. Gerry Brough, Director of Place Development and Ms. Michelle Horrocks, Head of Economic Development have a presentation on the economic growth and resilience plan.

Members were advised of some contextual information which included that Bolton's unemployment rate was 7.2% with 12,610 currently claiming unemployment related benefits in the Borough. This was 3,040 more claimants since March, 2020,

the forth highest increase in GM. In April, 2021 rates were at 8.5%. Also there were 1,805 job vacancies listed last month in Bolton.

In terms of current support, members were advised of support to businesses that were starting up, growing or looking to move into the Borough, ensuring integrated and effective delivery of the GMCA working well and locality employment programmes, supporting unemployed residents and delivery of the adult education budget. Other current support included, covid safety measures, shop local app for Bolton town centre and district centres, town and district centre regeneration plans and business grants and loans.

Members were advised of the reasons Bolton needed a growth and resilience plan and those included opportunities to secure recovery, regeneration plans, a strong partnership approach, improve the synergy between programmes, having the right skills for a changing economy. The key priorities were business, people and investment.

The plan would also identify strengths and weaknesses, include engagements, evaluate roles and responsibilities, identify resources and include an action plan.

Members were also advised of matters around an employment land study and development of a skills strategy.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- It being an informative and ambitious presentation;
- The jobs being advertised locally;
- City investment and the need for wider investment in the sub-region;
- The outcomes and what would attract people to come to Bolton;
- The success and failures of past strategies;
- Conversations with educational establishments and employers;
- Creation of Bolton's unique selling point;
- Where people lived and their neighbourhoods;

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- Facilitating outdoor hospitality;
- The capacity of the Council to take this forward and the willingness of partners to engage; and
- HM Government funding issues.

Resolved – That Gerry Brough and Michelle Horrocks be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation.

## **18. MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**The minutes of various meetings relevant to the remit of this Committee were also submitted, viz –**

None this time.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 8.12pm)

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Iqbal (Chairman), Grant (Vice-Chairman), Donaghy, Hornby, McGeown, Murray, Sherrington (as deputy for Councillor Adia) and Rimmer.

Co-opted Members

Reverend Canon Dr Bracegirdle – Church of England Diocese Representative

Also in attendance

- |                     |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Galloway | - | Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services        |
| Ms B. Brown         | - | Director of Children's Services                       |
| Mr P. Rankin        | - | Deputy Director of Children's Services                |
| Ms G. Whitehead     | - | Assistant Director – Inclusive Education and Learning |
| Ms S. Gilman        | - | Assistant Director - Public Health                    |
| Mr I. D. Mulholland | - | Deputy Democratic Services Manager                    |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Connor, Finney, Hill, Pattison and Taylor-Burke

Councillor Iqbal in the Chair.

**12. DAVID AMESS MP**

The Chairman referred to the recent death David Amess MP.

The Committee observed a minute silence in his memory.

### **13. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved - The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **14. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

The Borough Solicitor submitted the Committee Work Programme for 2021/22.

Councillor Sherrington requested that an item on Start Well Family Hubs be added to the Work Programme.

Ms Brown suggested that as this was a new area, a briefing note on this matter be provided for all members with a view to its inclusion on next year's Programme when there would be more information to scrutinise.

Resolved – That the 2021/22 Committee Work Programme be noted and that a briefing note be provided to all members on the Start Well Family Hubs with a view to its inclusion on the Work Programme for next year.

### **15. SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING**

Mr P. Rankin gave a presentation on school place planning in Bolton.

Members were advised that the Council had a statutory duty to offer a school place for every child. Since 2009/10, Bolton had seen:

- a 26% increase in primary school children;
- a 28% increase in secondary school children;
- £66m used to expand existing schools;
- no additional funding for expansions received from Central Government for the last 2 years; and
- several new schools being announced for Bolton in recent years to help meet rising demand in some areas.

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Leader of the Council had agreed to escalate the issue and would meet with DfE officials.

The presentation outlined the differences between expansions and new schools and the processes involved with each. In brief, councils were required to work with existing schools to expand whilst Academy Trusts could apply to the DfE for funding for a new build.

With regard to pupil projections, members were advised that they were based on previous patterns and trends which took into account:

- birth data (from NHS);
- movements in and out of Bolton;
- housing developments (with high degree of confidence)
- parental preference
- termly school census was used to update data 3 times a year; and
- highest weighting normally given to the last year, however 2020 was not a normal year.

It was highlighted that projections were not an exact science and subject to change. There was also a need for working capacity across all schools to allow for growth with a recommended 5% (minimum 2%).

Mr Rankin went on to explain that the last 18 months had been a volatile period with Covid-19 and Brexit together with increased elective home education, international travel and a net increase in children moving into Bolton. The DfE had issued the following statement:

“The 2021 school census data shows notable decreases in enrolment in nursery and primary schools and alternative provision compared to previous years. These are expected to be temporary, as a result of the pandemic, rather than long-term changes. However, using this data results in decreases across future years

which are not considered to be realistic estimates of the pupil population over the next ten years”

The presentation also referred to housing yield and implications of length of time to build new homes.

In relation to primary projections, the presentation provided a series of slides containing statistical graphs and geographical charts which demonstrated demand in all the areas of the Borough. They revealed that:

- projections were volatile due to the events of the last 18 months and that demand was not uniform across Bolton;
- the greatest demand was in North and Central Areas - additional capacity needed to be considered, projected drop off in reception demand in this area 2025/26 and discussions progressing with the DfE as to best way to meet that demand;
- demand in the South Area - making current temporary capacity permanent would meet this demand; and
- no immediate action in other areas.

Projections would be updated on receipt of Autumn census data from the DfE (in December, 2021) and could change.

In relation to secondary schools, the presentation stated that:

- 2 new secondary schools had been built in the last 3 years to meet demand;
- projections were more reliable as children were known and within our primary schools; and
- the projection model for Bolton rather than locality based; and
- two different models to mitigate for this using different weightings for previous year's data.

DfE Statement –

“The 2021 school census data shows notable decreases in enrolment in nursery and primary schools and

alternative provision compared to previous years. These are expected to be temporary, as a result of the pandemic, rather than long-term changes. However, using this data results in decreases across future years which are not considered to be realistic estimates of the pupil population over the next ten years”

Various graphs and statistical slides were used to demonstrate the position. They revealed that:

- projections were volatile due to the events of the last 18 months;
- additional capacity was needed to ensure sufficient secondary school places for the future - a Bulge year in 2022/23 needed and equivalent to a 180 intake secondary school from 2023/24 onwards; and
- DfE moving forward delivery of new Secondary Free School in Bolton.

Projections would be updated on receipt of the Autumn census data from the DfE (in December, 2021) and could change.

Following the presentation, members made a number of comments/observations:

- concerns at the lack of Government funding for the last two years;
- the need to take account of cross border pupils when building new schools and ensure that priority was given to pupils living within the Bolton Borough;
- the challenges of parental preference;
- the complexities of DfE wave funding and the lack of control by the Authority on how it was utilised;
- the challenges associated with projections and the need to adjust and amend plans; and
- the limitations of the Local Authority in terms of providing extensions in the right areas.

Resolved – That Mr Rankin be thanked for his informative presentation.

## **16. ATTAINMENT**

Ms G. Whitehead gave a presentation on attainment in primary and secondary schools in Bolton.

The presentation provided a series of detailed graphs which demonstrated performance of pupils in secondary schools and gave a comparison against attainment with statistical neighbours and England.

In relation to primary schools, there had been no statutory assessments since 2019 and therefore there were no performance tables. The DfE would continue to use 2019 data as a starting point regarding support for schools with Ofsted judgements below Good.

Members were informed that all existing statutory Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2) assessments would return in 2021/22, following their usual timetable. This included:-

- end of KS1 and KS2 assessments (including tests and teacher assessment)
- reception baseline assessment
- phonics screening check
- year 4 multiplication tables check
- statutory trialling.

Following the presentation, members made various observations/comments, as follows:

- concerns that Ofsted had suspended their inspections during the pandemic even though teaching had still taken place – members were advised that ratings inspections had not taken place as schools were unable to improve their ratings. Monitoring visits were still ongoing which schools could choose to defer but Bolton had continued with them;
- the systems that were in place to ensure examination grades were awarded consistently and fairly – Ms Whitehead advised that teacher assessed grades went through a rigorous process of moderation to ensure they

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- were in line with expected grades and other schools - there was also an appeal process in place and it was noted that there had been fewer appeals lodged; and
- the possible link between higher grades and assessments being year-round rather than being based on a single examination.

Resolved – That Ms Whitehead be thanked for her informative presentation.

### **17. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

The Committee received the minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 13<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.10pm)

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**NOTES**