

THE CABINET

MEETING, 12TH JANUARY, 2015

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

Cabinet Members

Councillor Bashir-Ismail	Community Services
Councillor Lewis	Housing and Social Inclusion
Councillor Cunliffe	Public Health
Councillor Chadwick	Highways and Transport
Councillor D. Burrows	Police and Community Safety
Councillor McKeon	Education and Schools
Councillor Peacock	Adult Social Care

Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Jones
Councillor Murray
Councillor Greenhalgh
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough
Councillor Cox
Councillor Hayes
Councillor Richardson (as
deputy for Councillor
Parkinson)

Officers

Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Ms. S. Asquith	Deputy Chief Executive
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 J. Byrne, Parkinson and Zaman.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1st December, 2014 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

25. MINUTES OF THE AGMA EXECUTIVE AND COMBINED AUTHORITY

The Chief Executive submitted a report that detailed the key decisions taken by the AGMA Executive Board and Combined Authority on 28th November and 19th December, 2014.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

26. AGMA BUSINESS RATES POOLING

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report that sought the Cabinet's approval to the Council entering into a pooled business rates arrangement with AGMA and adjoining Authorities.

Members were reminded that reforms introduced by the Local Government Resource Review (LGRR) allowed local authorities to retain an element of the Business Rates collected, together with any element of growth in Business Rates collected above an assumed baseline level. The

retained Business Rate income was subject to a safety net and Local Authorities were protected at 92.5% of their baseline funding, which equated to assumed National Non Domestic Rates income and any top-up payments.

The LGRR also introduced the option for Local Authorities to pool their Business Rates meaning that monies which may have been paid over to Central Government could now be retained within the pool. This levy payment was typically made by Authorities with high levels of Business Rate income and 50% of any growth in income would be paid to Central Government. However, the risk with pooling was that if an Authority lost a large amount of Business Rates within a year then it would be hit by a safety net established by the Government to limit any in-year losses by individual councils. The safety net was currently triggered when there was a loss of more than 7.5% and in a pooling arrangement the loss of income above this was supported by the pool and not an additional payment from Central Government. Consequently, it was important to establish that no authorities were at risk of triggering a safety net claim when such arrangements were established.

A detailed analysis of the projected business rate position for AGMA authorities and Cheshire East had shown that no authorities were anticipating breaching the safety net in 2015/16. Consequently, an application had been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government on the pooling of Business Rates. Each Authority needed to decide on whether it wished to be part of the pool within 28 days of the Local Government Finance Settlement which was announced on 18th December 2014.

Any monies gained as part of the pooling arrangement would be retained by the pool for investment within Greater Manchester (through the existing governance structures of the Combined Authority) and the other Authority involved. This sum was currently estimated to be up to £3m for the 2015/16 financial year, but the establishment of the pool kept this money within the region. Without the pool, the money would have been passed over to central government.

It was anticipated that the pool would be administered by Manchester City Council.

Resolved – That approval be given to the Council entering into a pooling arrangement with other AGMA and adjoining Authorities for 2015/16 as described in the report.

27. COMMUNITY STRATEGY OUTCOMES UPDATE – QUARTER 1 AND 2 2014/15.

The Chief Executive submitted a report that provided the Cabinet with a mid-year review of performance for 2014/15.

Overall good progress continued towards delivering community strategy priorities. A round up of the current position and priorities for the remainder of this year were as follows:-

- robust plans were in place to deliver the economic prosperity agenda by building capacity to attract employment and businesses to the town and equip local people with the skills and experience to apply for the jobs that would be created;
- Bolton broadly held its position against national comparators in key measures relating to health, children and young people, employment and educational attainment. The Children's Trust had identified areas where performance was less strong, specifically childhood obesity and low birth weight, with action plans and progress to be reported back at the end of the financial year; and
- progress continued to narrow the gap between the areas of greatest and least deprivation, including in-borough health inequality (which, whilst improving, remained a key issue) and educational attainment.

Significant progress had been made in reducing domestic waste and improving recycling, through a comprehensive service and behaviour change programme. However,

cleanliness pass rates had slipped, from 94% in 2010/11 down to about 90% for the past four years and was seen as a direct result of there being fewer people, vehicles and sweepers in operation.

Resolved – That the Cabinet endorses the conclusions and priorities set out for the rest of 2014/15, as now detailed.

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 2.30 p.m.)