

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 23RD OCTOBER, 2019

Present – Councillors Bagnall (Chairman), Weatherby (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Brady, Bullock, Donaghy, Evans, Hayes (as deputy for Councillor Wilkinson), Haworth (as deputy for Councillor Abdullah), Mistry (as deputy for Councillor Darvesh), Peel, Radcliffe, Silvester and Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Greenhalgh	Leader of the Council and Deputy for Councillor Cox, Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport
Councillor Galloway	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Regulatory Services
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery
Councillor Muslim	Executive Cabinet Member Stronger Communities
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place
Mr. J. Morrissy	Assistant Director Policy, Projects and Public Sector Reform
Mr. D. Shepherd	Principal Group Accountant
Mr. J. Gorton	Partnership Manager, Leisure Trust
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Abdullah, Connor, Darvesh and Wilkinson.

Councillor Bagnall in the Chair.

11. MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th August, 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record, subject to the deletion in the attendance of Councillor Fletcher (as deputy for Councillor Fletcher) and the substitution therefor of Councillor Fletcher (as deputy for Councillor Connor).

12. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the updated work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

13. CALL IN MATTERS

(a)

The Committee was advised that the decision in relation to the report, Area Working and Neighbourhood Management, had been called in at the meeting of Cabinet held on 9th September, 2019 by Councillor Mrs. Thomas in accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Rules of procedure, Section E Scrutiny procedure Rules, Paragraph 17.

The Committee had previously been circulated with a copy of the report considered at the meeting of the Cabinet, the minute in this regard and procedural matters around the options available to the Committee following consideration of the matter.

It was moved by Councillor Bagnall and seconded by Councillor Weatherby –

That this Committee refers the decision made by the Cabinet to the Council for consideration, asking the Council to note that this Committee :-

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- (a) Reaffirms its belief in the principle of targeting available resources as a means of reducing inequalities and deprivation in the Borough;
- (b) Also affirms that resources targeted in this way must be closely monitored to ensure that the desired outcomes are being achieved and believes that in the past this has not always been the case;
- (c) Welcomes the intention to initiate a full review to determine the basis for area management and the allocation of associated funding across the Borough and to issue clear rules and guidance governing the subsequent distribution of this funding;
- (d) Notes that the overall pot available for distribution is relatively small and believes it would be logical to distribute this on the same basis as in previous years until the review is completed. Committee therefore recommends that Option 1 in the report should be implemented rather than Option 2.

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Donaghy –

That this Scrutiny Committee refer the decision onto the Council, with the following comment :-

The decision be amended so that the existing mechanism for allocating funding in 2019/20, updated to include the most up to date deprivation data, be implemented. In addition, that a future Policy Development Group review of funding allocations, funding distribution, criteria for spend and local engagement mechanisms be held. The outcome of this review will be used to form the basis of future allocations of both Area Working monies and Neighbourhood Management monies for 2020/21 onwards. In addition, that this review is provided with the most up to date data and evidence on all previous Neighbourhood Management spend that examines the desired outcomes for local communities.

Whereupon as a second amendment, it was moved by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Allen –

This Committee recognises the principle of equity and fairness to all council tax payers across the Borough as evidenced within the proposals.

The Committee also agrees that as we are now over half way through the financial year further delay will severely inhibit the opportunity for ward members to consider spending plans for the prudent and proper use of neighbourhood funding this financial year and accordingly supports the proposals agreed by the Cabinet for 2019/20.

The first amendment which had been moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Donaghy was then put to the vote, when the voting was as follows:-

For the Amendment, Viz –

Councillors Evans, Haworth, Peel, Donaghy, Silvester and Mistry

Against the Amendment, Viz –

Councillors Allen, Bullock, Radcliffe, Walsh, Bagnall, Hayes, Weatherby and Brady.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

Whereupon, the amendment was declared lost.

The second amendment which had been moved by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Allen was then put to the vote, when the voting was as follows:-

For the Amendment, Viz –

Councillors Allen, Bullock, Radcliffe, Walsh and Brady.

Against the Amendment, Viz –

Councillors Evans, Haworth, Peel, Donaghy, Silvester, Mistry, Bagnall, Hayes and Weatherby.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

Whereupon, the amendment was declared lost.

The original motion was then put to the vote, when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Evans, Haworth, Peel, Donaghy, Silvester, Mistry, Bagnall, Hayes and Weatherby.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Allen, Bullock, Radcliffe, Walsh and Brady.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

Whereupon, the original motion was declared carried.

(b)

The Committee was advised that the decision in relation to the report, allocation of £100,000 to Horwich Town Centre Steering Committee, had been called in at the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 23rd September, 2019 by Councillor Wilkinson in accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Rules of procedure, Section E Scrutiny procedure Rules, Paragraph 17.

The Committee had previously been circulated with a copy of the report considered at the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member, the minute in this regard and procedural matters around the options available to the Committee following consideration of the matter.

It was moved by Councillor Silvester and seconded by Councillor Peel –

That all of the monies from the sale of Pickup's Field, reported by the Bolton News on 24th September which would amount to, half a million pound cheque, should be released back to Horwich to be used to replace the public open space which will be lost with an alternative facility or to improve existing public green space and / or facilities for existing public green space in Horwich and also that a Policy Development Group looks at a possible emerging policy from the Deputy Leaders decision.

The motion was then put to the vote, when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Evans, Haworth, Peel, Donaghy, Silvester, Mistry and Brady

Against the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Allen, Bullock, Radcliffe, Walsh, Bagnall, Hayes and Weatherby.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

Their being an equality of votes, the Chairman exercised his right to use his second and casting vote against the Motion. Whereupon, the motion was declared lost.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Bagnall and Seconded by Councillor Weatherby that the decision of the Executive Cabinet Member be noted.

The motion was then put to the vote, when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Allen, Bullock, Radcliffe, Walsh, Bagnall, Hayes, Weatherby and Brady.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Evans, Haworth, Peel, Donaghy, Silvester and Mistry.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

Whereupon, Councillors Silvester, Peel and Evans exercised their right under Standing Orders to refer the matter to Council for consideration with the following motion in the name of Councillor Silvester-

That all of the monies from the sale of Pickup's Field, reported by the Bolton News on 24th September which would amount to, half a million pound cheque, should be released back to Horwich to be used to replace the public open space which will be lost with an alternative facility or to improve existing public green space and / or facilities for existing public green space in Horwich and also that a Policy Development Group looks at a possible emerging policy from the Deputy Leaders decision.

14. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER ONE

The Director of Place and the Director of Corporate Resources submitted a joint report which set out details of the financial quarter one, 2019/20 projected outturn position of the Director of Place.

Members in their discussions referred to the Corporate Property Services variance of 227,000 and building cleaning contracts.

Resolved - That the contents of the report be noted.

15. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER ONE

The Director of Place submitted a report which set out details of the key performance measures for the Directorate of Place during the period 1st April, 2019 to 30th June, 2019.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- data and intelligence at ward level and the availability of such information from other agencies;
- Business growth rates and how they were measured; and
- Housing and housing completions.

Resolved – That the contents of the report be noted.

16. LEISURE PROVISION IN THE BOROUGH

Mr. Jon Gorton, Partnership Manager, Leisure Trust gave a presentation on the leisure provision in Bolton.

By way of background information, the meeting was informed of key information relating to the Trust and the Leisure Centre Partnership Framework.

The meeting was informed of the various facilities within the Borough, the transfer of eight dual use sites back to schools and the financial investment at Westhoughton, Farnworth, Leverhulme, Horwich, Jason Kenny and the two 3G pitches. The source of the investment was also referred to, be that the Council, Trust or external funding.

Mr Gorton also explained the financial changes since 2013 and the impact of this.

The meeting was informed that in Bolton there were 29 sports halls, 17 swimming pools and 30 health and fitness venues providing over 2000 stations. In addition there was also a strong presence of national health and fitness operators, a significant increase in the number of budget gym operators and a vast network of community sports clubs.

In conclusion Mr. Gorton referred to the leisure contribution to the Vision 2030 and behaviour change.

Members in their deliberations referred to the car park at Horwich Leisure Centre and matters around the good provision and service in Bolton.

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

17. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

The following question was submitted by Councillor Silvester in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the response was prepared by the Borough Solicitor.

Q.

It had always been the tradition going back years that the Annual Remembrance concert was held on the Saturday evening immediately prior to Remembrance Sunday.

This year such a Saturday fell on Saturday 9th November.

Bolton Council had hosted this event in the Albert Hall on such a Saturday evening apart from a break of a few years whilst the Albert Halls were closed for refurbishment.

This year however the Annual Remembrance Concert was being held on Thursday 7th November and the Albert Halls website showed that 'An Evening with Bosom Buddies – Britain's Got Talent stars Bosom Buddies welcome you to wonderful evening of live music and comedy' was being held on Saturday 9th November instead, on the eve of Remembrance Sunday.

Why had this change taken place and why was the Albert Hall not kept available for the evening of Saturday 9th November so that the Annual Remembrance Concert could take place on the evening of its tradition ?

Was it a commercial decision that the other event, 'An Evening with Bosom Buddies' should take place instead on the evening of Saturday 9th November ?

In future years, could the Annual Remembrance Concert revert back to the Saturday evening immediately prior to Remembrance Sunday and the Albert Hall kept available for the event on this night ?

A.

The Albert Halls were available for the Remembrance Concert on 9 November but unfortunately the Lancashire Artillery (V) Band already had a commitment for that night. The band played at the Remembrance Concert last year and was very well received. The organisers were very keen to have the band this year at the concert and so it was agreed to move the concert to 7 November when they were able to perform.

The following question was submitted by Councillor Haworth in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the response was prepared by the Director of Place.

Q.

Question - Neighbourhood Management outcomes information

Could positive outcomes information from some of the neighbourhood management funded work in Great Lever and in Farnworth like the Men In Sheds project at Willow Hey, the Aspirations (career and jobs) project for children and Raise the Youth's work including the Brighter Futures project, be available for the Bolton Vision internal work and be considered with other outcomes information alongside the two year action plan work to assist with the Bolton Vision aim that Bolton be made a better place for everyone?

A.

It would be possible to collate some information regarding outputs from the Great Lever and Farnworth Neighbourhood Management projects, such as those highlighted in Cllr Howarth's question. We would also examine what additional information was available for other NM areas.

We had some existing information and might be able to gather more from the programmes on outputs (e.g. nos. of people benefitting from an intervention or support and how they've benefitted) and some measures and examples of how the quality of their lives and future prospects had been improved. These had often been pilot projects or developmental work which had contributed to the reconfiguration of Council, other public and voluntary sector services and their respective transformation programmes.

Information on qualitative outcomes for individuals and communities which demonstrated the impact and effectiveness of this type of work was more difficult to identify, because there were so many factors which affected outcomes for individuals and communities. However, we would look at what might be available which could help in the Vision work referred to.

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

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- Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 23rd September and 14th October, 2019; and
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery held on 8th October, 2019.

Resolved – (i) That the members questions and responses be noted.

(ii) That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.45pm)