

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 2nd APRIL, 2013

Present – Councillors I. Ibrahim (Chairman), Allen, C. Burrows, Challenger, Critchley, Kay (as deputy for Councillor Pickup), McKeon (as deputy for Councillor Silvester), Radlett, Spencer, A. S. Walsh and Wild.

Lay Members

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| Ms. B. Berry | - | BATRA |
| Ms. J. Horan | - | BATRA |

Also in Attendance

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| Councillor J. Byrne | - | Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing and Skills |
| Councillor Chadwick | - | Cabinet Member, Highways and Transport |
| Councillor Sherrington | - | Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling |
| Mr. S. Young | - | Assistant Director Highways and Business Development |
| Ms. J. Pollard | - | Head of Finance and Business Development |
| Mr. T. Hill | - | Chief Planning and Housing Officer |
| Mr. M. Atherton | - | Senior Engineering Manager (Highway Operations) |
| Ms. S. Johnson | - | Assistant Director of Finance and ICT and Chief Officer Support |

Mr. I. D. Mulholland - Principal Democratic Services Officer

(Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors S. Harkin, Kell, Pickup and Silvester and Councillor Peel as Executive Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills)

Councillor I. Ibrahim in the Chair.

41. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th January, 2013 were submitted.

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

42. MONITORING OF DECISIONS

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out details of the decisions made at previous meetings and the progress on each to date.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

43. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2012/13

The Deputy Chief Executive Submitted a report which set out details of the updated work programme for this Committee.

Resolved – That the updated work programme be noted.

44. WINTER GRITTING

Mr. Mark Atherton, Senior Engineering Manager (Highway Operations) gave a presentation which updated the Committee on matters relating to the highway winter service.

By way of background information, Members were advised that the winter maintenance budget was £730,000. Twenty five routes were gritted which amounted to 51% of the total network in Bolton. Also, 30 to 40 tonnes of grit were used on each route.

Mr. Atherton went onto explain that a new policy was introduced in 2012/13 . This set out the winter service provision that the Council would provide, its statutory duties, communication arrangements, the range of treatments and delivery timings.

In terms of last year's activity, routes were gritted 55 times, using 2,894 tonnes of salt at a cost of £1.18 million. So far this year, routes had been gritted 98 times using 4,356 tonnes of salt.

In conclusion, the Committee was apprised of statistical information relating to the gritting of routes since the year 2000.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- the good performance of the gritting service this winter period;
- matters around the better publicity around the service this year; and
- the cost of a full route grit.

Resolved – (i) That Mr. Atherton be thanked for his presentation and that the position be noted; and
(ii) That the Director of Environmental Services be notified of this Committee's appreciation for the successful operation of the highway winter service during the winter of 2012/13.

45. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES EXTERNAL INCOME

Mr. Stephen Young, Assistant Director Highways and Business Development gave a presentation which looked at the ability of the Department to generate external income.

By way of background information, Members were informed that the Department's budgeted income for 2012/13 was £40.64m with a projected income of £41.18m. The projected income came from community services, highways (£2.71m), neighbourhood services and regulatory services (£3.16m) and waste and transport (£2.07m). Nearly half of the total came from community services (£11.96m).

The presentation went onto detail the specific areas of income generation under each of those headings.

The Committee was advised that the Department was constantly considering new income opportunities which included –

- online burial / cremation records;
- security – key holding and response to the private sector;
- charges for specific waste containers;
- sign shop;
- highways to sell private services eg driveways;
- publicise MOT services for taxis and the general public;
- service school mini buses; and
- concessions in parks.

In conclusion, members were advised of matters around risk and constraints.

Members in their discussions referred to matters around the selling of external services and services to schools.

Resolved - That Mr. Young be thanked for his informative presentation and that the position be noted.

46. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REPORT, 2012/13, QUARTER THREE

The Directors of Environmental Services and Corporate Resources submitted a joint report which provided information relating to the financial and performance quarter three position for the Environmental Services portfolio for the 2012/13 financial year.

The report highlighted that in line with the Community Strategy all performance targets were being met. Revenue expenditure was underspent against the budget by £160,000 after planned reserve movements, the main variances being in Apportionable Overheads. In relation to Capital expenditure, the report advised that the projected figure for the year was £16.999m against a programme of £20.888m.

The Executive Cabinet Member had a projected general reserve of £232,000 for the end of the year.

With regard to Efficiency Targets, budgeted efficiency savings for the department were £675,000 and all planned efficiencies were expected to be achieved.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

47. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION – FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REPORT, 2012/13, QUARTER THREE

The Directors of Development and Regeneration and Corporate Resources submitted a joint report which provided information relating to the financial and performance quarter three position for the Development and Regeneration portfolio, which included Housing Services for the 2012/13 financial year.

The report highlighted that in line with the Community Strategy all performance targets were being met.

With regard to Revenue expenditure, the outturn position for Development including Housing Services was an underspend of £459,000 after reserve movements.

Capital Expenditure for the year was projected to be £7,463,000 against a budget of £13,690,000.

The Committee was further advised that the Department had a projected total general reserve of £873,966.

The report explained that budgeted Efficiency Targets were £1,269,000 and all planned efficiencies were projected to be achieved.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

48. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills held on 18th February and 25th March, 2013;
- Waste, Recycling, Highways and Transport Policy Development Group held on 7th February, 2013 ;
- Economy, Housing and Skills Policy Development Group held on 19th February and 6th March, 2013;
- Joint Waste, Recycling, Highways and Transport and Neighbourhood and Community Services Policy Development Groups held on 13th March, 2013; and
- Cabinet held on 11th February, 2013.

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

(The meeting started at 5.00 p.m. and finished at 5.47pm)

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