

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 4th APRIL, 2017

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Pickup (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Harkin, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Hornby, Kellett, Kirk-Robinson (as deputy for Councillor J. Walsh), Newall, Shaikh, Spencer, Whitehead and P. Wild.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services
Councillor Burrows	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Police and community Services
Councillor Chadwick	Cabinet Member for Special Projects, Transport and Skills
Councillor Sherrington	Cabinet Member for Housing, Procurement and Highways
Councillor Watters	Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Voluntary Sector and Community Services
Mr. S. Young	Director of Place
Ms. K. Hopkins	Interim Director of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy
Miss. P. Clyne	Principal Licensing Officer
Mr. M. Hoban	Head of Service Waste and Fleet Management
Mr. A. Bolan	Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager
Mr. G. Gallagher	Accommodation Service Group Manager
Mr. A. Fazal	Refugee and Accommodation Principal Officer
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services

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Officer

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Walsh.

Councillor Silvester, Chairman

38. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7th February, 2017 were submitted.

Further to minute 33, Issues Associated with the New Bolton Interchange and in particular the Bus Services and Location for the potential Car Park, members sought an update on the progress of the Trinity Gateway. It was explained that the car park and hotel study were underway, as were utility checks.

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

39. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2016/2017

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which set out the updated work programme of the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Members asked if there was an update on the publication of the conclusions of the Drinking Water Inspectorate's investigation into the Bolton water supply issue of last year. It was explained that an update had been sought of DEFRA and a response was awaited.

Resolved – That the updated work programme be noted.

40. THE SUPPORT PROVIDED TO TRAVELLERS, THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO ASYLUM SEEKERS AND THE STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE AND THE WORK UNDERTAKEN WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Mr. Ged Gallagher, Accommodation Service Group Manager gave a presentation which outlined Bolton Council's approach to providing assistance to travellers.

The presentation focused on the following –

- Management of the authorised site at Crompton Lodge, Hall Lane, Farnworth; and
- Management of unauthorised gypsy / traveller encampments in the Borough.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- The turnover of occupants on the permanent site;
- The clean-up costs regarding illegal encampments and cost recovery;
- Recovery of stolen goods and police liaison;
- The facility of better education and health opportunities for younger people; and
- The time it took to remove an illegal site.

Mr Araf Fazal gave a presentation on the financial implications of asylum seekers and the strategy for the future.

Mr Fazal referred to the following areas in his presentation –

- Dispersal under the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999;
- Not directly delivered or controlled by the Local Authority;
- Current contract from 2012 to 2019 between the Home Office and Serco to provide accommodation and support; and
- Asylum seekers had no recourse to public funds but access to primary health care and education for children.

Members in the their deliberations referred to –

- The placement of asylum seekers and consultation with the Council;
- The contractual arrangements with Serco;
- Where the funding came from;
- What was in place regarding those with physical disabilities;
- The needs of the children of asylum seekers;
- A living allowance; and
- The time it took to complete all the procedures regarding asylum seekers.

Mr Andy Bolan, Environmental Enforcement Manager gave a presentation on the work undertaken by the voluntary sector.

The Meeting was informed that in 2015 a £1.3 million one off funding stream was made available to improve the environment of the Borough.

The focus of the funding was to sustain standards of cleanliness in the Borough's communities, neighbourhoods and streets, which would also include measures to tackle fly-tipping and reinforce the Council's enforcement abilities by changing behaviour.

Part of the funding paid for a new post that was linked to working with the voluntary sector in Bolton with the intention of encouraging and supporting groups/ individuals who carried out litter –picking activities.

The presentation went on to focus on the following –

- The role of the community coordinator for volunteer groups;
- Supporting groups – litter-picking;
- Volunteers;
- The work of Bolton's Green Umbrella Group;
- Work with businesses to keep the streets clean; and
- Various success stories throughout the Borough.

Members in their discussions referred to-

- It being good to see so many groups and individuals involved in picking up litter and the big impact they have had;
- Educating the public not to drop litter;
- Appreciation of the work of the groups and Council staff;
- Litter enforcement regarding businesses;
- The litter picking equipment available from Neighbourhood Services; and
- The Council's legislative role in terms of litter picking.

Resolved – (i) That messrs Gallagher, Fazal and Bolan be thanked for their presentations and that the position be noted.

- (i) That this Committee records its thanks for the work the litter picking groups do in the Borough.

41. AREAS AROUND THE LICENCE TRADE INCLUDING PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES AND FOOD TAKEAWAY RESTRICTIONS

Miss Patricia Clyne, Principal Licensing Officer gave a presentation which focused on the licensing of fast food takeaways – the provision of late night refreshment.

Miss Clyne explained that the Licensing Act, 2003 set out the legal framework for the licensing of premises for a number of licensable activities, viz –

- The sale by retail of alcohol;
- The supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club to, or to the order of, a member of a club;
- The provision of regulated entertainment; and
- The provision of late night refreshment.

The meeting was further informed of the specific arrangements for the provision of late night refreshment and hot food and hot drink.

Miss Clyne also apprised the Committee of matters around the review of a Premises Licence.

In conclusion, it was explained that there were currently 339 premises in Bolton that benefited from a Premises Licence where late night refreshment was specified as a licensable activity.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The Council being classed as a responsible Authority; and
- The level of fees for takeaway licences.

Miss Patricia Clyne, Principal Licensing Officer gave a presentation which focused on private hire drivers licences.

By way of background information the Committee was informed that a private hire vehicle was a motor vehicle constructed or adapted to seat fewer than nine passengers and was not a hackney carriage vehicle or a public service vehicle. It was provided for hire and used for carrying passengers or goods and receive payment or reward for this activity.

Miss Clyne also highlighted that private hire drivers frequently carry young children and vulnerable adults and so safety was paramount.

It was also explained that the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976 governed the regulation of private hire vehicles.

The presentation went on to refer to –

- Vehicle specification;
- Application requirements;
- Vehicle livery and licence numbers; and
- The number of vehicles.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- The penalties for trading without a private hire drivers licence;
- The distinctions between private hire and hackney

- carriage and the use of operators;
- Enforcement issues and drivers coming from other areas;
- Matters around the statement of suitability and fitness, intelligence and background;
- Whether you can limit the number of private hire vehicles;
- Matters around individuals who change their name and being able to trace them for the purposes of being a fit and proper person to hold a licence; and
- Hackney carriage age restrictions.

Resolved – That Miss Clyne be thanked for her presentation and that the position be noted.

42. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND HOUSING SERVICES FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER THREE, 2016/17

The Director of Place and the Borough Treasurer submitted a joint report which set out details of information relating to the financial quarter three position, 2016/17 for the Environmental Services and Housing Services portfolios, which were part of the Department of Place.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The issue of energy prices for street lighting.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

43. DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE, QUARTER THREE, 2016/17

The Director of Place submitted a report which provided details of the quarter three performance position for the Environmental Services elements of the Place Department.

The report also incorporated Housing Services and the internal departmental position.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Domestic waste tonnages and associated issues;
- The amount of sickness, reduction measures and return to work interviews;
- The demolition of Heaton Chapel and its commemoration;
- Empty property Council tax exemptions;
- Hate crime reduction and the reporting of this;
- Stress reduction; and
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour and if the methodology would help to reduce incidents of arson.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

- (ii) That members of this Committee be notified as to whether the methodology used to reduce anti-social behaviour would help to reduce incidents of arson.

44. SLIM BIN ROLL OUT

The Assistant Director Place Services tabled a report which specifically updated the Committee on the progress of the slim bin roll out as at the end of March, 2017.

The report also provided details of –

- Performance monitoring information;
- Waste audits and requests for advice and support from residents;
- Orders for recycling bins;
- Fly tipping data;
- Presentation of side waste and issuing of advisory legal notices; and
- Door to door engagement to promote recycling.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Relative figures in relation to the other eight Greater Manchester Authorities working with the Disposal Authority;
- Tonnages at the two Bolton sites and recycling;
- The possible attendance at a future meeting of this

Committee of a representative from the Waste Disposal Authority;

- Fly tipping fines and success stories;
- The success of the slim bin roll out;
- The excellent service provided by staff at the Waste Disposal Authority waste sites in Bolton; and
- Bolton Council staff have given Councillors the information they needed to respond to the public.

Resolved – (i) That the report and discussions thereon be noted.

- (iii) That members of this Committee be furnished with relative recycling figures in relation to the other eight Greater Manchester Authorities working with the Disposal Authority

45. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services held on 20th February and 20th March, 2017.

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

46. VOTE OF THANKS

Resolved – That this Committee thanks officers of Bolton Council and officers from external organisations for presentations and reports made to Committee throughout the Municipal Year and also thanks officers from Democratic Services for their efficient organisation. This Committee further thanks members of the Cabinet for being in attendance throughout the Municipal Year at all the Committee meetings.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.25pm)