

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 1ST AUGUST, 2019

Present – Councillors Weatherby (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Darvesh, Evans, Gibbon, Haworth (as deputy for Councillor Silvester), Hayes (as deputy for Councillor Wilkinson), Peel, Radcliffe, Mrs.Thomas (as deputy for Councillor McKeon), Veevers (as deputy for Councillor Bagnall) and Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Greenhalgh	Executive Cabinet Member Leaders Portfolio (as deputy for the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leaders Portfolio)
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Service Delivery
Councillor Galloway	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Regulatory Services
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place
Ms. D. Ball	Deputy Director of Place
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. J. Hundal	Interim Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Ms. J. Duxbury	Principal Estates Surveyor
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen, Bagnall, McKeon, Silvester and Wilkinson and the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leaders Portfolio and Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.

Councillor Weatherby in the Chair.

5. CALL IN – LAND AT SINGLETON AVENUE, HORWICH

The Committee was advised that the decision in relation to the report, Land at Singleton Avenue, Horwich, had been called in at the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leaders Portfolio meeting held on 9th July, 2019 by Councillor Hayes 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 Deputy Leaders Portfolio and a revised report, 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 Hayes and seconded by Councillor Brady –

That the decision should be referred to Council with a recommendation that the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader Portfolio resolves not to sell the land but retain it as open green space for the continuing benefit of residents in Horwich.

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Mrs. Thomas and seconded by Councillor Peel –

This Council believes that the decision made by the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader to dispose of Council owned land off Singleton Avenue, Horwich should be reversed. Council believes that this land is a valuable community asset and should be available for use by the community for recreation and leisure purposes as was the case before being included in the Allocations Plan. Council believes that the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader should listen to the 456 objections received against the sale of land and the decision of this Council's Planning Committee to refuse permission to build on this land. Council therefore concludes that this land should not be sold for housing development and that the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader should reverse his decision.

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

For the Amendment, 7 viz:-

Councillors Abdullah, Brady, Darvesh, Evans, Haworth, Peel, and Mrs. Thomas.

Against the Amendment, 8 viz:-

Councillor Bullock, Connor, Gibbon, Hayes, Radcliffe, Veevers, Walsh and Weatherby.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the amendment was declared lost.

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

As a ruling group we believe there are serious implications regarding the future protection of our green belt if we do not deliver on land which has previously been allocated for housing.

We also acknowledge that this plan was approved by full council under the last administration, however, in light of the number of objections received in relation to this disposal and to allow all members and not just those on this Committee we propose that this item is referred to full council for a full and open debate.

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

For the Amendment, 5 viz:-

Councillors Bullock, Connor, Gibbon, Radcliffe and Walsh.

Against the Amendment, 10 viz:-

Councillors Abdullah, Brady, Darvesh, Evans, Haworth, Hayes Peel, Veevers, Mrs. Thomas and Weatherby.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the amendment was declared lost.

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

For the Motion, 15

Councillors Abdullah, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Darvesh, Evans, Gibbon, Haworth, Hayes, Peel, Radcliffe, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh and Weatherby.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried and the matter was referred to full Council on 21st August, 2019.

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