

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 19TH OCTOBER, 2022

Present – Councillors Veevers (Chairman), Atcha, M. Ayub, Brady, Donaghy, Grant, Heslop, Peel (as deputy for Councillor Iqbal), Meehan, A. Patel, S. Patel and Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning
Councillor Muslim	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place Development
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Development and Regeneration
Mr. G. Parker	Assistant Director Environment and Regulatory Services
Mr. G. Darragh	Head of Economic Development
Ms. L. Hunter	Head of Environmental Delivery
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Finance
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

(Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Allen, Hartigan, Haworth, Iqbal and Weatherby and Mrs. Fairclough as Executive Cabinet Member)

Councillor Veevers in the Chair.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 23rd August, 2022 were submitted.

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

12. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report which set out details of the updated Committee work programme.

Resolved – That the updated work programme position, as outlined be agreed.

13. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE – FINANCE REPORT 2021/22 – FINAL OUTTURN

The Director of Place and the Deputy Chief Executive submitted a joint report which provided the Committee with information relating to the financial final outturn position of the Directorate of Place.

The report explained that revenue expenditure as at final outturn for the Directorate of Place showed an overspend against the budget of £383,000 after planned reserve movements.

Capital expenditure for the Directorate of Place as at final outturn was £38.3m. The Directorate of Place held £5.6m balance of earmarked reserves at 31 March 2022.

The budgeted efficiency savings for 2021/23 for the Directorate of Place were £6.2m. As at 31st March 2021 £4.1m of savings had been approved for implementation.

The approved revenue budget for the Directorate of Place was £30.7m details of which were set out in the report.

Resolved – That the report and its contents be noted.

14. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE FINANCE REPORT, 2022-23, QUARTER ONE

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which provided the Committee with information relating to the financial quarter one projected outturn position of the Directorate of Place.

The report explained that the revenue expenditure, as at quarter one, for the Directorate of Place showed a projected overspend against budget of £762,000 after planned reserve movements.

In terms of capital expenditure for the Directorate of Place, as at quarter one, the position was £3.242m against a revised budget at quarter one of £98.383m.

With regard to reserves, it was explained that all general reserves had been used in year and a projected balance of £4.575m earmarked reserves were held.

The budgeted efficiency savings for 2021/23 for the Directorate of Place were £6.161m.

Resolved – That the report and its contents be noted.

15. DISTRICT CENTRES

Mr. Gerry Brough, Director of Place, Mr. Paul Whittingham, Assistant Director Development and Regeneration and Mr. Guy Darragh, Head of Economic Development gave a joint presentation on the regeneration of Bolton District Centres.

Members were reminded that on 21st January, 2019 the cabinet approved a £12M allocation from the Town Centre Strategy Fund for investment in District Centres. An additional £4m was approved by Council from the 2019/20 Capital Programme for investment in District Centres, predominantly in Farnworth.

East District Centre had a Steering Group with members drawn from the local community and also a master plan that was developed in consultation with the public. Key development

priorities had been identified and costed and progressed in each area.

Members were reminded of the budgetary approvals in relation to the plans for Farnworth, Horwich, Little Lever and Westhoughton and also matters a round the funding overview.

Members of the Committee were advised of matters around each project –

- Farnworth – redevelopment of Farnworth Market Precinct for mixed use. Construction October, 2022 – June, 2024;
- Expansion of Farnworth Leisure Centre. Works commenced on site on 22nd August, 2022 with completion anticipated in May, 2023;
- Streets for all treatment of Market Street, Farnworth. Construction May to January, 2024;
- Farnworth – Fredrick Street South to Longcauseway and north to Gladstone Road. Funding being sought for release to develop the business case;
- Improvement works to Kearsley Precinct. The main works have been completed – planters and seats to be installed in November, 2022;
- Westhoughton – Improvements to pedestrian links to the town centre. Repaving to Library Street and Marsden Street completed. Works to passageway on hold;
- Improvement works to Central Park and feasibility on Pavilion buildings. A number of works had been completed. The Pavilion buildings not being taken forward;
- Westhoughton Car Park Strategy. As at June, 2022 the Steering Group did not accept the recommendations and so will not be implemented;

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- Westhoughton Town Hall – Mixed use Scheme. Early works package to commence in July, 2023;
- Remodelling of market Street, Westhoughton. Envisaged start was January, 2023 and conclude in October, 2023;
- Little Lever traffic calming measures on Radcliffe Road. Completed in July, 2022;
- Little Lever traffic calming measures on Redcar Road. Works expected to commence late October, 2022;
- Relocation of puffin crossing between the Memorial Gardens and the new Health Centre and Library. Completed late August, 2022;
- Welcome to Little Lever Signage. Had been installed;
- Public realm improvement to Market Street, Little Lever. Repaving commenced in September, 2022;
- Shop front improvement scheme in Little Lever. Letter sent to businesses to gauge interest in July, 2022;
- Improvements to Mytham Park and Memorial Gardens. The resurfacing of the footway at the memorial Gardens had been completed;
- Relocation of bus stop outside War memorial and soldier silhouettes and the installation of memorial benches. Completed in November, 2021;
- New Health Centre and Library in Little Lever. Completed in February, 2022;
- Traffic calming schemes in Stopes Road and Tong Road, Little Lever being explored;
- Improvement works to, the lanes in Horwich. Traffic modelling results expected in October, 2022;
- St. John Street, Horwich traffic works. Modelling work outcome expected late October, 2022;

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- Improvement works to Old Station Park, Horwich. Majority of works cannot be undertaken until the completion of flood works in December, 2022. New play area to be installed in spring, 2023;
- Cycle link feasibility study from Old Station Park to Middlebrook Way. Land referencing exercise completed prior to discussions with land owners;
- Public Realm improvements to Hampson Street, Horwich. Completed in July, 2022;
- Horwich Car Park Strategy. Implementation of recommendations underway;
- Horwich Health Centre. Planning application submitted in August, 2022;
- Blackrod gateway improvements. Anticipated works on site in early 2023;
- Possible other project in Blackrod were improvements to Spar layby, New Street Car Park and Church Street public realm.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Street lighting in Horwich;
- Children's equipment in Old Station Park, Horwich;
- Flood alleviation matters in Horwich;
- The community hub in Farnworth;
- Farnworth baths – filters and maintenance matters and Serco contract;
- Streets for all in Farnworth and financial challenges and impact;
- The spending situation in Little Lever as opposed to Kearsley;
- The cost of the land for the Health Centre in Horwich;
- How money was allocated;
- Little Lever shop front improvements;
- The costs of re-locating the puffin crossing in Little Lever;

- Some members of the community in Westhoughton don't feel listened to and consultation matters; and
- The master plan development.

Resolved - That Messrs Brough, Whittingham and Darragh be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

16. WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Ms. Lory Hunter, Head of Environmental Services Delivery gave a presentation on an overview of the waste management services and the implications of the resources and waste strategy for England.

Members were advised that the current collection was fortnightly and around 40% of the Borough received weekly food collections.

The Council fleet comprised of 43 RCV's – mix of single and split chamber. Some reliance on long term hire of RCV's also.

Also waste collection optimisation reviews scheduled for 2023. There were also about 120 waste operatives.

The Committee was advised of performance issues from 2017 to date in terms of residual waste per household (kg) and percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting. A wider range of performance data was now being developed as part of the new Directorate plan.

The annual kerbside tonnage 2019/20 to 2022/23 was also set out.

The Committee was also advised of bench marking information from the Association of Public Sector Excellence concerning collections.

Members were also advised of the short, medium and long term priority areas of focus. For the short term these were ongoing recruitment and development of a quality service.

Included in the medium term was issues round the vehicle fleet.

In terms of implication of the resources and waste strategy for England members were advised of the two main objectives –

- To maximise the value of resources; and
- To minimise waste and its impact on the environment.

The key areas covered were –

- Sustainable production;
- Helping consumers take more considered action; and
- Recovering resources and managing waste.

Members were advised of matters around consultations, the implications including for the Council and the Waste Disposal Authority. The Committee was advised of the key dates going forward and envisaged phased introduction from 2031 and what the GMCA was currently doing.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- issues with dual vehicles;
- collections information by ward and Town;
- compostable waste scheme;
- green and food waste, any planned charges;
- fleet downtime during the day;
- technology for one vehicle and ability to sort all items;
- the number of bins and cross contamination matters;
- waste electrical equipment;
- challenges around staff and agency staff usage;
- missed collections in Farnworth and Kearsley;
- Christmas collections;
- It being an excellent service;
- Picking up of second bins;
- Electrical equipment receptacles;
- Encouraging to see recycling rates slowly going up and GM comparisons.

Resolved - That Ms. Lory Hunter be thanked for her detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

17. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

The following Members Question was submitted by Councillor Haworth in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the response was prepared by the Director of Place Services in consultation with the Executive Cabinet Member.

Bolton Market Parking Facilities

Q1. Every customer and every potential customer needed the best parking experience at Bolton Market as possible. A number of market customers did require disabled parking.

Could the Executive Member specifically address what disabled parking was available in the vicinity of Ashburner Street on this side of the market? Some blue badge holders who liked to visit this side of the town centre and also shop at the market said they were having real difficulties finding parking spaces here.

A. In response to the above question, the existing disabled parking facilities in the vicinity of Ashburner Street i.e. those assigned to Blue Badge users, were set out below:

- Ashburner Street – 1 disabled bay;
- Howell Croft South – 2 disabled bays;
- Queen Street – 3 disabled bays;
- Victoria Square North – 9 disabled bays; and
- Victoria Square South – 8 disabled bays.

It should also be noted that blue badge holders could park free of charge in any of the on-street pay and display bays located across the town centre and that the Ashburner car park also had 5 disabled bays.

Q2. Could the Executive Member explain if, in the area circumventing all of Bolton Market, disabled parking bays had been reduced at all and if so, why?

A. It was confirmed that no disabled parking bays had been permanently removed since 2018.

The last civic centre parking review was undertaken in 2017 and was intended to rationalise parking provision across various types of bays including pay and display, disabled parking bays, taxi ranks and the ambulance bay.

The review resulted in removal of 2 disabled parking bays to facilitate an ambulance bay on Ashburner Street and 3 disabled parking bays were removed to facilitate taxi bays on Ashburner Street. However, additional disabled parking bays were introduced at that time on Victoria Square South and Howell Croft South.

Q3. Could the Executive Member give an update on parking availability for customers of Bolton Market and if there was room in the upgrade also for a Sheffield stand for cyclists whom we wished to also encourage to shop at the market?

A. Following the recent highways works, which formed part of the wider market development plans to the entrance of Bolton Market customer car park, it was now back to being fully operational, with NCP reporting an increase in customer parking over recent weeks.

NCP's observations were that the car park was approximately 95% full on Fridays and Saturdays, and around 75% full on other market days. This car park remained their most popular flat surface car park in the town centre (excluding, of course, the surface car parks that sat outside of the scope of the contract). It was also reported that as part of the wider Market development there were plans to install as many Sheffield stands for

cyclists as possible - it as hoped to be at least four, so that cyclists could safely secure their bikes whilst they shopped.

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

- (i) Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation held on 26th September, 2022;
- (ii) Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 26th September, 2022;

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

(ii) That the minutes be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 8.17pm)

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