

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2013

Present – Councillors I. Ibrahim (Chairman), Kell (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Challender, C. Burrows, Critchley, Harkin, Pickup, Radlett, Silvester, Spencer, A. S. Walsh and Wild.

### Lay Members

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

### Also in Attendance

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Councillor Peel        | - The Executive Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills |
| 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. M. Cox             | - Director of Environmental Services   |
| Mr. K. Davies          | - Director of Development and Regeneration.                                    |
| Ms. D. Ball            | - Assistant Director Waste and Fleet Management                                |
| Ms. S. Johnson         | - Assistant Director of Finance and ICT and Chief Officer Support              |

## E2

Mr. J. Kelly	Head of Service, Highways - Development
Mr. T. Hill	Chief Planning and Housing - Officer
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Finance and Business - Development
Mr. S. Godley	Development Manager (Planning - Strategy)
Mr. J. Davies	Senior Engineering Manager -
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services - Officer

Councillor I. Ibrahim in the Chair.

### **30. CALL IN OF MANAGED WEEKLY COLLECTION CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

The Committee were advised that at a meeting of the Cabinet held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2013, the decisions in respect of the, Managed Weekly Collection – Consultation Response , were Called In by Councillor Greenhalgh in accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution – The Council's Rules and Procedures, Section E Scrutiny Rules, Paragraph 17.

Members were reminded that the report presented at the meeting of Cabinet set out proposals for the managed weekly waste collection for implementation in May, 2013 and specifically that significant budget savings of £2.6 million would be made and increased recycling encouraged.

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A summary of this report together with the Cabinet minute had been circulated to Members of this Committee prior to the meeting.

Members were also reminded of the action options available to the Committee, as detailed in the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Allen went on to explain to the meeting matters around the reason why the Cabinet decision had been Called In which related to an alternative proposal, viz –

- waste collection was an upfront Council service it was felt that many people wanted their grey bin emptied on a weekly basis;
- utilising a new 140 litre grey bin emptied once a week, the reduced capacity would encourage recycling, purchased using capital expenditure from the Council's Reserves;
- to discontinue the roll out of the food waste service; and
- to recover the existing grey 240 litre bins for alternative re-use or recycling.

Members in their general discussions referred to –

- matters around the process for including alternative schemes in the consultation process and the opportunity for alternative discussions at meetings of the Waste and Recycling Policy Development Group and at the Cabinet;
- issues around the extensive consultation process undertaken and the results in relation to the decision made by the Cabinet;
- issues around the difficulties associated with the re-use and collection of the existing grey bins;
- matters around the need to make financial savings due to the current financial position of the Council and also to increase recycling rates;
- the need to have sight of the costs associated with the alternative proposals, as mentioned above;

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- acceptance of an alternative proposal at this stage would require a further detailed consultation and whilst this was being undertaken savings would not begin to be made;
- how would the alternative option affect staffing arrangements within the Department;
- the need for staff within the Department to be thanked for the extensive consultation undertaken into the proposals.

Resolved – That the report be referred back to the next meeting of the Cabinet to specifically consider the alternative proposals, as outlined above and in terms of:

Waste collection was an upfront Council service and it was felt that many people wanted their grey bin emptied on a weekly basis. Utilising a new 140 litre grey bin, emptied once a week, the reduced capacity would encourage recycling. This could be purchased using capital expenditure from the Council's Reserves. The roll out of the food waste service would be discontinued. Recovery of the existing grey 240 litre bins would be undertaken for alternative re-use or recycling.

### **31. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27th November, 2012 were submitted.

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

### **32. 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.

Further to the Business Growth Hub item and the appendix relating to engagement with partners data for the period up to September, 2012, members queried whether further and more

up to date information could be made available.

It was indicated that the Growth Hub were in the process of putting together a further update.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the Director of Development and Regeneration be asked to circulate to this Committee a further update on the activity of the Business Growth Hub.

### **33. THE WORK PROGRAMME**

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

The Committee discussed the possible inclusion of an item on the agenda for the next meeting, reviewing the winter gritting arrangements for the 2012/13 winter period. Members also specifically praised the work, the staff in this area, had undertaken so far this winter period.

Resolved – That an item concerning a review of the winter gritting arrangements be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **34. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE**

Mr John Kelly, Head of Service, Highways Development and Mr John Davies, Senior Engineering Manager gave a joint presentation which provided members with a general update on the implementation of road safety measures in the Borough and also examined the Council's response to the increasing inability to introduce physical measures in relation to road safety due to budget pressures.

By way of background information, Mr. Kelly explained the requirements of each local Highway Authority to –

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- prepare and carry out a programme of measures to promote road safety;
- undertake studies into accidents arising from the use of vehicles; and
- in the light of those studies take measures to prevent such accidents.

The Committee was informed of matters around addressing road safety nationally, regionally and locally.

Members were also informed that key objectives included –

- improving the road safety skills and awareness of school children;
- raise awareness of road safety issues affecting everyone;
- influencing the attitudes and behaviour of road users;
- address hard to reach groups;
- use innovative and new initiatives; and
- narrow the gap between casualties in least deprived and most deprived wards.

Mr Davies also outlined the significantly reduced funding for road safety since 2007/8, the casualty performance between 2005 and 2011 with a projection to 2020.

It was highlighted that driver or pedestrian error was the major factor in Bolton's KSI collisions.

The Committee was further informed of matters around how road safety worked and specifically what this meant in Bolton including –

- engineering;
- education;
- training;
- publicity; and
- enforcement.

In terms of the future, it was explained that it was envisaged –

- there would be no national targets set by HM Government;
- more flexibility in the use of 20mph zones / limits;
- revision to drink driving limit under consideration;
- greater focus on driver training courses;
- working with communities; and
- tougher enforcement.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- 20mph zone enforcement;
- implementation of 20mph speed limit areas;
- matters concerning reduced legislation from HM Government;
- the need for thinking on the issue of making roads safe with little funding; and
- the cost of supplying 20mph bin stickers.

Resolved – (i) That Messrs Kelly and Davies be thanked for their informative presentation.

(ii) That members of this Committee be notified of matters around the costs associated with the supplying of 20mph bin stickers.

### **35. LOCAL PLAN AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT,2011/12**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which advised members of the Local Plan Authority Monitoring Report for Bolton for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012.

The report explained that in the context of the new planning system, with its focus on the delivery of sustainable development, monitoring took on an important role in assessing whether policy aims and objectives were being achieved.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

### **36. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT, 2012/13**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which set out the details of the financial and performance quarter two position for the Environmental Services portfolio for the 2012/13 financial year.

The report explained that all targets were being met in line with the Community Strategy. Revenue expenditure was underspent against the budget by £147,000 after planned reserve movements. The main variances were in Highway and Engineering Services.

In terms of Capital expenditure, this was projected for the year was £16.975m against a programme of £20.870m. The Committee was informed that the Department had projected a general reserve of £219,000 for the year end and that all planned efficiencies were expected to be achieved.

Members in their discussions referred to matters around the sickness absence target as set out in section 10 of the report.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

### **37. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT, 2012/13**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which set out the details of the financial and performance quarter two position for Development and Regeneration including Housing Services for the 2012/13 financial year.

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



With regard to Revenue expenditure, the report advised that the projected outturn position for Development and Regeneration including Housing Services was an underspend of £212,000 after reserve movements.

In terms of Capital expenditure for the year, this was projected to be £7,206,000 against a budget of £13,500,000.

The Committee was informed that the Department had a projected general reserve of - £539,966 and that all planned efficiencies were projected to be achieved.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

### **38. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES STRATEGIC BUDGET REPORT**

The Directors of Environmental Services and Corporate Services submitted a joint report which set out details of the proposed revenue budget for Environmental Services for 2013/14.

By way of background information, the Committee was advised that the report represented the final stage of the Corporate Business Planning Process for 2013/14 and outlined the revenue budget for the Environmental Services Department. In addition, the report included the capital programme bid for the period 2013/14 to 2014/15 and information relating to the Department's staffing establishment.

The Committee was advised that the Council was facing a challenging financial context and the Cabinet had recently approved a consultation report that set out options for securing savings of £35.6 million over a two year period. Within the report the target identified for Environmental Services was £6.55 million of which £1.695 million related to 2013/14.

The report went on to explain that the proposed revenue budget for the Environmental Services Department, which after the implementation of strategic redirection options, amounted

to £28,347,000.

Members queried as to whether the Albert Halls should be included in the section of the report relating to, Trading Accounts and not ,Standard Spending Accounts, as set out in the report.

Resolved – (i) That the position be noted.

(ii) That members of this Committee be notified as to whether the Albert Halls should be included in the section of the report relating to, Trading Accounts.

### **39. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION STRATEGIC BUDGET REPORT**

The Directors of Development and Regeneration and Corporate Services submitted a joint report which set out details of the proposed revenue budget for Development and Regeneration for 2013/14.

By way of background information, the Committee Member was advised that the report represented the final stage of the Corporate Business Planning Process for 2013/14 and outlined the revenue budget for the Development and Regeneration Department and highlighted the changes between the 2012/13 budget and the proposed budget for 2013/14.

In addition, the report included the capital programme bid for the period 2013/14 to 2014/15.

The Committee was advised that the Council was facing a challenging financial context and the Cabinet had recently approved a consultation report that set out options for securing savings of £35.6 million over a two year period. Within the report the target identified for Development and Regeneration was £1.7 million of which £1.152 million related to 2013/14.

The report went onto explain that the proposed revenue budget

for the Development and Regeneration Department, after the implementation of strategic redirection options, amounted to £10,677,000.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

#### **40. 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 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 and 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2013;
- Waste, Recycling, Highways and Transport Policy Development Group held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 and 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 ;
- Economy, Housing and Skills Policy Development Group held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2013; and
- Cabinet held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

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

(The meeting started at 5.00 p.m. and finished at 6.35pm)

E12

**NOTES**