

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Environmental Services on:-

**MONDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2011**

following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

Councillor Zaman	Executive Member for Environmental Services
Councillor Mrs Fairclough	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor D. Wilkinson	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Mr. S. Young	Assistant Director of Environmental Services
Mr M. Veigas	Assistant Director of Environmental Services
Mr. J. Kelly	Head of Highways and Engineering
Mr. K. Roberts	Head of Community Services
Ms. J. Pollard	Policy Accountant
Mrs. S. Bailey	Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **1. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Director of Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Member.

**The Executive Member NOTED the report.**

### **2. PETITION REGARDING BARRIERS AT MOSS BANK WAY ROUNDABOUT**

Further to Minute 49 of the meeting of the Executive Member held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2010, the Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which outlined the findings of

further investigations into various safety issues on Moss Bank Way/Chorley Old Road roundabout following the receipt of a petition from residents.

The report reminded the Executive Member that a petition had been submitted by local residents in response to concerns that vehicles were travelling too fast on the Chorley Old Road/Moss Bank Way roundabout which could lead to a loss of control by the driver and which could result in pedestrian casualties and damage to nearby properties. In addition, speed cameras on Moss Bank Way had been requested as residents considered that drivers were travelling at speeds of up to 65mph. A further request was made to provide a School Crossing Patrol on Moss Bank Way.

Various investigations into the requests had been undertaken by the Department and reported to the Executive Member in November, 2010. The findings had concluded that the provision of a barrier was not justified and that speed cameras did not meet the required criteria and a School Crossing Patrol was not warranted on Moss Bank Way after a review of the relevant data.

The Executive Member had agreed to defer the matter for further information and investigation. He also requested that the issues raised within the report should be shared with local ward members, the local MP and the petitioner for their views.

In this regard, the report provided details of the consultation that had taken place, the responses received and the subsequent recommendations.

The report concluded that the results of the further investigations were the same as those detailed in the previous report, as follows:

- the provision of some form of barrier on the roundabout whilst feasible, raised concerns in terms of its behaviour and effectiveness in the event of a head on collision;

- the reported road injury collision history for the junction was good compared to other locations across the Borough - a scheme for the provision of a barrier could therefore not be justified;
- the request for speed cameras on Moss Bank Way could not be justified as it did not meet the required criteria. It was unlikely that there would be funding available in the future for the provision of new fixed camera sites; and
- a school crossing patrol on Moss Bank Way did not meet the required criteria.

In addition, the funding from the Integrated Transport Block of the Local Transport Plan which had previously been used to undertake road safety improvements, would not be received by the Council for at least the next three years.

#### **The Executive Member AGREED –**

- (i) That the request for the provision of a safety barrier on the Moss Bank Way/Chorley Old Road roundabout be not supported, for the reasons detailed in the report now submitted;**
- (ii) That no further action be taken on the request to provide speed cameras on Moss Bank Way due to it not meeting the criteria and the lack of future funding for such equipment;**
- (iii) That the provision of a school crossing patrol be not supported due to the site not meeting the Council's approved criteria;**
- (iv) That the petitioner be advised of the decision of the Executive Member; and**
- (v) That the Smithills Area Forum be asked whether they would consider using the Forum budget for the provision of a driver feedback sign in the Moss Bank Way area.**

### **3. BEREAVEMENT SERVICES PUBLIC SURVEY**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which updated the Executive Member on the stakeholder engagement exercise recently undertaken in respect of the Bereavement Services Strategy and sought approval for an on-line public survey to gather the views of the public on various issues relating to the future of Bereavement Services.

The report reminded the Executive Member that over the past 18 months, work had been ongoing to develop a strategy for Bereavement Services which described a vision for the service and presented a prioritised action plan in response to key issues. Part of this process had been to engage with stakeholders on the main elements of the strategy. These had included service users, funeral directors, Faith groups and staff.

In order to reach a wider audience of service users, the report outlined proposals to undertake a general public survey to supplement the feedback already received from key stakeholders. A copy of the survey questionnaire was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

It was intended to carry out the survey in June/July, 2011 and the questionnaire would be supplemented by a newsletter providing more detail around the key service issues together with a press statement to support the initiative.

Findings from the focus groups and the public survey would then be reported back to members in the summer to help to finalise the future strategy.

**The Executive Member APPROVED –**

**The on-line survey in respect of Bereavement Services and the survey questionnaire as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.**

#### **4. AWARD OF THE TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF CREMATOR EMISSIONS ABATEMENT EQUIPMENT AT OVERDALE CREMATORIUM**

Further to Minute 37 of the meeting of the Executive Member held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, the Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which detailed the outcome of the tender process for the supply and installation of cremator emissions abatement equipment at Overdale Crematorium and sought approval to award the contract to the successful tenderer.

The report provided details of the procurement process for the contract which had been carried out via the North West Framework Agreement. The three equipment suppliers who tendered for the contract were approved suppliers to the Framework.

Tenders were invited for three options and were evaluated on their price and quality. Full details of the process to evaluate the tenders were provided in the report together with a breakdown of individual scores.

Overall, the tender from Contractor A offered the best compromise between capital cost, operating costs and technical merit. It was therefore recommended that the contract be awarded to Furnace Construction Cremators Limited.

#### **The Executive Member APPROVED –**

**The award of the tender for the supply and installation of cremator emissions abatement equipment at Overdale Crematorium to Furnace Construction Cremators Limited, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**

#### **5. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT : TAXI AND MINIBUS TENDER UPDATE**

Further to Minute 72 of the meeting of the Executive Member held on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2011, a report of the Director of Environmental Services was submitted which updated the Executive Member on the latest position regarding the Home to School transport arrangements using taxi and minibus provision for the 2011/12 school year and 2012/13 onwards.

The report reminded the Executive Member that he had given agreement in February, 2011 for the Council to:

- participate in the AGMA social needs transport Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) tender process led by Manchester City Council and retaining the option to take prices off the new framework in 2011 or 2012;
- extend the contracts which were extended to the end of the Autumn Term 2010 until the end of the 2010/11 school year and to engage with current home to school transport providers to determine whether they were in a position to deliver any additional efficiency savings for the 2011/12 school year as Bolton had an option to extend existing home to school transport arrangements for a further school year;
- decide on which of the above options would deliver best value for money once the consultation with current providers was concluded and indicative tender prices on the new AGMA framework were submitted.

In this regard, the report advised that since the report in February, 2011, Manchester City Council had withdrawn as Lead Authority on the AGMA project and were pursuing the DPS tender process alone.

Following advice from the AGMA procurement hub that a DPS was risky and administratively burdensome, the remaining authorities of Bolton, Trafford, Wigan and Stockport had decided to build on the work carried out by the AGMA over the last 18 months and establish a standard framework. Although standard documentation had been agreed, none of the remaining authorities had capacity to act as Lead Authority in the Tender Process therefore each authority would tender on an individual basis.

Further, there would be no AGMA framework against which value for money assessment of existing prices could take place although Bolton did have the option to tender the whole of the transport provision in 2011 or negotiate an extension of the existing transport arrangements for a further school year from September, 2011 and tender the whole in 2012.

The report went on to update the Executive Member on the option to extend the existing transport arrangements. Current providers had been approached on further efficiency savings they could offer. All had agreed to hold their current price per mile for an extension of transport arrangements for the 2011/12 school year starting in September, 2011.

Consequently, the report recommended that in the current climate and the limited time available in which to tender the whole of the transport provision before the start of the 2011/12 school year, an extension of the existing transport arrangements for the 2011/12 school year was the most prudent option available to Bolton.

In 2012, the Council could then procure the whole of the transport work from September 2012 onwards under a framework contract agreement which would be established using the documentation developed collaboratively by the AGMA group.

The possibility of a joint tender process with Bury Council could also be explored as they would also be tendering in 2012.

### **The Executive Member AGREED –**

**To authorise the Director of Environmental Services to extend all existing transport contracts until the end of the 2011/12 school year and procure transport services in 2012 under a framework contract agreement with effect from September, 2012 onwards.**

## **6. EMERGENCY POWERS - APPROVAL FOR EMERGENCY PROVISION OF FROZEN, FRESH AND COOKED MEATS**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which outlined the emergency action taken by the Executive Member on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 to appoint an alternative supplier of fresh, frozen and cooked meats following the Council's contracted meat supplier ceasing to trade from April, 2011.

**The Executive Member NOTED the Emergency Action, as detailed in the report now submitted.**

## **7. EMERGENCY POWERS – TUPE TRANSFER OF STAFF AT WALMSLEY AND SACRED HEART SCHOOLS**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which outlined the emergency action taken by the Executive Member of Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011 to transfer three members of the Council's staff to new companies under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

The transfer was required following the appointment of alternative providers of their cleaning service by Walmsley and Sacred Heart Primary Schools.

**The Executive Member NOTED the emergency action taken by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity, as detailed in the report now submitted.**

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

**The background papers and reports in relation to the following item were considered confidential as defined in paragraphs 1 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.**



## **8. PROPOSED REVIEW OF CIVIL CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which sought approval to undertake consultation on a proposed restructure of the Civil Contingency function within Bolton Council following the introduction of new arrangements for a Civil Contingencies shared strategic function at AGMA level.

The report advised the Executive Member that the AGMA review had proposed the establishment of a central team which would be hosted by Manchester City Council to deliver the strategic functions of the civil contingencies service on behalf of the ten Greater Manchester Authorities. To ensure that there continued to be sufficient resilience in place within Bolton Council, it was proposed to create a retained function.

In this regard, the report put forward proposals to revise the staffing structure relating to Civil Contingencies.

Details of the current structure were provided at Appendix 1 and the proposed structure was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

Full details of the staffing implications as a result of the changes were outlined in the report together with a proposed timetable for consultation and implementation of the new arrangements.

An Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken in respect of the proposals, a copy of which was attached to the report.

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity at her meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

**The Executive Member APPROVED, subject to the approval of the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity –**

**(i) The report for consultation purposes with trades unions, staff and stakeholders; and**

**(ii) A review of the arrangements, if agreed and implemented, take place after 12 months and be reported back to the Executive Member.**