

**CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 18th DECEMBER, 2023

Present – Councillors Galloway (Chairman), Atcha, Bamforth, Chadwick, Cox, Connor (as deputy for Councillor Cowen), Fielding, Flitcroft, Hon (as deputy for Councillor Iqbal), Mistry, Morris, Mort, Newall, Priest, Rigby, Taylor and Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Jiva	Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities
Mr. L. Fallows	Director of Corporate Resources
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. P. Rimmer	Assistant Director Revenue and Benefits and Customer Services
Mr. M. Aspin	Assistant Director Community Safety and Housing
Mr. M. Kane	Head of Strategy, Policy and Area Working
Mr. R. Martinez	Head of Community Safety
Ms. S. Sameja	Area Working Manager
Ms. D. Yates-Obe	Chief Executive Bolton CVS
Ms. L. McKechnie	Deputy Chief Executive Bolton CVS
Mr. P. Mason	Trustee Bolton CVS
Ms. S. Ashton	Head of Finance Bolton CVS
Ms. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors N. Ayub, Cowen, Iqbal, Price and Tighe.

Councillor Galloway in the Chair

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23rd October, 2023 were submitted.

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

17. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2023/2024

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the proposed work programme for 2023/2024.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2023/2024, as circulated, be noted.

18. AN INTRODUCTION AND UPDATE FROM BOLTON CVS

Ms. D. Yates-Obe, Chief Executive Bolton CVS, gave a presentation to members which outlined the work being undertaken by Bolton CVS and the Bolton's Fund.

Information was provided in relation to the following:

- What Bolton CVS did;
- Some facts and figures relating to the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector;
- How Bolton CVS had a voice and influenced spaces within the sector;
- Bolton CVS Income by Funder for 2022/2023;
- The evolution of Bolton's Fund;
- The Rolling Grants Programme for September, 2023 to April, 2024; and
- The importance of collaborative working.

Mr. P. Mason, Trustee of Bolton CVS, also gave a brief outline of how Bolton Wanderers in the Community linked in with Bolton CVS.

Members in their deliberations made the following comments/observations, viz:

- Did Bolton CVS engage with the Armed Forces Charities/Communities and was there a network programme for this sector;
- Further information on what the organisational health checks to Bolton Mark entailed;
- A flowchart outlining the funding streams available to access grants would be beneficial; and
- The importance of the role of Bolton CVS and the advice and the work they undertook was invaluable.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and that thanks be conveyed to Bolton CVS for their informative presentation.

19. COMMUNITY ALLIANCES: MODERNISING OUR ENGAGEMENT APPROACH WITH A FOCUS ON GROWING SOCIAL ACTION

Ms. S. Sameja, Area Working Manager, gave a presentation to members which outlined the work which had been undertaken in relation to the introduction of Community Alliances within the Borough.

Information was provided in relation to the following, viz:-

- Background and context which was around modernising the Council's engagement approach with a focus on growing social action;
- A summary of the future Area Working model;
- What was a Community Alliance and what did it aim to achieve;
- Supporting social value Area Based funding;
- The 'Test and Learn' phased approach which had been rolled out in seven areas of the Borough;
- The journey so far and the areas for learning;
- The views of the Community Alliances which were currently being piloted; and
- The progress made so far and future aspirations.

Following the presentation, members in deliberations made the following comments/observations:-

- Some of the Councillors who were involved with Community Alliances within their wards as part of Phase 1 informed members of the experiences they had so far and the benefits/challenges of this new approach;
- The difficulties in filling in the forms for funding especially for smaller groups;
- The potential for some small groups to be excluded from applying for funding;
- Concern about transparency/accountability around the allocation of funding and the publication of budgets; and
- Would Phase 2 involve the roll-out to the other 13 wards.

Resolved – That Ms. Shaheen Sameja be thanked for her informative presentation and the presentation be noted.

20. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL UPDATE

Mr. R. Martinez, Head of Community Safety, gave a presentation which provided an update in relation to the work being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- The priorities for the Partnership for 2022-2025 which were around keeping people safe; reducing harm and offending; and strengthening communities and places;
- The Summer Violence Prevention Programme 2023;
- Preventing Serious Youth Violence;
- The National Monument Against Violence and Aggression (Knife Angel) – November, 2023;
- The requirement of the Serious Violence Duty and the progress made so far;
- The Domestic Abuse Theme;
- Reducing Reoffending Theme;

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- Anti-Social Behaviour Tools and Powers;
- The purpose of the Town Centre Community Safety Strategic Group; and
- Future developments in 2024.

Following the presentation, members made the following comments/observations, viz:-

- Then number of police officers working on licensing matters within the Borough compared to Bury Council;
- The introduction of the Forcer Protocol by Greater Manchester Police was welcomed;
- Congratulations was expressed on behalf of Bolton Council to Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and The Mayor of Greater Manchester on the recent announcement that GMP been now removed from special measures;
- Details on the improvements which had been made in the time taken to respond to answering 999 and 101 calls; and
- The opportunity for members to positively engage with Greater Manchester Police.

21. MEMBERS BUSINESS

The Committee received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:

- (a) The Cabinet held on 13th November and 4th December, 2023;
- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio held on 15th November and 6th December, 2023;
- (c) The Executive Cabinet Member for Culture held on 13th November, 2023; and
- (d) The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities held on 15th November, 2023.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.45 p.m.)

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