

THE CABINET

MEETING, 18TH AUGUST, 2014

Councillor Morris	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Mrs Thomas	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Adia	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member

Cabinet Members

Councillor D. Burrows	Police and Community Safety
Councillor J. Byrne	Culture and Youth
Councillor Chadwick	Highways and Transport
Councillor McKeon	Education and Schools
Councillor Bashir -Ismail	Community Services
Councillor Peacock	Adult Social Care
Councillor Zaman	Development and Regeneration
Councillor Lewis	Housing and Social Inclusion

Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Murray
Councillor A. Ibrahim
Councillor Greenhalgh
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough
Councillor Cox
Councillor Allen
Councillor Hayes
Councillor Parkinson

Officers

Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Ms. M. Asquith	Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Mrs. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mrs. L Ridsdale	Assistant Director
Mrs. D. Ball	Assistant Director
Mr. P. Brown	Chief Property Officer
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy
Ms. M. Lee	Programme Director, Property Rationalisation Programme
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Morris in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Cunliffe and Jones.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9th June, 2014 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

6. MINUTES OF AGMA/COMBINED AUTHORITY

The Minutes of the meeting of AGMA/Combined Authority held on 27th June, 2014 were submitted for information.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

7. INVESTORS IN PEOPLE – RE-ACCREDITATION 2014

The Chief Executive submitted a report that set out the key conclusions from the Council's recent liP re-assessment, together with a continuous improvement action plan.

The Council had held liP status across each department for many years. However, this was the first time that the Council had approached re-accreditation as a single organisation, which had involved direct consultation with a statistically valid sample of over 240 staff (5% of the workforce) across all services, together with senior Members and Officers. The feedback from staff across the Council endorsed the Council's strategy for leading and managing the workforce in the present context. It confirmed that the majority of staff understood the Council's vision and priorities and what their role was in delivering them. Overall, people felt well communicated with; developed and supported to achieve their objectives. Furthermore, the Council's refreshed OD strategy had been well received, particularly the tighter co-ordination of mandatory training.

A number of further improvement actions had been highlighted which were welcomed, particularly to help manage the difficult years ahead. It was anticipated that the 2015-18 budget would demand some extensive changes which would impact significantly on staff; the continual refinement of the Council's OD strategy would be a key lever to ensure this was delivered constructively. The recommendations to help deliver this included a review and reinforcement of the management competency framework and application of the PDR process; further communication and expansion of the recognition strategy and a review of the staff suggestion scheme to ensure that every member of staff had the opportunity to contribute and engage with improvement, particularly the savings agenda.

Resolved - That liP re-accreditation be noted and the action plan endorsed for implementation.

8. COMMUNITY STRATEGY OUTCOMES UPDATES 2013/14

The Chief Executive submitted a report that provided the Cabinet with an update on performance at the outturn of 2013/14.

Members were reminded that the Council worked with its partners in the Bolton Vision Partnership to develop and progress strategic objectives for the town through the Community Strategy. The strategic priorities of the current Community Strategy, 2012-2015, were to promote economic prosperity and to narrow the gap between the most and least well off.

The report provided an overview of outcomes against the current strategy to date, including a particular review of 2013/14, across each of the key themes and cross-cutting priorities as follows:

- Economic prosperity and the related cross cutting themes of skills; Working Well and Children and Young People's attainment; and
- Narrowing the gap and the related cross cutting themes of Health, Safe; Clean and Green; Alcohol and the Anti-poverty strategy.

The key messages were considered in some detail by the Vision Steering Group at its meeting on the 24 June 2014.

The report did, however, highlight the challenge of maintaining outcomes in some areas in the ongoing climate of diminishing municipal resources, whilst reaffirming the importance of collaboration to maximising focus and capacity.

Overall, the partnership continued to make progress towards delivering community strategy priorities:

- robust plans were in place to deliver the economic prosperity agenda by building capacity to attract employment and businesses to the town. There

was, however, much work to do in the coming years to deliver these plans in practice.

The skills strategy was a related, key initiative, to ensure that local people had the skills and experience to apply for the jobs that would be created through economic development activity. The ongoing engagement of local businesses in the strategy, particularly the leadership of public sector partners, was a key priority for delivery;

- Bolton broadly held its position against national comparators in key measures relating to health, children and young people, employment and educational attainment. Plans were in place to tackle the areas where performance was less strong, specifically childhood obesity and low birth weight;
- progress continued to narrow the gap between the areas of greatest and least deprivation, including in-borough health inequality (which, whilst improving, remained a key issue) and educational attainment; and
- significant progress had been made in reducing domestic waste and improving recycling, through a comprehensive service and behaviour change programme. Cleanliness pass rates had slipped, however, from 94% in 2010/11 down to about 90% for the past four years - a direct result of there being fewer people, vehicles and sweepers in operation

Key issues for 2014-15, which were within existing delivery plans, including:

- examining how cleanliness standards were maintained within a climate of diminished municipal resources;

- monitoring domestic violence, as the one crime indicator which had increased;
- delivering Public Service reform initiatives, including Families First and Working Well, as the key response to reductions in public service capacity; and
- delivering the Borough anti-poverty strategy.

Resolved – That the Cabinet endorses the conclusions and priorities set out for 2014/15.

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved - That, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraphs 3 (financial and business affairs) and 1 and 4 (labour relations matters and personal information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; 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.

10. OFFICE DEVELOPMENT – TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

The Chief Executive submitted a report that apprised the Cabinet on the current position with respect to the proposed office development at the new transport interchange and sought approval to progress the scheme as outlined in the report.

The project would be funded utilising capital generated by the asset transfer project and would generate an income stream and it was proposed that PSP would act as the developer.

It was suggested that members of the design team would examine the proposal prior to submission of the necessary planning application.

Resolved – (i) That progress with the scheme be noted.

(ii) That the budget of £6.5 m be agreed to complete the construction of the office block on a speculative basis.

(iii) That the Chief Property Officer be authorised to continue working with PSP Bolton LLP in order to ensure value for money is achieved, that the scheme is delivered as anticipated and that efforts are made to secure tenants at the earliest opportunity.

11. BOLTON ALBERT HALLS

The Chief Executive submitted a report that apprised the Cabinet of the progress made in producing design and cost details for the refurbishment of the Albert Halls; to confirm timescales relating to design and construction works and sought approval to proceed with the proposed works within the budget and timescales presented.

Resolved – (i) That the plans for the refurbishment of the Albert Halls within the proposed timescales and budget be approved.

(ii) That further details regarding the impact and implications of the building works on the operation of the Albert Halls, particularly the Christmas performance 2015/16, be presented to a future meeting.

(iii) That, subject to appropriate contract terms being agreed, the procurement and engagement of a building contractor to undertake the requisite work in accordance with the approved design and budget be approved.

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