

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 3RD APRIL, 2018

Present – The Mayor Councillor Hayes, Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Pickup (Vice-Chairman), Allen, L. Byrne, Harkin, Haslam, Hewitt, Hornby, Kellett, Newall, Mistry, Walsh and P. Wild.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services
Councillor Burrows	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, Police and Community Services
Councillor Chadwick	Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways
Councillor Sherrington	Cabinet Member for Anti-Poverty and Housing
Mr. S. Young	Director of Place
Mr. J. Kelly	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Ms. L. Swann	Assistant Head of Waste and Fleet Strategy
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillors Gibbon and Watters as Cabinet Member.

Councillor Silvester, Chairman

33. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th February, 2018 were submitted.

Further to minute 31, LED Street Lighting Changes, members raised the issue of the impact on health of LED lights.

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

(ii) That the issue of any health matters concerning LED lights be expounded and included on the agenda for the next meeting of this Committee.

34. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which set out the work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Members also referred to the possible inclusion in the work programme for the next Municipal Year of the Sweetloves WTW incident and the attendance of United Utilities.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

35. GMCA – HOUSING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The meeting was provided with the minutes of the GMCA – Housing, Planning and Environment Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 15th February and 13th March, 2018. The meeting was reminded that Councillor Sherrington was the Council's nominated representative on this GMCA Scrutiny Committee.

The meetings included discussions on the following –

- Greater Manchester Spatial Framework;
- The Air Quality Plan;
- Greater Manchester Strategy Performance Dashboard;
- and
- Homelessness.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

36. DEPARTMENT OF PLACE PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER THREE, 2017/18

The Director of Place submitted a report which provided an update on the quarter three departmental performance for 2017/18.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Matters concerning the measurement of CO₂ emissions and whether nitrous oxide emissions were also measured;
- Matters around the availability of a list of Home Watch areas; and
- Long term sickness issues in terms of the average and maximum period of resolution.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That members of this Committee be notified of matters around the availability of statistics in relation to nitrous oxide emissions.

(ii) That Councillor Burrows be asked to look into the availability of a list of Home Watch areas in Bolton and the outcome be reported to this Committee.

37. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND HOUSING SERVICES – FINANCE REPORT, 2017/18

The Director of Place and the Borough Treasurer submitted a report which set out the financial quarter three position for the Environmental Services and Housing Services portfolios, which were part of the Place Department, for the 2017/18 financial year.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The rationale for speed cameras on St. Peter's Way; and
- The loss of trading contracts.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

38. WASTE MATTERS

Ms. Laura Swann, Assistant Head of Waste and Fleet Strategy gave a presentation on various aspects of the waste service.

The meeting was informed of matters around the bulky waste collection service, currently provided by the Bolton Community Transport and Furniture Services, although the contract ends in July, 2018.

Also referred to was the current charges for the service, details of the charges across Greater Manchester, the bulky waste items that were collected, the number of collections by month and reuse and recycling statistics.

Details of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Contract were also provided for information purposes. Included were details of the interim contract arrangements, budget implications, the running of future contracts and matters around the recycling of pots, tubs and trays.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- The collection of bulky items for residents jointly;
- Educational matters regarding bulky waste and Bolton at Home;
- Waste from homes moved by authorised individuals which avoids the risk of illegal dumping; and
- The schedule of rates.

Resolved – That Ms Laura Swann be thanked for her detailed presentation and that the position be noted.

39. TREES AND FOLIAGE

Mr John Kelly, Assistant Director, Highways and Engineering gave a presentation on matters concerning trees and foliage including the powers the Council had in this regard.

By way of background information, matters around the Highways Act, 1980 were referred to in terms of the prevention of obstruction to view at corners and the cutting or felling of trees that overhung or were a danger to roads or footpaths.

He also referred to matters around the management of Bolton Council trees, including their inspection and tree pruning – the circumstances when this would happen.

The meeting was also informed of other nuisance matters relating to trees including seasonal issues.

In terms of Bolton at Home, the meeting was informed of matters concerning –

- General grassed areas;
- Shrubs and hedges in communal areas;
- Leaf collection;
- Weed spraying; and
- Trees in general.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- How pruning occurred - on site risks and if it costed the Council. Also liaison with land owners;
- Overhanging trees – common law and TPO issues;
- The danger of leaves blown onto pavements and roads and the action that could be taken;
- Overgrown hedges on pavements and what was reasonable; and
- Matters around people having to walk into the road due to trees and bushes and where the blame lay if there was an incident.

Resolved – (i) That Mr. Kelly be thanked for his detailed presentation and that the position be noted.

(ii) That the Assistant Director, Highways and Engineering be asked to look to provide some figures where the Council had to take action and it had also had to meet the associated costs.

(iii) That the Assistant Director, Highways and Engineering be asked to look to provide details of how action could be taken to stop leaves being deliberately blown onto pavements and roads.

40. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services held on 19th February and 19th March, 2018.
- Environment and Waste Policy Development Group held on 26th February, 2018.

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

41. VOTE OF THANKS

Resolved – That this Committee thanks the Chairman for the way he has conducted meetings during the Municipal year and officers of Bolton Council.

The Committee also thanked and paid tribute to Mr Stephen Young, Director of Place who was leaving to take up a new post with Lancashire County Council.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.25pm)