
ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

04 JULY 2006

Councillors Shaw (Chairman), Higson (Vice-Chairman), Burrows, Hamilton, Lord, J Rothwell, Mrs Rothwell (as Deputy for Councillor R Ronson), A.N Spencer, R Wilkinson and Woodward.

Councillor Clare - Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor Ibrahim - Executive Member for Culture and Community Services

Mr J Rutherford - Director of Adult Services

Mrs A Gannon - Assistant Director (Older People)

Mr A Kilpatrick - Assistant Director (Adults)

Mrs S Crossley - Assistant Director (Culture)

Mr A Doodson - Assistant Director (Environmental Health)

Mr J Rowlands - Assistant Director - Corporate Resources

Mrs S Bailey - Democratic Services

Councillor Shaw in the Chair

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ball, Bashir-Ismail, J Byrne and R Ronson and Mrs E Tatman.

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th March, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

2 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULTS HELD ON 11TH APRIL, 2006

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive Member for Adult Services held on 11th April, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Minutes of the Executive Member for Adults held on 11th April, 2006](#)

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH HELD ON 19TH JUNE, 2006

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health held on 19th June, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health held on 19th June, 2006](#)

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES HELD ON 19TH JUNE, 2006

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive Member for Culture and Community Services held on 19th June, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Member for Culture and Community Services held on 19th June, 2006](#)

5 EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 12TH JUNE, 2006

An extract of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on 12th June, 2006 was submitted.

Resolved - That the decision of the Executive be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on 12th June, 2006](#)

6 JOINT MEETING OF THE CORPORATE RESOURCES, CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT AND

REGENERATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS HELD ON 5TH APRIL, 2006

The minutes of the proceedings of the joint meeting of the Corporate Resources, Culture and Development and Regeneration Policy Development Groups held on 5th April, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Joint Meeting of the Corporate Resources, Culture and Development and Regeneration Policy Development Groups held on 5th April, 2006](#)

7 MINUTE OF THE ADULTS POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP HELD ON 7TH JUNE, 2006

The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Adults Policy Development Group held on 7th June, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings be noted

Attached Reports:

Minute of the Adults Policy Development Group held on 7th June, 2006

8 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which informed members of the powers and duties of the Adults Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the terms of reference for this Committee together with the portfolios for the Executive Members for Adult Social Care and Health, Culture and Community Services and Environmental Services were appended to the report. These were the areas that would be scrutinised by this Committee.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Powers and Duties of the Scrutiny Committee](#)

9 WORK PROGRAMME 2006/2007

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted

a report which put forward a list of suggested issues which the Committee may wish to receive reports on or investigate further during the current Municipal Year. The Committee discussed the report and requested that the findings of the Albert Halls Scrutiny Panel be reported back to this Committee at the appropriate time.

Resolved - (i) That the list of issues identified for consideration, as now detailed be approved as this Committee's work programme for the current Municipal Year.

(ii) That the findings of the Albert Halls Scrutiny Panel be reported to this Committee in due course.

Attached Reports:

[Work Programme 2006/2007](#)

10 TAXI SCRUTINY PANEL FINDINGS

A report of the Taxi Scrutiny Panel was submitted which outlined the findings of the Panel and made various recommendations for consideration by the Executive Member for Environmental Services and the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee.

By way of background information, the report reminded members that this Committee, at its meeting on 13th December, 2005 had agreed to establish a Scrutiny Panel to examine all aspects of Taxi Vehicle Testing. The Panel had been established following this Committee's consideration of proposals to improve the availability of taxi vehicle tests and to increase testing fees. At the time, objections had been received from the taxi trade. The trade had been asked to submit costed proposals for alternative taxi testing arrangements including the use of private sector garages.

The report went on to identify the terms of reference of the Panel and the process that was followed to examine the evidence. The various sources of information, including documentation and people who had assisted the Panel in its investigations, were outlined in the report.

The report went on to advise that the Panel had focused on the following issues:-

- the charges/costs of taxi testing; - the standards applied in testing; and
- the opening hours/waiting times at the testing station.

The report provided details of the Panel's investigations in each of the areas.

Following its investigation, the Panel made various recommendations, as follows, for consideration by the

Executive Member for Environmental Services and the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee:-

1) agree to the principle of multiple providers of taxi testing (including the Council testing facility and a number of private sector garages) to alleviate potential increases in waiting times brought about by changes to rules around tests;

2) instruct officers to undertake a thorough investigation of the issues referred to in Section 7.5 of the report prior to any outsourcing;

3) agree to a thorough review of the bodywork standards applied under the current taxi testing regime with a view to striking a more appropriate balance between safety and appearance. This review to include the Taxi Consultative Panel, vehicle testers (both Council and private sector) and the bodywork repair trade;

4) carry out an assessment of the value of undertaking six monthly tests on vehicles of less than three years; and

5) that the Executive Member for Environmental Services and the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee be asked to prepare a report setting out their response to the recommendations contained in this report. That these responses be presented to the Adults Services Scrutiny Committee within three months.

The reasons for the recommendations were outlined in the report.

The Chairman gave a brief presentation to supplement the report which summarised the main purpose and areas of investigation of the Panel and the findings and reasons for their recommendations.

The Chairman further advised that during the course of its deliberations, the Panel has discussed at length the time of opening times at the Authority's Licensing Office at Minerva House. He sought the approval of the Committee to add a further recommendation to the Panel's findings for consideration by the Executive Member to address this issue.

Resolved - (i) That the recommendations made to the Executive Member for Environmental Services and the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee, as laid in the report now submitted, be approved.

(ii) That the Executive Member for Environmental Services be requested to examine the issue of opening times at Minerva House.

(iii) That the Executive Member for Environmental Services and the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee be asked to prepare a report, setting out their response to the recommendations contained in this report, and that the responses be presented back to the Adults

Scrutiny Committee within three months.

Attached Reports:

[Taxi Scrutiny Panel Findings](#)

11 REPORT OF THE DIRECT PAYMENTS SCRUTINY PANEL

A report of the Direct Payments Scrutiny Panel was submitted which outlined the findings of the Panel and made various recommendations for consideration by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health. By way of background information, the report reminded members that during the course of its work programme in the 2004/2005 Municipal Year, the Adult Scrutiny Committee had established a Scrutiny Panel to investigate the issues surrounding Direct Payments. The report identified the main aims of the Panel and its terms of reference. The process that was followed to examine the evidence and the sources of information including documentation and people who had assisted the Panel in its investigations was also detailed. The report went on to advise that the Panel had focused on the following issues:-

- (a) rates of pay and working conditions; and
- (b) take up of Direct Payments.

Following its investigations, the Panel made various recommendations, as follows, for the consideration of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health:-

- (i) to review the arrangements that were currently in place for informing Social Workers about Direct Payments;
- (2) to investigate what arrangements could be put in place in order to make Direct Payments a more attractive proposition for Social workers to suggest to their clients; and
- (3) to look into the possibility of improving Direct Payments promotional material and improving its circulation amongst key groups.

The reasons for the recommendations were outlined in the report.

The Chairman gave a brief presentation to supplement the report which summarised the deliberations and findings of the Panel.

- Resolved - (i) That the recommendations made to the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health, as laid out in the report now submitted, be approved.
- (ii) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health be asked to prepare a report setting out her

response to the recommendations contained in the report and that the response be presented back to the Adults Scrutiny Committee.

Attached Reports:

[Report of the Direct Payments Scrutiny Panel](#)

12 SUPPORTING PEOPLE INSPECTION

A report of the Director of Adult Services was submitted which outlined the findings of the recent inspection of the Supporting People Programme in Bolton by the Audit Commission.

The Supporting People Programme had been inspected by a team from the Audit Commission between 27th February and 3rd March, 2006.

The report described the findings of the Inspection which reflected a very positive outcome for the Council, as the Administering Authority.

The Audit commission had assessed Bolton MBC as providing an excellent, three star services that had excellent prospects for improvement.

A copy of the Inspection findings was appended to the report.

The Committee welcomed the findings and praised all those staff involved in the outcome. It was also felt that some form of recognition should be give to the staff involved.

Resolved - That the report be noted and that the congratulations and thanks of this Committee be conveyed to all those involved in achieving an excellent outcome in respect of supporting people.

Attached Reports:

[Supporting People Inspection](#)

13 HIGHWAYS REVENUE BUDGET SPEND ON UNDERAGE SALES ENFORCEMENT

A report of the Director of Adult Services was submitted which:-

(a) provided details of three operations carried out by the Authority's Trading Standards Section during 2005/2006 in relation to the enforcement of underage sales and the resultant outcomes; and

(b) the breakdown of costs involved in such operations. The report advised members that £50,000 had been

made available from the Highways Budget and a further £8,582.62 of additional funding had been obtained from the Home Office and through the Community Safety Team to test the purchase of age related products which had links to anti-social behaviour including alcohol, solvents, computer games, tobacco, fireworks, knives and aerosols. The report provided details of the projects undertaken and stated that a total of 341 test purchase attempts were made, of which 31% had resulted in sales to the underage volunteer.

Details of the process involved in mounting an operation were also provided.

A schedule detailing the number and type of underage sales was provided in the Appendix to the report.

The report would also be considered by the Environmental Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 6th July 2006.

Resolved - That the report be noted.