

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 26th SEPTEMBER, 2017

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Pickup (Vice-Chairman), Allen, L. Byrne, Gibbon, Haslam, Haworth (as deputy for Councillor Harkin), Hornby, Irving (as deputy for Councillor Mistry), Kellett, Kirk-Robinson (as deputy for Councillor Walsh), Newall, Parkinson and Whitehead.

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
Mr. S. Young	Director of Place
Mr. J. Kelly	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Mr. G. Langley	Principal Engineer (Network Planning and Safety)
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy
Mr. S. Warburton	Director of Strategy at TfGM
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Harkin, Mistry and Walsh and the Cabinet Members Sherrington and Watters.

Councillor Silvester, Chairman

13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17th August, 2017 were submitted.

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

14. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

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

Resolved – That the updated work programme be approved.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND HOUSING SERVICES FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER ONE, 2017/18

The Director of Place and the Borough Treasurer submitted a report which provided information relating to the financial quarter one 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 deliberations referred to performance of the Markets standard spending account.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

16. ROADS

- (a) Mr. John Kelly, Assistant Director Highways and Engineering gave a presentation which set out details of the budget for repairs to unclassified roads and pavements together with information on how the priorities of roads and pavements were decided.

Mr Kelly highlighted the importance of the highway network as it contributes and supported quality of life as well as the local and regional economy.

The highway in Bolton comprised 1000km of carriageway and 1800km of footway. A total re-build cost would be

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£1.4 billion and to improve it would cost £108 million.

Mr Kelly outlined the condition of the various classification of roads within the Borough. Furthermore, the Committee was advised that to keep the carriageway asset in its current condition would cost £14.2 million and the budget for 2017/18 was £6.5 million.

Members were also informed of –

- The condition assessment;
- Data collection for unclassified streets;
- The unclassified priority list;
- The principles of asset management;
- Preventative maintenance matters;
- Structural maintenance decision making;
- Safety inspections and road repair tolerance levels;
- Urgent / reactive repairs and in terms of pot holes, prevention was better than cure;
- Budget and funding matters.

Members in their discussions referred to -

- Matters around contract issues with contractors and the time works should last;
- The year on year cost of keeping on top of the network;
- Compensation matters - work outside of the Council's control;
- The responsibility for re-lining a road after work was completed;
- Pot hole maintenance;
- Part of Chorley New Road where the surface had not lasted;
- The recent scheme of works undertaken in Bradshaw Ward and whether there was an increased cost as the work was undertaken over the weekend periods;
- The use of asphalt when paving slabs were broken; and
- The use of a road scanning machine to pick up

defects.

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

- (b) Mr Graham Langley (Principal Engineer, Network Planning and Safety) gave a presentation on the plans for future roads in the Bolton area to service possible future housing developments such as for Hulton, Westhoughton, the north and north east of the Borough.

Mr Langley explained matters around the potential future housing and employment sites and referred to the preparation of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. It was indicated that a revised draft was being prepared for consultation from June, 2018.

In terms of the transport evidence base, members were reminded of the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 and the need to ensure integration between land use and transport planning with the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework – Council officers were inputting into the GMSF North West Study area workshops focusing on transport issues and mitigation measures.

Mr. Langley noted the new masterplan for Bolton Town Centre including the key intervention areas, the review of the Town Centre Transport Strategy and a proposed new link road from Trinity to Church Wharf for which a bid had been submitted to National Productivity Investment Fund for funding.

Mr Langley referred to issues relating to Westhoughton and Hulton in terms of congestion, housing demand, Westhoughton bypass and its inclusion in the GM major scheme programme. He also referred to matters concerning the northern area in terms of congestion, junctions at capacity and rail park and ride.

In conclusion, the Committee was informed of intervention matters and the next steps which included

clarification of growth through a plan lead system and a clear set of transport priorities.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Trinity to Church Warf link and the funding;
- The possibilities being positive for Bolton;
- The M60 North West Quadrant Study and its potential effect and links to Westhoughton;
- How long it would take to complete road schemes following building consent; and
- The GM Transport Strategy 2040 – exploration of an underground system, walking and cycling priorities and the effect on developers.

Resolved – That Mr Langley be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

- (C) Mr. Simon Warburton, Director of Strategy at TfGM gave a presentation on transport governance and devolution in Greater Manchester.

The Committee was informed of the recent key elements of change in terms of the election of the GM Mayor, a separation of GM transport powers with the Mayor receiving some new and some transferred transport powers from GMCA and reform of the Transport Committee.

Mr Warburton went onto explain matters around the formal transport governance by activity.

In terms of bus reform the meeting was informed of issues around –

- Customer first;
- There being one network;
- A simple integrated ticketing system and fares; and re-investment into transport; and
- The Bus Services Act had now been enacted which included new laws for GM to improve bus services

for passengers. This included the option for the mayor to franchise bus services subject to public consultation. An assessment on this matter was to be prepared.

With regard to highway reform it was explained that recently collaboration between the 10 GM authorities and TfGM had been strengthened and priority areas were being worked on.

Members were also apprised of matters relating to railway stations which included making them fit for purpose for the local community and the problem of short term management which had resulted in minimal investment. The issue of multi-year transport funding was also raised.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- GM plans regarding less use of diesel and petrol cars;
- Better connections for Bolton in the future;
- Electric vehicles and charging points;
- Franchises and non-profit making bus routes.

Resolved – That Mr Warburton be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

17. 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 14th August and 18th September, 2017.

Further to the minute relating to the Food Service Plan, members referred to the issue of meat labelling.

Resolved – That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.
(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.52pm.)