

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2014

Present – Councillors Mistry (Chairman), Silvester (Vice-Chairman), Allen, L. Byrne, C. Burrows, Evans, G. Harkin, Haslam, Kellett, Lewis, Pickup, Radlett, A. S. Walsh, Watters and Wild.

Lay Members

Ms. B. Berry - BATRA
Ms. J. Horan - BATRA

Also in Attendance

Councillor J. Byrne	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Community Services
Councillor Chadwick	Cabinet Member, Highways and Transport
Ms. S. Johnson	Assistant Director of Finance and ICT and Chief Officer Support
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Mr. S. Young	Assistant Director Highways and Business Development
Mr. M. Veigas	Assistant Director Community Services
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy

E2

Ms. J. Casey	Markets General Manager
Ms. J. Ivison	Senior Quantity Surveyor
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Peel as Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services.

Councillor Mistry in the Chair.

27. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26th November, 2013 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be received and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Kellett in the attendance list.

28. MONITORING OF DECISIONS

The Committee was informed that there were currently no outstanding decisions which had not been actioned.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

29. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2013/14

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out details of the proposed work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

30. MARKET RE-DEVELOPMENT UPDATE POSITION

Mr. Malcolm Veigas, Assistant Director Community Services, Ms. Jackie Casey, Markets General Manager and Ms. Joanne

E3

Iverson, Senior Quantity Surveyor gave a joint presentation on matters concerning the refurbishment of the Bolton Market.

By way of background information, members were advised of the initial consultations with customers, non-customers and outdoor and indoor traders on the future of the Market. Many issues were highlighted in the consultation and they included the need for -

- better toilet facilities;
- more seating;
- more food stalls;
- better range of non-food stalls;
- improved cleanliness;
- ability to pay by card; and
- better range of food stalls.

In addition the Market had poor lighting, leaky roof, wet floors, lack of security, unreliable lifts, poor stall layout, no defined entrance. In addition the outdoor market had a leaky roof, poor lighting and no security and there were also problems with the service yard.

It was explained that Willmott Dixon had been appointed as the contractor and the work to the market had been scheduled over two stages, the second stage was due to be completed in April, 2014.

The Committee was advised that following the building improvements all the highlighted issues had been addressed.

The meeting was informed of the benefits realised which included –

- the project procured utilising the North West Construction Hub Framework;
- use of the contractor partner and social engagement matters; and
- other key matters around maximising the life of the building.

E4

Members were also advised of sustainability matters factored into the scheme which included the installation of photovoltaic panels, LED lighting and time monitored wash basin taps. The refurbishment also linked in with the town centre development programme.

Members were also advised of the following –

- the official launch of the Market on 14th February, 2014;
- issues around the open market move to its new location on New Street on 18th February, 2014;
- the final works to be undertaken.

In conclusion, matters around the future were highlighted including –

- building on the Market's strong reputation;
- civic pride;
- community value; and
- the effect on the local economy.

The opportunities were as follows –

- increased income for the Council;
- reduced asset liability to the Council;
- increased tourism to the town centre;
- the place where enterprise begins; and
- helped to populate the high street.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- the pedestrian link with the interchange;
- occupancy issues;
- new stall holders;
- new business start up;
- the marketing initiative;
- matters around the food court;
- financial help for new business start up;
- the WiFi facilities;
- food demonstrations;

- cash machine usage;
- real time bus information provided;
- the scope for guest market stalls in hotspot places;
- the promotion of Market traders eventually moving into the town centre and the possibility of a regular report updating on this matter;
- the overall budget and how the money was spent; and
- the successful outcome of the project and congratulations to the officers involved.

Resolved - That the presentation on the Market re-development be welcomed and noted.

31. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER TWO

The Directors of Environmental Services and Corporate resources submitted a joint report which set out details of the financial quarter two position for the Environmental Services portfolio for the 2013/14 financial year.

In terms of revenue expenditure, the report explained that there was an underspend of £309,000 after planned reserve movements and the main variances were in markets. Capital expenditure so far this year was £6.366 m against a program of £24,223m.

The Department had a projected reserve of £473,000 for the end of the year.

Budgeted efficiency savings for the Department were £1,795,000 and all planned efficiencies were being achieved. In conclusion, the report indicated that specific areas of financial risk related to the loss of income due to the economic downturn, energy prices for street lighting and business continuity risk related to the market redevelopment.

Members in their discussions referred to matters around reserve movements in respect of Fleet purchases and the General reserve.

Resolved – That the monitoring report be noted.

32. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION (HOUSING ELEMENT) FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER TWO

The Directors of Development and Regeneration and Corporate Resources submitted a report which provided the Committee with information relating to the financial quarter two position for Housing Services, 2013/14.

The report explained that in terms of revenue expenditure the position was an underspend of £89,000 after reserve movements. Capital expenditure was £1,363,000 against a budget of £3,541,000.

The Department had a projected year end reserve of £1,256,430.

In terms of efficiency targets, it was indicated that these had been achieved.

In conclusion, it was explained that specific areas of financial risk relate to loss of grants and occupancy within the accommodation services.

Resolved – That the monitoring report be noted.

33. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environment Services held on 2nd December, 2013, 6th January and 3rd February, 2014;
- Environment and Housing Policy Development Group held on 22nd January, 2014; and
- Neighborhood and Community Services Policy Development Group held on 15th January, 2014.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.12pm)