

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 2ND APRIL, 2019

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Evans (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Darvesh, Flitcroft, Gibbon, Haslam, Iqbal, Kellett, Khurram, Mistry and P. Wild.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Councillor J. Byrne	Executive Cabinet Member for Culture and Sport
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place
Ms. K. Hopkins	Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Ms. J. Oldham	Head of Library and Museum Service
Mr. K. Roberts	Head of Service Community Services
Mr. J. Gorton	Partnership Manager Leisure Trust
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Critchley, Hewitt and Wilkinson and Councillor Chadwick as Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair.

35. MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 5th February, 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

36. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

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

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the item scheduled on the Bolton Arena relating to an update on the future plans and its financial position be included in the work programme discussions for the next Municipal Year.

37. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER THREE, 2018/19

The Director of Place submitted a report which set out details of the quarter three financial position within the Directorate of Place.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Matters around the extra £54,000 for parking services;
- The reserves and a number of items with no movement and the scope for combining.

Resolved – That the contents of the report be noted.

38. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER THREE, 2018/19

The Director of Place submitted a report giving details of the dashboard style Directorate of Place performance report for quarter three, 2018/19.

Members in their deliberations referred to :-

- The recycling rate of 49.1% and this being a good achievement; and

- Matters around those killed and seriously injured on the highways and the need to double efforts to create safe roads and pavements.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That a letter be sent to all the relevant teams, including Waste and Recycling and Behaviour Change thanking them for their work to help achieve the good recycling rate.

39. SPORTS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

- (a) Ms. Kellie Hopkins, Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services and Mr. Jon Gorton, Partnership Manager Leisure Trust gave a joint presentation on matters concerning the joined up approach to sporting and recreational facilities.

The meeting was advised of the membership of the Physical Activity Leadership Group and the strategic intentions.

Members were informed of matters around artificial grass pitches (3G) and the funding provided for new facilities.

The meeting was further informed of the highlights in 2018 of the work of the Bolton community Leisure Trust. This included a patronage of 1.3 million – an additional 80,000 visits on 2017.

The impact of the upgraded Horwich facilities were also referred to and the patronage figures.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Lunchtime walks and activities for staff;
- Issues around those who do not exercise;
- 3G pitch establishment, funding of and what was played on such pitches;
- The facilities in Harper Green and future investment;

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- Young people participation in exercise;
- Capacity matters regarding exercise options;
- The great take up at Horwich Leisure Centre; and
- The changing facilities.

- (b) Mr. Kevan Roberts, Head of Service, Community Services gave a presentation on the Albert Halls.

He informed the meeting of details of the Albert Halls Theatre calendar for 2019/20 and also issues concerning repeat business.

He explained that the Aladdin pantomime was confirmed for 2019 and the tender bidding for future pantomimes was due to close on 1st May, 2019.

The meeting was informed that for the Snow White pantomime in 2018, 20,722 tickets were sold with gross box office ticket sales of £233,046.00.

In terms of the catering contract and restaurant and fit-out, Heathcotes were appointed as the single catering provider on 1st December, 2018 and it was envisaged that the restaurant would be ready for operation in mid-June.

In conclusion, matters around future developments were referred to.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- It being good to see the facility being back in use;
- Matters around box office sales and the facility in this regard; and
- The restaurant facility.

- (c) Ms. Julie Oldham, Head of the Library and Museum Service gave a presentation on the Council's library and museum service.

Members were reminded that the current network included the main library in Le Mans Crescent, 9 community libraries, 4 neighbourhood book collections and 2 historic halls.

The meeting was advised of performance issues for 2018/19 and these included that there were 1,046,754 visitors and over 5,000 events and also some of the very positive specific feedback from customers.

Ms. Oldham also referred to matters concerning recent capital investments across the various facilities and a new library for Little Lever.

There were currently 101 fte staff for the service and they had integrated roles across delivery.

Members were also advised of the savings target and income generation and other targets and priorities going forward.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- The good work of the library and museum service and also national recognition matters and thanks to all the staff for their efforts;
- Neighbourhood book collections;
- The stock of library books and stock loss;
- The museum heritage awards in May; and
- Thanks to staff in the aquarium, library and museum service.

Resolved – (i) That Messrs Hopkins and Gorton, Roberts and Oldham be thanked for their informative and detailed presentations.

(ii) That a letter of thanks be sent to the staff within the library, museum and aquarium service and that they be wished well in terms of the forthcoming awards.

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 11th February and 11th March, 2019;
- Executive Cabinet Member Culture and Sport held on 11th February, 2019;
- Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 11th February and 11th March, 2018; and
- Place Policy Development Group held on 12th December, 2018 and 28th February, 2019.

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

41. VOTE OF THANKS

The Chairman thanked all members of the Committee, including the Vice-Chairman and Cabinet Members for their contributions, the Director and his staff and the Clerk to the Committee who had worked to ensure the Committee had worked well.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.50pm)