
ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

06 FEBRUARY 2007

Present - Councillors Shaw (Chairman), Higson (Vice-Chairman), Ainscough (as deputy for Councillor Hamilton), Bashir-Ismail, Burrows, Hornby (as deputy for Councillor Lord), Price, R. Ronson, J. Rothwell, A.N. Spencer (as deputy for Councillor L. Byrne), A. Wilkinson, R. Wilkinson, Williamson and Woodward.

Also in Attendance 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 Mr. A. Doodson - Assistant Director of Adult Services (Environmental Health and Trading Standards) Mrs. S Crossley - Assistant Director of Adult Services (Culture) Mrs. E. Miller - Assistant Director of Adult Services (Strategy and Commissioning) Mrs. A. Gannon - Director of Health and Social Care Integration Mr. A. Kilpatrick - Assistant Director of Adult Services (Adults) Mr. S. Maslivec - Head of Environmental Protection Mr. A. Scott - Policy Accountant Ms. M. Keane - Communities and Learning Manager Mr. M. Emerson - Principal Community Safety Officer (Funding and Partnership) Mrs. S. Bailey - Principal Democratic Services Officer

Councillor shaw in the Chair

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Byrne, Hamilton and Lord and from Mrs. E. Tatman.

44 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 28th November, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**45 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR
ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH HELD ON
11TH DECEMBER, 2006 AND 22ND JANUARY,
2007**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health held on 11th December, 2006 and 22nd January, 2007 were submitted

Resolved - That the decisions of the Executive Member be noted.

**46 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR
CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES HELD ON
11TH DECEMBER, 2006 AND 22ND JANUARY,
2007**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Member for Culture and Community Services held on 11th December, 2006 and 22nd January, 2007 were submitted.

Resolved - That the decisions of the Executive Member be noted.

**47 EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE HELD ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2006
RELATING TO SMOKE FREE ENGLAND**

An extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on 18th December, 2006 relating to Smoke Free England was submitted. Members requested that the most recent guidance issued on the Regulations be circulated to this Committee.

Resolved - That the decision of the Executive be noted and that the Regulations and recent guidance relating to Smoke Free England be circulated to all members of the Scrutiny Committee.

48 WORK PROGRAMME 2006/2007

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which put forward a list of issues that the Committee had agreed to receive reports on or investigate further during the current Municipal Year.

The Assistant Director of Adult Services (Adults) referred to the item on Heaton Fold and Bolmoor and reported that

discussions had been ongoing regarding the need to establish a Task and Finish Policy Development Group. It was anticipated that the three portfolios of Culture and Community Services, Adults Social Care and Health and Regeneration would be involved, as it was a cross-cutting issue. Members felt that this would be a useful way forward.

Resolved - (i) That the Work Programme, as now submitted, be approved.

(ii) That the Committee supports the establishment of a Task and Finish Policy Development Group to consider the issues surrounding Heaton Fold and Bolmoor to involve the three portfolios of Culture and Community Services, Adult Social Care and Health and Regeneration.

49 ALLEY GATING POLICY - UPDATE

The Director of Adult Services submitted a report which provided members with an update on the use of alley gating in Bolton as a means of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

The report outlined the alley gating process, its achievements so far and the future development of the project.

By way of background information, members were reminded that alley gating was a tool for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour which involved the erection of secure gates to an alley way to prevent unauthorised access. Funding in the sum of £100,000 had been made available through the Environment Department to fund alley gating projects in the Borough and this funding had been match funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in 2005/2006. The process for identifying schemes and allocating the funds had been agreed by the Executive members for Environmental Services and Culture Community Safety.

Bolton at Home had been commissioned to implement alley gating schemes which included conducting resident consultation, providing a specification, ordering gates and installing.

The report went on to summarise the alley gating process, which had been carried out in two phases, as follows:-

- Phase 1 2005/2006 - Neighbourhood Renewal Fund monies - the primary focus for Phase 1 had been to target alley ways which would prove straight forward in terms of closure. Un-adopted, non-highways did not require formal closures and, unless there was opposition from residents, could be closed with minimal difficulty. The Phase 1 approach was thus taken to ensure the NRF funding

allocated could be spent to the funding deadline set; and

- Phase 2 April 2006 and beyond - Environment Department monies - a broader approach was being followed in Phase 2. The Cleaner Neighbourhood and Environment Act had enabled problematic alley ways which were public rights of way to be tackled using Gating Orders. As the process for a formal closure could be lengthy, the Environment allocation, with no time limit, would be utilised in Phase 2. A policy for implementing this was currently being developed by Highways.

The report stated that requests for alley gates had been submitted from a variety of sources including elected members, the police, housing officers and members of the public. The type of alley way referred also varied in terms of problems encountered, location, housing tenure and highway status.

All requests had been assessed by Community Safety Services against a number of criteria, namely:-

- levels of recorded crime attributed to the alley way;
- levels of recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour attributed to the alley way;
- other evidence about the problems, for example, diary sheets and anecdotal evidence; and
- whether the alley way would lend itself to alley gating, namely, viability in terms of physical design and inconvenience to other users.

Only alley ways which could demonstrate a causal link with significant levels of crime and/or anti-social behaviour were recommended for closure and would go forward to the next stage of consultation. Consultation was carried out with all those affected by the gating of an alley way and those only with community support could be gated off.

The report went on to outline the progress made to date since September, 2005, Community Safety Services had dealt with 102 separate referrals. So far, a total of 26 gating schemes had been implemented with a further 27 planned to commence following agreement of a new policy. A full break down of completed and pending schemes was outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

A formal evaluation of the completed schemes by the end of the year was planned which should highlight positive impacts on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour but also assess whether gates had displaced problems to other areas.

In addition, process for evaluating the impact of alley gates was currently underway which would examine both recorded levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and capture residents view six months after implementation. It was hoped that this evaluation would be completed in the

New Year.

With regard to future development, the report advised that the Highways Section was leading on the development of a new policy which took into account the provisions contained within the Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The policy would facilitate a much more robust assessment of proposed schemes which would address the key issues around sufficient evidence, consultation and Highway requirements.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

50 TAXI LICENSING SCRUTINY PANEL - UPDATE

Further to Minute 31 of the meeting of this Committee held on 10th October, 2006, a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services was submitted which updated the Committee on the progress of implementing the recommendations of the Taxi Scrutiny Panel.

Full details of the progress of the recommendations was provided in a table within the report.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

51 COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT (ORAL REPORT)

Further to Minute 22 of the meeting of this Committee held on 22nd August, 2006, the Assistant Director of Adults (Culture) updated members on the progress of implementing the recommendations of the Collections Management Scrutiny Panel. In doing so, the following issues were highlighted:-

(a) Documentation backlog - an application for HUB funding to establish a team to tackle this work had been successful;

(b) Records Management - this work was now complete and it was intended to include the documentation within it on a phased basis;

(c) Storage - collections and items had been moved and stored at Lincoln Mill - a visit was being arranged for members in the near future;

(d) Disposals - the Department was working closely with the Museums Association to enable any disposals to take place in line with its ethics and guidance. A number of policies would be submitted for approval to the Executive Member for Culture and Community Services which would form the framework for rationalisation; and

(e) Archive collection - this was being transferred to the Resource Centre.

Resolved - That the update be noted.

52 REVIEW OF LIBRARY SERVICE (ORAL REPORT)

The Assistant Director of Adult Services (Culture) reported on proposals to review the Library Service and sought the views of members on the way forward.

Ms. Keane informed members of various approaches by external customers to provide library services and the need to adapt existing services to meet these requests. Members were requested to consider the establishment of a Policy Development Group to guide the way forward

Resolved - That the establishment of a Policy Development Group (Task and Finish) to review the provision of library services be supported.