

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 12TH FEBRUARY, 2020

Present – Councillors Bagnall (Chairman), Weatherby (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah, Bullock, Connor, Dean (as deputy for Councillor Allen), Evans, Darvesh, Donaghy, Gibbon, Peel, Silvester, Radcliffe, Walsh and Wilkinson.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Cox	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place
Mr. J. Hundal	Interim Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Mr. J. Morrissy	Assistant Director Policy, Projects and Public Sector Reform
Mr. J. Kelly	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen, Brady and Galloway.

Councillor Bagnall in the Chair.

22. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18th December, 2019 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December, 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

23. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the updated work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

24. DIRECTOR OF PLACE FINANCE REPORT 2019/20, QUARTER TWO

The Director of Place submitted a report which set out details of the financial quarter two projected outturn position of the Directorate of Place.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Street lighting, electricity costs and plans to turn lights off;
- Matters around income and risks;
- The future life of Westhoughton Town Hall and consultation;
- The cross directorate budget figure under the Regulatory Services portfolio;
- Brexit and potential risks;
- Reactive works on Council buildings and joint working;
- The reduction in the gritting budget before discussions at a Winter Gritting Policy Development Group;
- One off investments and the Safe, Warm and Dry Budget; and
- Concrete lighting column renewals.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

25. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER TWO, 2019/20

The Director of Place submitted a report which set out details of the key Place Directorate performance information for the second quarter of 2019/20.

Members in their deliberations referred to the residents in employment increase.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

26. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Mr. John Kelly, Assistant Director Highways and Engineering gave a presentation on matters relating to the highway network in Bolton.

He highlighted that the highway network contributed and supported the quality of life as well as the local and regional economy.

Mr Kelly highlighted that there was over 1,000km of carriageways and over 1,800km of footways in Bolton. To rebuild this would cost £1.6 billion.

The annual cost to keep the carriageway asset in its current condition was £15.1 million.

The spend for 2019/20 was £7.9 million and in 2020/21 the budget had been confirmed at £12.7 million.

The presentation went on to provide details in respect of the following –

- Climate change overview including the changes in the rainfall and temperatures since 2009 and the impact in Bolton;
- Pothole management and prevention was better than cure;
- The vehicles and procedures used in Bolton;
- The carriage way condition in Bolton and compared to the national picture and how assessments were undertaken;
- Defect reporting and response times;

- Matters around road markings; and
- Fault reporting contact points.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Lining contracts;
- The standard regarding utilities companies;
- Potholes and categories; and
- Climate change and the impacts.

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

27. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

The following question was submitted by Councillor Silvester in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the response was prepared by the Director of Place.

Q.

At the original Bolton Interchange, when exiting the Bolton train station entrance and turning right, adjacent to the taxi ranks there was a pedestrian walkways which lead down to Newport Street bridge.

When this walkway was put in, it included illuminated blue lights at ground level as a guided walkway as a feature, vertical lights and small lights within the stone wall.

All of these lights over the years had gone out one by one and now none of them worked and they had not been replaced.

Was it the responsibility of Bolton Council or TfGM to replace those lights?

If the responsibility of TfGM, could we ask for these lights to be replaced and why they had been left to go out one by one and had not been replaced. What was the maintenance and inspection schedule and if there was no intention of replacing any of those lights, what the point was of installing them all in the first place ?

A.

The area referred to was all part of the Newport Street Interchange controlled by TfGM and they were fully responsible for the lighting. They would be contacted to provide a response for Cllr Silvester. The Interchange was due to be remodelled in the near future so they might be intending wholesale changes then.

The minutes of various meetings relevant to the remit of this Committee were also submitted, viz –

- Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 20th January, 2020;
- Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 14th January, 2020;
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery held on 20th January, 2020;
- Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 20th January, 2020 ; and
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Regulatory Services held on 20th January, 2020.

Members referred to the Supplementary Planning document and issues around protection of worn curb stones.

Resolved – (i) That the members question and response be noted.

(ii) That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.10 pm)