

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEEMEETING, 27TH AUGUST, 2019

Present – Councillors Bagnall (Chairman), Abdullah, Allen, Brady, Bullock, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher (as deputy for Councillor Fletcher), Gibbon, Heslop (as deputy for Councillor Weatherby), Peel, Radcliffe, Silvester and Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Cox	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport
Councillor Galloway	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Regulatory Services
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place
Mr. J. Morrissy	Assistant Director Policy, Projects and Public Sector Reform
Ms. K. Hopkins	Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Mr. J. Kelly	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Mr. G. Langley	Principal Engineer (Network Planning and Safety)
Mr. D. Shepherd	Principal Group Accountant
Mr. S. Warburton	Transport for Greater Manchester
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillors Heslop and Fletcher.

Councillor Bagnall in the Chair.

5. MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June, 2019 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

6. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the draft work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year which had been compiled following the suggestions of members at the last meeting and discussions with the Chair and Vice-Chair and officers.

Resolved – That the work programme be agreed.

7. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER 4, 2018/19

The Director of Place submitted a report which highlighted the performance of key priorities for the Directorate of Place during the period 1st January, 2019 to 31st March, 2019 (quarter 4)

Members in their discussions referred to the following-

- Matters around band D and above properties;
- Net additional dwellings;
- The visitor economy; and
- Crime figures and Bolton's figures;
- How information is presented in that for some information there is data and comparisons and some don't;
- The level 4 qualification target and its relevance under, Vision Place Priority : Create a workforce responsive to demand; and
- Those killed and seriously injured in Bolton and cuts to traffic police and efforts on safety.

Resolved – That the report and discussions be noted.

8. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE FINANCE REPORT, FINAL OUTTURN, 2018/19

The Director of Place submitted a report which outlined the financial outturn position for the Directorate of Place for 2018/19.

Members in their deliberations referred to the following –

- The Heathcote's contract and the possibility of looking at elements in the December meeting of this Committee;
- Brexit preparations and risks;
- The Octagon Theatre allocation and matters around the funding, publicity and energy efficient matters;
- Energy costs including the energy unit cost increase.

Resolved – That the following be noted –

- (i) The final outturn financial position.
- (ii) Revisions made to the capital programme.
- (iii) The key findings in the report.

9. GM INITIATIVES

Clean Air Plans

Mr. Simon Warburton from Transport for Greater Manchester gave a presentation which updated members on the Greater Manchester clean air plans.

The Committee was advised that Bolton, along with other authorities, was directed by HM Government in July, 2017 to consider implementing a Clean Air Zone unless they could identify alternative measures which were as effective in reducing nitrogen dioxide air pollution at least as quickly.

Modelling showed that illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide would span all ten Greater Manchester authorities in 2021 if no action was taken.

Mr. Warburton went onto outline matters around the funding to clean up Greater Manchester's non-compliant vehicles. Also referred to was electric vehicle promotion and sustainable journeys.

In conclusion, the meeting was informed of the timeline for action and the next steps which included engagement with officials and key affected groups.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Adequate funding for such initiatives;
- The location of computer pollution monitors;
- Charging and cameras;
- Highways England and their inclusion;
- The issue of there being too much too quickly and the infrastructure needed; and
- The Government's model.

Cycle Plans/Beelines

Mr Graham Langley, Principal Engineer (Network Safety and Planning) gave a presentation on matters around cycle plans and Beelines in Greater Manchester.

He outlined plans for the establishment of a ring fenced 10 year £1.5 billion infrastructure fund starting with a short term GM Mayor's Active Streets Fund to kick-start delivery for walking and cycling.

Members were also advised of the indicative Bolton Bee Network, routes that had already been approved and the vision for road junctions.

In conclusion, members were advised of the next steps and challenges including community engagement, resources and approvals process.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- If on Blackburn Road priority was given to buses and pedestrians;
- It being an ambitious project;
- The work done in Wigan;
- The Chorley Old Road scheme; and
- Cycle access to stations and locker facilities.

Resolved - That Mr Warburton and Mr Langley be thanked for their informative presentations and that the position be noted.

10. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

Q.

As part of our vision to regenerate Town Centres across the Borough the intent was to replicate the successful model that was piloted in Farnworth & Kearsley which led to two public consultation exercises.

In the light of the appointment by the leadership, of four councillors as Chairs of the four Town Centre Groups, could we have reassurance that all councillors representing these four areas will decide stakeholder membership of the groups and it not just be the prerogative of the unelected chairs.

A.

All ward councillors for each area were invited to be part of the Steering Group and attended Steering Group meetings. So far, however, there had only been one Steering Group meeting in each of the areas and the agenda was the same for each meeting. It included agreeing the Terms of Reference and membership of the group. Suggestions were welcomed.

It was also explained that a wider public consultation process would be initiated to help determine the final content of the proposed regeneration master plan. Since it was difficult to

have all community representatives on the Steering Group, this meant that any groups or individuals not represented on the Steering Group would still have a chance to be involved in the master planning process. It was also agreed by each group that sub groups might also be established to take a more in depth view of specific issues and opportunities, if necessary.

It was therefore up to the Steering Groups, as a whole, to agree their Terms of Reference and membership, as well as the Terms of Reference and membership of any sub-groups that they might wish to establish.

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

- Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 6th June, 9th July and 19th August, 2019;
- Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 9th July and 20th August, 2019;
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery held on 15th July and 19th August, 2019;
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Regulatory Services held on 15th July and 19th August, 2019; and
- Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 15th July and 19th August, 2019.

Members in their discussions referred to the Bolton Housing Delivery Plan – availability and reporting frequency and stadium safety certificate matters and any legal implications for the Council.

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 8.10pm)