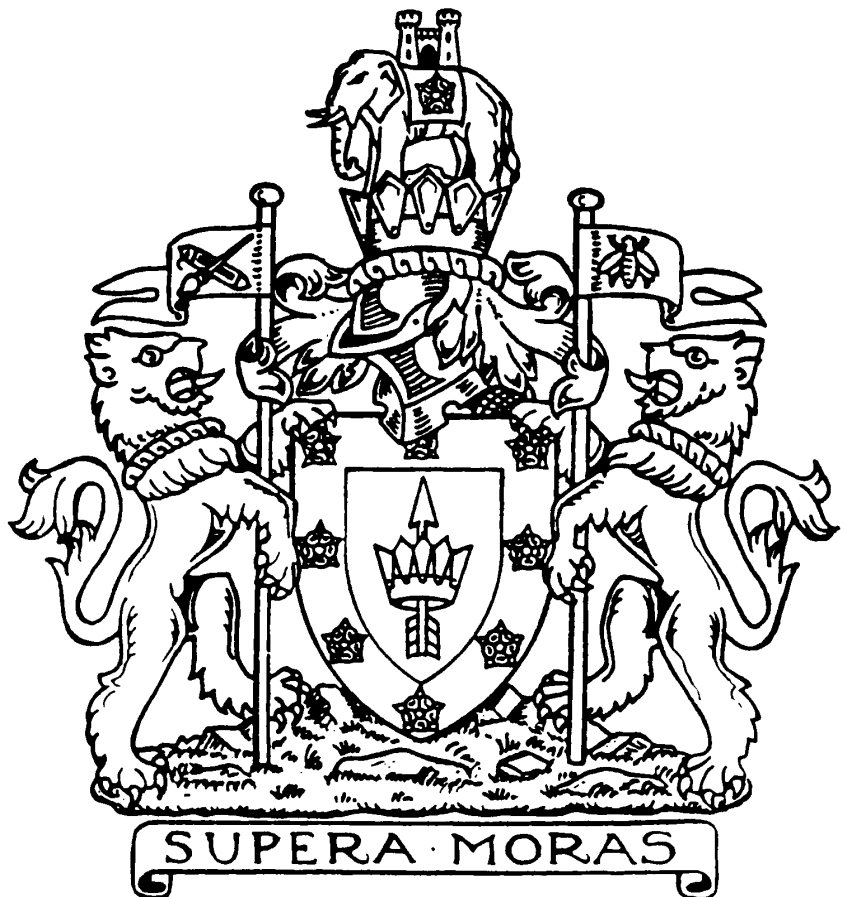


# **Bolton Council**

## **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**6<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

## **SUMMONS AND AGENDA**



## **BOLTON COUNCIL**

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Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall on Wednesday next, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

**1. Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 (Section A).

**2. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies**

**3. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)**

**4. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)**

**5. Committee Proceedings**

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee (See Section C)

**6. Scrutiny Committees**

To receive and consider the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committees:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

## **7. Items referred to Council from Scrutiny Committees**

To consider any motions referred to Council by a Scrutiny Committee

- (a) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel regarding item 6 of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021 –

With reference to the decision made by the Executive Cabinet Member on the 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, this Council believes that the Executive Member made the decision to withdraw free weekend parking, at Bolton town centre's multi storey car parks without full knowledge of all of the facts. Namely that the report contained no analysis of this facility, in place since 2012, would have on the retail and cultural sector in Bolton town centre. This Council requests that the Executive Cabinet Member now commission a new report that covers all of the relevant issues, that will allow him to make a more informed decision on this important facility.

## **8. Motions under Standing Order No.4**

- (a) Motion in the name of Councillor Donaghy –

Council notes that following a 'call in' by the Labour Group on the decision to close Harvey Nursery, the issue finally came to a meeting of the Council on the 13th January 2021, when a resolution to refer the decision back to Executive Cabinet Member with a reference to exploring financial options, was passed by a majority of members.

Council further notes that a new consultation report, with a recommendation to close Harvey Nursery, was approved by the Executive Member on the 13th September 2021.

Council is extremely disappointed that 8 months after the express wishes of Council was made absolutely clear, this new report was considered without any evidence being provided that showed that the exploration of options aiming to make the Nursery financially viable had actually taken place.

Notwithstanding the arguments for and against the closure of the Nursery, this Council expresses its deep concern that the 'call in' process is not fit for purpose when a clear steer from the majority of Councillors to a minority administration is blatantly and deliberately ignored.

Council reminds the minority Conservative Administration that they govern with the consent of a majority of Councillors from other parties, and therefore again calls upon the Leader of the Council to respect the majority views expressed by members, by withdrawing the current closure proposals until a full and up to date report is brought back to the Executive Member that identifies what work has taken place since January 2021 to attempt to save Harvey Nursery from closure.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Zaman –

Bolton Council has a statutory duty to assess the local population need for adult social care and to ensure that there is delivery of a full range of adult social care services.

In that endeavour

This Council believes there is a serious funding crisis affecting adult social care in the in Bolton and throughout the UK, made much worse by a decade of Conservative inaction.

This Council further believes that the planned rise in National Insurance contributions, affecting around 26 million working people, is an unfair way of dealing with the funding crisis in the crumbling social care system, and agrees with the Prime Ministers previous comments that NI increases are a regressive form of taxation, and agrees that the increase represents a clear betrayal of the Conservative Party 2019 manifesto promise to “not raise the level of NI”.

The NI rise will mean that young, poorly paid workers will in effect subsidise elderly rich people and the wealthiest in our society. On top of the cut to Universal Credit, it is again the lowest paid workers who will be hit the hardest.

Council believes that regressive NI rises will not bring about a social care funding solution, and instead longer term solutions that raises finance from those with the broadest shoulders, through stocks, shares, dividends and properties should instead be explored.

Council resolves to send this motion to the Prime Minister.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Silvester –

This Council believes that planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes.

This Council strongly disagrees with and criticises the Conservative Government's proposals to take away planning decisions from this Council and hand them to development boards appointed by Ministers in Whitehall. These new quangos are proposed to help zone areas for development. Residents living in areas zoned for growth would find that they no longer have an automatic right to object to individual planning applications on their own doorsteps; no right to object to oversized blocks at the end of the street; no right to object to concreting over precious green space, and no right to object to new developments that overburden local infrastructure such as roads, doctors' surgeries, schools or public transport.

This Council opposes such changes proposed by the Conservative Government and therefore calls upon the Secretary of State for Housing to protect the right of residents throughout the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton to object to individual planning applications.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Haworth –

The Council is extremely concerned that there is a government consultation in England on a plan to move the qualifying age for free prescriptions in England from 60 to 66 years of age. Subsequently, thousands of 60 to 66 year olds in the Bolton Borough, in receipt of prescriptions for medicines and health care products, would be affected by this change.

The pandemic has impacted health inequalities and wellbeing and it is imperative to avoid changes that will impact people's lives negatively going forward. If implemented, this change of people from 60 to 66 years for prescriptions for physical and mental health needs in Bolton could easily roll back progress made in the start to tackling health inequalities and increasing wellbeing here.

We ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister for Public Health and the Minister for Mental Health, outlining the Council's concern that the raising of prescription charges on people of 60 to 66 years of age in England will have a marked effect on already problematic health inequalities in the Bolton Borough.

We also call on our local Members of Parliament to support the Council motion and reject the plan to have 60 to 66 year olds pay prescription charges.  
Ends

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Baines

Council recognises the harmful impact of advertising on Children within the Borough in relation to Vaping products and will aim to support and promote a tobacco-free and Vape-free Borough in order to protect the current and future health, wellbeing and prosperity of children, families, and the wider community.

Background

Smoking remains the biggest cause of preventable death and a significant indicator of inequalities in the UK. Eradicating smoking is highlighted as a prominent issue in the 2019 NHS long term plan

The Council receives guidance from NICE and what was PHE (now the OHID - Office for Health Improvement and Disparities) on vaping as a quit aid. There is increasingly robust evidence of their effective use in driving smoking rates down. However, people who use vaping products should be supported to use regulated nicotine products and to ultimately stop smoking and vaping completely.

Some products would seem to be designed in such a way to entice children and young people to take up vaping (using bubble gum, gummy- bear and other similar flavourings).

This introduces a dependency on nicotine at a young age, via a route of administration which is not in itself without harm. Additionally, it creates an additional economic burden which given that smoking rates are highest amongst our most economically deprived neighbourhoods is felt most acutely by those who are least well off.

Council acknowledges its share of responsibility to try to ensure good public health in the population by:

1. Protecting children and young people against advertising and against the sale of products designed to entice young people to use nicotine products (either tobacco and/or vaping)
2. Promoting Smoke free environments which will also include the absence of second-hand vape, including playgrounds and other outdoor and indoor venues

Further, that Council should seek to:

- Actively promote a wider understanding of the impact of vaping on children and young people.
- Work with retailers to encourage them to challenge buyers of vaping products for proof of age, if there is any doubt that they are under the age of 18.
- Ask national government to do more to prevent the marketing of vaping products which are targeted towards young people.





TONY OAKMAN  
Chief Executive  
Town Hall, Bolton

29<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 23<sup>rd</sup> August to 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021, together with the Constitutional Panel, are included for information only in a separate volume.

**BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**2021/2022**

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**25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021**

Present - Councillors Mrs. Thomas (Mayor), Mrs. Fairclough (Deputy Mayor), Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challender, Connor, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Finney, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Ibrahim, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

**21. TRIBUTES TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL  
COUNCILLOR DAVID GREENHALGH**

Members paid tributes to the late Leader of the Council Councillor Greenhalgh and also observed a minutes silence in his memory.

**22. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**23. APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough, seconded by Councillor Dean –

That Councillor Cox be appointed Leader of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, 2022 or until such time as the Council removes him from office.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 30 viz:

Councillors Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 18 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Challender, Donaghy, Haworth, Heslop, Ibrahim, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester and Zaman.

Abstained, 5

Councillors Bagnall, Hayes, McGeown, Veevers and D. Wilkinson.

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**24. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES**

It was moved by Councillor Dean and seconded by Councillor Khurram -

That the following appointment and change in membership be approved:-

That Councillor Veevers be appointed to the Bolton Active Travel Forum in place of Councillor D. Wilkinson

**25. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)**

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(a) –

### A3

- (i) by Councillor Haworth relating to Life Enhancing Changing Places Toilets

The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities (as deputy for the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery) replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor Peel relating to home working

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor Hayes relating to the Planning Service

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor Abdullah relating to the planning application process

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Hornby relating to refugees and asylum seekers

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Hornby relating to the repairs and restoration of the Town Hall

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor McMulkin relating to flytipping and contaminated recycling bins

The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities (as deputy for the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery) replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor McMulkin, on behalf of Councillor Ismail, relating to CCTV cameras

The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities replied to this question.

- (ix) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to naming of new streets

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (x) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to the report of the failings of Greater Manchester Police

The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities replied to this question.

- (xi) by Councillor Jiva relating to refuse collection times

The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities (as deputy for the Executive Cabinet Member) for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Mistry relating to a cycle track

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

## **26. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(c)**

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(c) –

- (i) by Councillor Haworth relating to the Cycle Hub Membership Scheme

The Spokesperson for Greater Manchester Transport replied to this question

- (ii) by Councillor Veevers relating to the Citizen's Charter

The Spokesperson for Greater Manchester Police replied to this question

- (iii) by Councillor Jiva relating to policing across the Borough

The Spokesperson for Greater Manchester Police replied to this question

## **27. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Brady and agreed -

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 be approved.

## **28. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and agreed -

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be approved.

## **29. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

It was moved by Councillor Pattison, seconded by Councillor Silvester and agreed -

That the minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be approved:-

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny  
Committees – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> July  
2021

Joint Health Overview and Adult Social Care and Place  
Scrutiny Committees – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**30. MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –  
REMOVAL OF THE 'TEMPORARY' UPLIFT IN  
UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

Councillor Silvester declared an interest in the undermentioned item and left the meeting during consideration and determination thereof.

It was moved by Councillor McGeown and seconded by Councillor Veevers -

Council deplores the decision of the Government to remove the 'temporary' uplift in Universal Credit on 1st October.

Council agrees with the former Tory Leader and architect of Universal Credit, Sir Iain Duncan Smith, and five of his successors (Stephen Crabb, Damian Green, David Gauke, Esther McVey and Amber Rudd) that a failure to keep the uplift in place would 'damage living standards, health and opportunities for those that need our support most as we emerge from the pandemic, and that the extra £20 has been essential in allowing people to live with dignity.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to request that the uplift be incorporated permanently into Universal Credit.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 31 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Bagnall, Brady, Challenger, Donaghy, Flitcroft, Grant, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hornby, Ibrahim, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Pattison, Peel, Sanders, Sherrington, Veevers, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 20 viz:

Councillors Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Taylor-Burke, and Walsh.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**31. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – THE RAMBLERS ‘DON’T LOSE YOUR WAY’ CAMPAIGN**

It was moved by Councillor McKeon and seconded by Councillor Challenger -

On Sunday September 5, Bolton people will have an opportunity to take part in a memorial walk to remember the events of Sunday September 6 1896 when around 10,000 Bolton folk walked up Halliwell Rd, Smithills Dean and Coalpit Lane over the fields to Winter Hill and down into Belmont. They walked to reclaim a right of way closed by local landowner Col Ainsworth.

This Council commends the march to the people of Bolton and congratulates the organisers and their sponsors, Bolton Socialist Club, The Ramblers, The Woodland Trust and Bolton@Home.

The Council is also mindful, in our own times, of the need to protect open space and access to it.



The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced a provision for a cut off of January 1 2026 for the registering of historic rights of way. The Ramblers have been undertaking surveys of public rights of way throughout England and Wales in an attempt to identify what they believe to be public rights of way that have not been included in the Definitive Map. The Ramblers 'Don't Lose Your Way' campaign tries to identify these paths. The Council expresses support for this campaign and commits its Public Rights of Way Team, albeit with its limited resources, to offer advice and support to volunteers who may be involved in this task locally.

We owe it to our forebears, the working class walkers to Winter Hill, whose recognition of the importance of the accessibility of the countryside continues to be an inspiration.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 52 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challender, Connor, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Ibrahim, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

## A9

At this point, in accordance with Standing Order 7, the movers of the following motions withdrew their motions and agreed to resubmit them to a later meeting of the Council, viz:-

- Harvey Nursery – motion in the name of Councillor Donaghy;
- Changes to the way planning decisions are made at a local level – motion in the name of Councillor Silvester; and
- Qualifying age for free prescriptions in England for 60 to 66 years of age – motion in the name of Councillor Haworth.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.20 p.m.)

A10

**NOTES**

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Brady (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah (as deputy for Councillor Peel), Allen, Ayub, Connor, Dean, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin (as deputy for Councillor Ismail), Mistry, Morgan, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and D. Wilkinson.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ismail, Peel and T. Wilkinson.

### **6. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR DAVID GREENHALGH**

The Chairman referred to the recent death of the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Greenhalgh.

The Committee observed a minute silence in his memory.

### **7. JOYCE KELLETT**

The Chairman referred to the recent death of ex-Councillor Joyce Kellett.

The Committee observed a minute silence in her memory.

### **8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered certain applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake

developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

The following Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business:-

<b>Member of Council</b>	<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Councillor Haworth	10718/21	She is a member of the Farnworth Town Centre Steering Group.

Councillor Fairclough, in her capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the meeting and spoke in respect of application numbered 09635/20.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in relation to the following applications:

09635/20                      10718/21

Resolved - That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place be dealt with, as follows:-

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Proposal and Location</b>	<b>Decision</b>
09635/20	Erection of a two-storey building with basement comprising education centre, prayer facility, community hall and nursery together with associated parking, landscaping and pedestrian access at 721 Blackburn Road	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application, subject to conditions (17):</p>

		Councillors Abdullah, Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and D. Wilkinson.
11534/21	Erection of day-care centre (with hydrotherapy pool) for adults and young people with learning and physical disabilities together with associated access, car parking and landscaping at former site of Firwood Special School, Crompton Way	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application, subject to conditions (17):</p> <p>Councillors Abdullah, Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and D. Wilkinson.</p>
10718/21	Outline application for the development of a mixed-use scheme comprising up to 120 residential units (use Class C3) and up to 2,200sqm non-residential retail/commercial and	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p>

	community floorspace (use Class E, F1/F2) (access details only) at The Market Precinct, Brackley Street, Farnworth	Members voting for approval of the application, subject to conditions (17):  Councillors Abdullah, Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and D. Wilkinson.
11584/21	Provision of two new air source heat pumps supplementing existing mechanical services to building at Base 360 Marsden Road	<b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b>  A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.  Members voting for approval of the application, subject to conditions (17):  Councillors Abdullah, Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and D. Wilkinson.
11582/21	Provision of two new air source heat pumps supplementing existing mechanical	<b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b>

	services to building at Thicketford Centre, Thicketford Road	<p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application, subject to conditions (17):</p> <p>Councillors Abdullah, Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and D. Wilkinson.</p>
11576/21	Provision of a new air source heat pump supplementing existing mechanical services to building at Westhoughton Town Hall, Library Street, Westhoughton	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application, subject to conditions (17):</p> <p>Councillors Abdullah, Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and D. Wilkinson.</p>



## **10. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS**

The Director of Place submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 13<sup>th</sup> July and 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 10.00am and finished at 11.40am)

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### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Brady (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Ayub, Connor, Hartigan (as deputy for Councillor Dean), Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin (as deputy for Councillor Ismail), Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer (as deputy for Councillor Finney), Sanders, Sherrington, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dean, Finney and Ismail.

## **11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## **12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered certain applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake

developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

The following Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business:-

<b>Member of Council</b>	<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Councillor McMulkin	06672/19	He has formally objected to the application. He declared an interest and then left the meeting and represented the residents in objecting to the proposal. He then left the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application.
10173/21	Councillor Morgan	He has previously expressed his support for the application. He withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application.
06672/19	Councillor Ayub	He knows the applicant
11583/21	Councillor Mistry	He is a Governor at Cherry Tree School

Members of the public addressed the Committee in relation to the following applications:

06672/19

10173/21

Resolved - That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place be dealt with, as follows:-

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
06672/19	Retrospective application to demolish part and replace with an extension to the existing building together with the introduction of loading bays to the retained site at T. Sutcliffe and Co Ltd, Weston Street	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report, and amended condition regarding delivery times on Sundays and bank holidays being from 8.30am.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to amended delivery hours of 8.30am on Sundays and bank holidays, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>The motion was put to the vote.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the amendment (17):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Hartigan, Haworth, Hayes, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>The motion was carried.</p>

10173/21	Partial demolition of existing building and the erection of a two storey front extension, raising of roof height, roof lights and rear dormers together with the change of use from 1no. retail unit at ground floor with 2 no. flats at first floor to 2 no. retail units at ground floor, 2 no. flats at first floor and 2 no. flats at second floor at 284 and 286 Wigan Road	<p><b>Deferred for further information.</b></p> <p>A motion to defer the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for deferral of the application (17):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Hartigan, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>The motion was carried.</p>
11583/21	Provision of a new air source heat pump supplementing existing mechanical services to building at Cherry Tree Primary School, Highfield Road, Farnworth	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (18):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Hartigan, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p>

		The motion was carried.
11585/21	Provision of a new air source heat pump supplementing existing mechanical services to building at Heaton and Lostock Neighbourhood Children's Centre, New Hall Lane	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (18):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Hartigan, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>The motion was carried.</p>
11728/21	Prior approval application for the installation of solar photovoltaic equipment on the roof of a non-domestic building at Clarendon Primary School, Recreation Street	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (18):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Hartigan, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Peel,</p>

		<p>Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>The motion was carried.</p>
11749/21	<p>prior approval application for the installation of solar photovoltaic system of 178kwp on the roofs of the school at Westhoughton Community Leisure Centre, Bolton Road, Westhoughton</p>	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (18):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Hartigan, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>The motion was carried.</p>
11753/21	<p>Provision of two new air source (co2) heat pump units supplementing existing mechanical services to Building at Westhoughton High School, Bolton Road, Westhoughton</p>	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (18):</p>

		<p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Hartigan, Haworth, Hayes, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>The motion was carried.</p>
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### **13. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS**

The Director of Place submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 25<sup>th</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 3.30pm)

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION  
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Flitcroft (Chairman), Abdullah (as deputy for Councillor Haworth), Dean, Galloway, Grant, Haslam, Jiva, Khurram and Taylor-Burke.

(Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Mrs. Fairclough and Haworth)

Councillor Flitcroft, Chairman

**10. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of meetings held on 14 July, 2021 be submitted and signed as a correct record.

**11. APPLICATION TO RENEW A SEX SHOP LICENCE  
LER/17/21**

The Director of Place submitted a report which set out details of an application to renew a sex shop licence.

The report explained that the applicant had held a sex shop licence for the premises at 201, St. George's Road, Bolton since July, 2002.

Licenses, if granted, remained in force for a year.

It was moved by Councillor Haslam and Seconded by Councillor Grant that the application be granted.



For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Abdullah, Khurram, Jiva, Dean, Galloway, Haslam, Taylor-Burke, Flitcroft and Grant.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

**12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved – That, under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 (financial and business affairs) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in its exemption outweighs the public interest in its disclosure.

**7. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE LER/18/21**

The Director of Place submitted a report which sought consideration of an application of a hackney carriage vehicle licence, where the previous licence had lapsed.

The applicant and his representative attended the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Grant and Seconded by Councillor Haslam that the application be granted, finding exceptional circumstances.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Abdullah, Khurram, Jiva, Dean, Galloway, Haslam, Taylor-Burke, Flitcroft and Grant.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.20 pm)

C4

**NOTES**

**CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2021

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Veevers (Vice-Chairman), Connor, Hartigan, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Walsh, Wright and Zaman.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Cox	Acting Leader of the Council
Councillor Muslim	Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities
Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Chief Executive
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Allen.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair

**2. MINUTES SILENCE**

The Chairman referred to the sad passing of the Leader of the Council Councillor David Greenhalgh.

Members observed a minutes silence in his memory.

**3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 and the informal meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

#### **4. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/2022**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the proposed work programme for 2021/2022.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2021/2022 be approved.

#### **5. COVID 19 AND FINANCES UPDATE**

The Deputy Chief Executive advised members that, at this particular time, there were no additional financial impacts on the Council as a result of Covid-19. However, a report was submitted which outlined proposals to award additional grants under the Additional Restrictions Grant to Travel Agents.

The report reminded members that since April, 2020, the Council had been responsible for administering a range of Government Business Grants to assist business during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

A summary of the various grants that had been awarded to date, including the volume and value, was provided together with details of the various associated administrative issues.

The report also provided details of proposals to increase grant payments to Travel Agents under the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) in response to some businesses who were still suffering significant loss of business due to the uncertainty around foreign travel.

All grant schemes were fully funded by Government.

Following consideration of the report, members expressed their thanks and appreciation to all staff involved with administering the grant schemes for the amazing work they had done under extreme difficult circumstances and with very tight deadlines and at times very short notice.

Resolved – That the position be noted and that staff be thanked for all their hard work in a very difficult situation.

## **6. SUPPORTING THE BOLTON FAMILY IN A TIME OF CRISIS**

Ms. S. Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive gave a presentation which outlined the work which had been undertaken to support the Bolton Family in a time of crisis.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- The overall support offer;
- The strategic approach;
- General Humanitarian support;
- Self-isolation Practical support;
- The Local Covid Support Grant;
- The Test and Trace Payment Scheme;
- The DEFRA Food Grant;
- The different types of business grants; and
- The outcomes.

Following the presentation, members made the following comments/observations:-

- The impact on the economy;
- The distribution of the funding which had been received had been in a timely fashion;
- Partnership working which had been extremely effective;
- The implications when furlough ended;
- The lessons learned going forward and how these would be taken forward in the event of something like this happening again;
- A lot of families had struggled through the pandemic but the offer which had been made by the Council had been amazing and not one child within Bolton had gone hungry;
- Signposting for families had been very good;
- The continuation of the digital strategy with a view to making savings;

- Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to both Council staff and the voluntary sector for the huge part they had played during the pandemic; and
- Was any specific support being provided to individuals who were still shielding.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and thanks be conveyed to staff within the Council and the voluntary sector for all their effort and contributions during the pandemic.

## **7. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

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

- (a) The Cabinet held on 12<sup>th</sup> April and 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021;
- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio held on 6<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2021; and
- (c) The Executive Cabinet Member Stronger Communities Portfolio held on 6<sup>th</sup> April and 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.40 p.m.)

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## **CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Veevers (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Connor, Hartigan, Ismail (as deputy for Councillor McMulkin), Mistry, Murray, Peel, Rimmer, Walsh, Wright and Zaman.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Cox	Acting Leader of the Council
Councillor Dean	Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities
Mr. T. Oakman	Chief Executive
Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. L. Fallows	Assistant Director HR/OD
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors McMulkin and Radcliffe.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair

**8. MINUTES SILENCE**

The Chairman referred to the sad passing of former Councillor Joyce Kellett.

Members observed a minutes silence in her memory.

**9. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2021 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

**10. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/2022**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the proposed work programme for 2021/2022.

Members were also advised that the following items would be programmed into future meetings as follows:-

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 – Greater Manchester Pension Fund;



- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 – Policing – 5 year strategy and Community Safety Partnership; and
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 – Bolton CVS

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2021/2022, as amended be approved.

## **11. COVID 19 AND FINANCES UPDATE**

The Deputy Chief Executive advised members that, since the last meeting, there was no information that there was a detrimental impact on the budget due to Covid.

The Deputy Chief Executive also stated that, following the last meeting, she had passed on the thanks which was expressed by members to staff which had been very much appreciated.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

## **12. COVID – FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAFFING AND ACCOMMODATION**

Mr. L. Fallows, Assistant Director HR/OD gave a presentation to members which outlined future arrangements for staffing and accommodation following Covid.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- Background information;
- What has happened so far;
- The future working plans and high level principles;
- The flexible/agile approach which was proposed to be adopted;
- The current position; and
- Next steps.

Members were also provided with a letter which had been sent to all staff regarding plans for a phased return to the workplace from September, 2021.

Following the presentation, members made the following comments/observations:-

- Had any assessments been undertaken on specific groups of staff who working from home might have benefitted them i.e.: those with caring responsibilities;
- The need for mechanisms to be in place to deal with difficult situations i.e.: flexi time arrangements;
- The importance of the wellbeing of staff who have been heroic throughout the pandemic and the need for good communication;
- The need for managers to understand their HR responsibilities when dealing with staff coming back to the workplace;
- What was the position between now and the policy going live;
- The welfare of individual staff was paramount;
- The needs of service users needed to be taken into account;
- The definition of productivity and how this would be measured;
- The potential increase in costs due to risk assessments needing to be undertaken for staff working from home; and
- Issues around GDPR and security when working from home.

The Chief Executive also advised members that staff were now using and acting upon the letter and guidance which they had received.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and that Mr. L. Fallows be thanked for the informative presentation.

### **13. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

The Chairman advised that no questions from members had been received.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 6.55 p.m.)

## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Pattison (Chairman), Haworth (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah (as deputy for Councillor Khurram), Fletcher, Grant, Ibrahim, Radcliffe, Sherrington and Taylor-Burke.

### Lay Members

Ms. A. Schenk - Health Watch Bolton

### Also in attendance

Councillor Morgan - Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Councillor Baines - Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Ms. R. Tanner - DASS / Managing Director ICP

Dr. F. Noden - Chief Executive Bolton NHSFT

Ms. S. Long - Chief Officer, Bolton CCG

Ms. A. Young - Greater Manchester Mental Health FT

Ms. A. Seabourne - Greater Manchester Mental Health FT

Ms. A. Fallon - Interim Consultant in Public Health

Mr. I. D. Mulholland - Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Khurram, McMulkin, Donaghy and Bagnall, Suzanne Hilton (Age UK) and Helen Lowey, Director of Public Health.

Councillor Pattison in the Chair.

## **5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021 and the Joint meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **6. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2021/22**

The Committee received a report which set out details of the updated work programme.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Congratulations to Dr. Helen Lowey who had been awarded the Presidents Medal;
- Matters around the possible inclusion of an items around active connected prosperous response to health inequalities;
- The inclusion of an item around the national crisis with nursing recruitment; and
- The issue of having a Covid lessons learnt review, as previously mentioned in the last Municipal Year.

Resolved – (i) That the updated work programme be noted.

(ii) That the inclusion of an item around active connected and prosperous be looked into further.

(iii) That an items around the national crisis with nursing be added to the work programme.

(iv) That members be updated at the net meeting regarding the issue of having a Covid lessons learnt review.

## **7. POPULATION MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Ms. Andrea Fallon, Interim Consultant in Public Health gave a presentation on population mental wellbeing and the suicide prevention programme.

Members were advised of the key principles underpinning the Programme of shared leadership, life course approach, collaborative working and co-production, building on existing workstreams, prevention and early intervention, asset based approach, evidence and outcome focussed and alignment to Covid 19 needs.

The Committee was also apprised of the details of the mental health living well model, key projects, shared leadership, community engagement, mental wellbeing capacity building, wellbeing community grants, mental wellbeing digital offer for adults, marketing and communications and the evaluation programme.

Further aligned work included –

- Addressing loneliness to protect the mental health of older adults;
- Marketing and communications campaign aimed at BAME, CYP, families and women;
- Support for small businesses and self-employed;
- Supporting households in relation to financial insecurity;
- Social and emotional learning programmes;
- Suicide and self-harm prevention; and
- Development of a single wellbeing outcomes framework.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- CAHMS;
- Rates of suicide for men and women;
- Early intervention matters and ideas of what to watch for;
- Stigma of mental health matters;
- Mental health peer support – what is offered on the voluntary side;

- It can happen to anyone; and
- What the referral times were to access services.

Resolved – That Ms. Fallon be thanked for her detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **8. MENTAL HEALTH INCLUDING SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH ENDURING MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE COMMUNITY**

Mr. Adam Young and Ms. Alice Seabourne from Greater Manchester Mental Health Foundation Trust have a joint report on mental health including supporting people with enduring mental illness in the community.

The Committee was advised of the three key aspects of home based treatment, early intervention and community mental health teams and the detail of the offer in relation to each.

members were also provided with statistical information regarding unexpected deaths and suspected suicide from January, 2019 to July, 2021.

The meeting was also apprised of matters around the Bolton IAPT team and referrals including a dip during the first phase of the pandemic.

Most recently in July, 2021 the service received 1108 referrals.

Members were also advised of matters around the helpline and community transformation.

In conclusion, the priorities were highlighted, which included –

- Continue recovery from Covid;
- System working to reduce delayed transfers of care;
- Delivering support and alternatives to A and E;
- Strengthen community services; and
- Support system response.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Access targets;
- Effective interventions;
- Care provision in the community; and
- Stigma and accessing services by being discreet.

Resolved – That Messrs Young and Seabourne be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **9. NHS REFORM – GM INTEGRATED CARE BOARD AND LOCALITY CONSTRUCT**

Ms. Fiona Noden, Chief Executive of Bolton NHS FT and Ms. Su Long, Chief Officer of Bolton CCG gave a joint presentation on NHS reform and the GM Integrated Care Board and locality construct.

Members were reminded of matters around the Health and Care Bill which et al builds on the NHS long term plan to encourage integration across NHS services and with social care and disestablishes CCG's at the end of March, 2022.

The Committee was informed of matters around the levels of working in terms of neighbourhoods, localities and Greater Manchester (GM).

In terms the GM governance structure this was made up of, the integrated care board, integrated care partnership, joint planning and delivery committee, provider collaboratives and locality boards.

Members were reminded that the shared vision remained to improve the health and wellbeing for Bolton people by working together to design and deliver a very different approach to health care, making tangible improvements for everyone in Bolton.

In conclusion, it was highlighted that Bolton was on a journey of integration locally, working with partners and influencing in GM for appropriate levels of budgetary and decision making responsibility to remain in Bolton.



Members in their discussions referred to –

- Health and care as GM as a whole but localities needed looking at also;
- Hoping that the local strategy worked using local knowledge;
- Engagement with ward Councillors and community groups;
- Six months away from 2022 date and NHS Bill and representation needs to be right for Bolton;
- CCG closing and more decisions taken by GM. We did better when decisions were made locally;
- It being a huge change; and
- A possible Policy Development Group to look at this issue in relation to the local voice and representation.

Resolved – That Messrs Noden and Long be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **10. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

**The following question was submitted by Councillor Haworth in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the response was prepared by Lynn Donkin, Assistant Director/Consultant in Public Health.**

**Q.**

Analysing the UK Covid data was showing that Covid cases in the under 20's in England had risen to an all-time high. Covid cases in the under 20's were nearly double what they had ever been before.

- Was it not that rising Covid cases in any age group was concerning because it was an infectious disease?
- Was the operational plan for managing Covid in the Bolton Borough having to change at all in light of the current Covid infection data?
- Are Covid cases in the under 20's rising rapidly?

- Was Delta a more severe Covid infection than previous variants?

**A.**

- COVID-19 was recognised as a serious health risk. While people of any age could catch the virus, the risk of severe disease remained highest for people who were elderly or had significant underlying health conditions. Rising cases rates in any age group were a potential concern and warranted closer inspection as they could indicate important changes in the pandemic.
- Bolton's Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) was based on the established practice of preventing and containing outbreaks, and sets out a comprehensive approach to infection prevention control, surveillance, testing, tracing, isolating, managing outbreaks in settings, and community engagement. The LOMP incorporated plans to address developments including responding to Variants of Concern (VOC), action on enduring transmission, interface with vaccines roll out, and activities to enable 'living with COVID'. Operational plans were regularly refined to respond to changing surveillance data in response to recommendations from Bolton's Epidemiology Cell which monitored a range of pandemic indicators.
- At the time of writing, COVID cases in under 20's in Bolton were relatively level and considerably lower than recent peak in May/June of this year. The latest age-specific case rates for Bolton and trends over time could be viewed at <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/cases?areaType=Itla&areaName=Bolton>
- Some data suggest the Delta variant might cause more severe illness than previous variants in unvaccinated people. There was no evidence that Delta - or any of the other variants - caused more serious illness for the vast majority of people. As with the original version, the risk remained highest for people who were elderly or had significant underlying health conditions. COVID-19 vaccines were highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against the Delta variant.

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

- (a) Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2021.

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

(ii) That the minutes of the meeting be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.02 p.m.)

## **PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2021

Present – Councillors Bagnall (Chairman), Weatherby (Vice-Chairman), Ayub, Brady, Challender, Eckersley-Fallon, Finney, Hartigan, Heslop, Hill, McKeon, McMulkin (as deputy for Councillor Ismail), Peel, Walsh and Zaman.

### Also in Attendance

Councillor Mrs Fairclough	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Regulatory Services
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place
Mr. J. Dyson	Deputy Director of Place
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Mr. M. Kay	Head of Planning
Ms. J. Hall	Principal Environmental Health Officer
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

(An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Ismail and the Executive Cabinet Members Cox and Warren )

Councillor Bagnall in the Chair.

### **1. TRIBUTES**

The Committee undertook a minutes silence in memory of the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Greenhalgh and of former Councillor Joyce Kellett, both of whom had recently passed away.

## **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, the minutes of the Joint Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 and the informal meeting of this Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **3. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report which set out details of the proposed Committee work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Mention was made that it was thought that the work programme did not include all the suggestions from members.

Resolved – (i) That the work programme be approved.

(ii) That the work programme be looked at in the light of the comment regarding the incorporation of all suggestions from members.

## **4. TOWN CENTRE FREE PARKING – CALL IN ITEM**

The Committee was advised that in accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, Section E, Scrutiny Procedure Rules : Paragraph 17 the item, Town Centre Free Parking had been, Called In, by six members of Council following the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.

Members of the Committee had also been provided with a copy of the report considered at the time the decisions were made, the relevant minute extract and also a reminder of the constitutional options available to the Committee.

In respect of the item, Town Centre Free Parking, it was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Zaman that the matter be referred to full Council with the following Motion -

With reference to the decision made by the Executive Cabinet Member on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021, this Council believes that the Executive Member made the decision to withdraw free weekend parking, at Bolton town centre's multi story car parks without full knowledge of all of the facts. Namely that the report contained no analysis nor narrative whatsoever on the effect that the withdrawal of this facility, in place since 2012, would have on the retail and cultural sector in Bolton town centre. This Council requests that the Executive Cabinet member now commission a new report that covers all of the relevant issues, that will allow him to make a more informed decision on this important facility

The voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Ayub, Challender, McKeon, Peel, Zaman, Bagnall, Weatherby and Brady.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Eckersley-Fallon, Finney, Hartigan, Hill, Walsh, McMulkin and Heslop.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

## **5. IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON REGULATORY SERVICES FUNCTIONS**

Mr. Jon Dyson, Director of Place Service and Ms. Julia Hall, Principal Environmental Health Officer delivered a presentation on the impact of Covid 19 on the Regulatory Services functions.

By way of background information, the Committee was reminded of the work of the Council's Regulatory Services section which comprised –

- Environmental Health - food safety, health and safety and pollution control;
- Trading Standards; and
- Licensing.

The service provided a range of statutory services, protected the safety and health of everyone in the Bolton family, provided advice on regulatory compliance and enforced legislation, worked with businesses and the public and had a positive impact on health and wellbeing within the Borough and beyond.

Members were also appraised of the core activities of the Service.

In terms of Covid-19, members were advised that the staff had to adapt and work from home in many cases and their role / core focus had to be reprioritisation / realigned with Covid-19 compliance / enforcement priorities. Rapidly changing Covid-19 legislation and guidance presented considerable challenges, as did new enforcement guidance.

Also highlighted was the strong partnership working with GMP and Public Health.

The presentation went onto highlight the specific Covid-19 key activities and the key challenges.

The impact included disruption to routine business activities e.g. food safety inspections, on-site complaint investigation, licences extended without the usual checks, business development activity and exposure to other risks.

With regard to service recovery challenges, those included, the FSA food safety inspection recovery programme, uninspected business re food hygiene, new business demand, licensable activities and enforcement.

The future challenges included, pending enforcement action, new legislation, unregulated beauty treatments, changes to the regulatory landscape, the GM Clean Air Plan, enforcement and savings and efficiencies.

In conclusion, the lessons learnt included, the key role of regulatory services which was a flexible and responsive service, partnership working, debrief examination, staff wellbeing and new ways of working.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Adaptability of the service;
- The breadth of responsibility;
- Communications with businesses during Covid-19;
- Unregulated beauty treatments;
- Thanks to the whole team for work undertaken during pandemic; and
- The opportunity to retain some aspects of new / adapted working practices going in the future.
- Sale of Nitrous Oxide canisters for recreational use and illegal tobacco (noting that this item would be subject of review at the next Place Scrutiny meeting).

Resolved – That Messrs Dyson and Hall be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.



## **6. PLANNING SERVICES**

Mr. Paul Whittingham, Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration and Mr. Matthew Kay, Head of Planning gave a presentation on matters around planning services.

Members were reminded of the four main workstreams supported by a technical support team - development management, enforcement, building control and planning policy.

In 2016 Bolton Council was identified at risk of designation for its speed of decision making on planning applications and the Planning Advisory Service carried out a review of the planning process and made various recommendations.

In 2018, a decision making service review was undertaken and this included the creation of additional posts at DM Manager level, adding to the Enforcement Team with a Monitoring Officer role, assumptions about the level of increased workload and income generation and assumptions about the need for the IT upgrade.

Furthermore, the 2018 service review had led to an increase in resources to match demand at that time, matching capacity to the current demand was a key issue and there was now more officer-time- intensive complex major applications in the system since 2018.

Members were also informed of matters around the increases in the planning caseload since 2017/18 and performance matters during the same period.

The meeting was informed of increases in enforcement demand and use of the service, the increase in planning workload and matters around the planning service response.

In conclusion, Members were also advised of matters around the system upgrades, strategic / local plans, housing land supply, the building control service review and the covid impact.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The role of the Councillor in giving advice to residents and matters around training and enforcement;
- The transition to new IT system including from a staffing point of view;
- Achievement of Key Performance Indicators and measurement;
- The level of national standards;
- The efficiency of the service and how it had changed;
- Housing delivery matters;
- The role of the council and relationship with developers;
- Political interference with the planning system; and
- Complaints and the circulation of information.

Resolved - (i) That Messrs Whittingham and Kay be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

(ii) That members of this Committee be apprised of statistical information regarding complaints.

## **7. MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

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

- Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 27<sup>th</sup> April, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 28<sup>th</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.
- Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 15<sup>th</sup> June and 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2021;
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery held on 21<sup>st</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021;

- Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021; and
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Regulatory Services held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 8.51pm)

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021

Present – Councillors Grant (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah, Adia, Dean, Donaghy, Hill, Murray, Pattison, Rimmer and Taylor-Burke

### Co-opted Members

None

### Also in attendance

Councillor Galloway	-	Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services
Ms B. Brown	-	Director of Children's Services
Mr I. Walker	-	Assistant Director – Social Care and Early Help
Dr H. Wall	-	Bolton CCG
Ms R. Season	-	Bolton CCG
Mrs V. Ridge	-	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Connor, Hornby, Iqbal (Chairman), Ismail and McGeown and from Reverend Canon Dr Bracegirdle and Ms J. Bond (Co-opted Members)

Councillor Grant in the Chair.

## **7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved - The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## **8. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

The Borough Solicitor submitted the Committee Work Programme for 2021/22.

Resolved – That the 2021/22 Committee Work Programme be noted.

## **9. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH**

Further to Minute 5 of the meeting of this Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2021, Dr H. Wall gave a presentation on the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people's mental health.

The presentation provided details in relation to the national picture and gave an in-depth analysis of how children and young people had been affected locally by the Pandemic.

The following points were highlighted:

- data from the 0-19 service had shown an increase in children and young people who had low health and wellbeing scores on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale and numbers referred through emotional health and wellbeing care pathways and to specialist mental health services;
- 0-19 Service data also appeared to show a rise in perinatal mental health issues with an increase in mothers' scoring above the threshold on the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale, although this should be interpreted with caution due to small numbers;
- Bolton Together had also reported a rise in demand for their more intensive one to one support since the Pandemic began, and report that young people generally would prefer face to face interaction than online support, as they were suffering "Zoom fatigue", in the same way many adults working from home were, from so much time

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online for schooling and other aspects of their social lives;  
and

- all services had reported an increase in acuity and complexity which could not be demonstrated within local data. Bolton's JSNA was currently under development and was capturing this qualitative feedback across services.

The presentation went on to provide various slides that gave an overview of service data across Bolton.

In relation to Bolton CAMHS referrals:

- in 2019/20 there were a total of 2605 referrals - this reduced significantly over the pandemic with 1477 referrals made in 2020/21.
- Bolton CAMHS were now seeing an increased demand with 462 referrals being made within the first two months of 2021/22 – this was 77 more than the same time period in 2019/20 and 292 more than in 2020/21 (April – May).

The presentation advised that Children and Young People Access to Mental Health Treatment was a national requirement set out within the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health (2016). By 2020/21, localities must ensure that 35% of children and young people with a diagnosable mental health condition receive NHS funded treatment which consisted of at least 2 meaningful contacts within the reporting period.

For 2020/21, Bolton achieved an access rate of 35.4%. This figure was solely based on data submitted to the Mental Health Services Data Set did not currently include any access to treatment through Bolton's VCSE mental health offer in addition to treatment for autism through Community Paediatric. Work was ongoing to address the underreporting with NHS Digital to support our VCSE colleagues to stream data to the Date Set.

For 2021/22, the current forecasting rate of a CYP Access was 48.5% based on a 57.9% access rate in April followed by 36.9% in May. April access rates were always significantly higher as CYP could be counted again within the new Financial Year.

With regard to Kooth registrations, members were advised that:

- in 2020/21 a total of 1,750 new registrations were made to Bolton's online counselling platform for 11 – 25 year olds. Despite a lack of face-to-face promotion of Kooth by Bolton's allocated Integration and Participation worker, the registrations remained consistent with 2019/20 where a total of 1,731 new registrations were reported.
- a total of 14,235 logins from 2205 individual young people were made to the service across the financial year. A total of 450 1:1 counselling sessions also took place.
- whilst the neighbourhood overview about did not account for population size, registrations were more frequent in Farnworth & Kearsley and Crompton & Halliwell; and
- the most prominent issues Kooth presented with were reported each quarter - anxiety/Stress remained the more common presenting issue across each quarter with suicidal thoughts appearing second in Quarters 2, 3 and 4.

With regard to all age mental health liaison:

- completed assessments by Bolton's All Age Mental Health Liaison Service had been consistent across financial years with 400 completed assessments in 2019/20 compared to 398 in 2020/21; and
- on average, children aged 16 and under accounted for 9% of the total AAMHL assessments taking place each month. This fluctuated across the Financial Year with 4% in July, 2020 rising to 14% in November 2020.

The presentation also referred to eating disorder care pathways and Bolton, together with the other 9 localities across Greater Manchester were performing significantly better than the North West and England as a whole.

Members were advised that Bolton Together had utilised part of the monies secured through The Lottery Recovery Fund to deliver three engagement sessions to 73 young people across Bolton relating to the impact of Covid-19 on Children and Young People.

The presentation went on to summarise what young people had said about Covid-19:

- an overwhelming use of fear in the media had a huge impact on SEND children and young people. Avoiding common taglines like 'stay safe' was important as to a literal thinker that would imply that we were in danger or not safe.
- many LGBT+ young people felt they hadn't struggled with not being able to go out to a great extent as they were in a loving home, although boredom had become a major theme as lockdowns progressed;
- those who were shielding felt isolation the most as they hadn't left the house properly in for almost a year.
- the cancellation of exams had caused worry for some and left them feeling disappointed in their results;
- young people from the secondary schools commented on 'negative media narratives' focused on the BAME community which have led to an erosion of trust in the press;
- young people reported less exercise and some weight gain; and



- families of children and young people with SEND also reported the difficulties during lockdown with a particular focus on home schooling, the difficulties in providing the same level of support, having to become teachers and using the home as a classroom.

In summary, the presentation outlined the findings and experiences arising from the last year:

- the experience had been different for every young person and there was a need to take a person-centred approach to support and allow time for children and young people to adjust to a changing environment;
- COVID-19 had led to different anxieties but also the emergence of different coping mechanisms which needed continued encouragement and support;
- the need for children and young people to know what information and support was available in a range of formats which was timely and transparent;
- the need for children and young people to feel connected to others and their community, providing accessible opportunities to connect, integrate and be active and the removal of barriers of cost, lack of awareness or fear would help;
- young people wanted services to continue to listen to them and to act on what they told us; and
- talk openly about mental health and ways to support good mental health.

The presentation also identified what mental health support was listed all the services that were available across Bolton. Full details of each initiative and how they were accessed were provided.

Following the presentation, members made the undermentioned comments/observations:

- the importance of mental health provision in schools – members were advised that the Team Around Schools Programme was operational in 13 schools across the Borough aimed at early intervention and prevention. Trauma staff were based there who worked in conjunction with the Local Authority with a focus on building a community for young people with engagement. There were plans to expand these services and provide more investment next year with practitioners based in schools and linking in with CAMHS;
- the need to educate children in mainstream schools about mental health issues and raise awareness – members were advised that this was an important aspect of the engagement strategy and would be individualised dependent on differing needs within schools;
- the part played by schools was vital – Ms Brown advised that schools were aware of the issues with some being proactive and already utilising their resources for mental health support such as Turton School who had appointed two mental health nurses. The SEND Steering Group and Head Teacher Executive Groups were also working together to raise awareness of the huge scale and range of services that were available although more work on this was needed;
- concerns that the lasting effects of the stop/start situation of children's schooling associated with the pandemic over the past eighteen months may not materialise for many years and was a new pressure that Authority would have to face – members were advised that schools were aware of the possible adverse effects of the disrupted schooling on children and that the Early Help and Integrated Front Door services would help to support schools in this area and assist them in early intervention to mitigate them;
- the role of GPs in supporting children – Dr Wall advised that the Thrive One Door initiative was revolutionising and simplifying how GPs could access mental health services by referral to a single point of contact;

- mental health was everyone's concern and a whole system approach was needed; and
- an awareness that the pressures and struggles of parents during the pandemic had been felt by children.

Resolved – That Dr Wall be thanked for her informative presentation.

## **10. FOSTERING**

Mr I Walker gave a presentation on fostering in Bolton with a particular focus on the recruitment of foster carers.

Members were advised that 2020/21 had resulted in the highest number of enquiries over the past 5 years due to a rolling marketing campaign being delivered for the first time and the creation of a dedicated Marketing Officer:

- 363 new enquiry leads were received during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020;
- an 81% increase in enquiries from 2019/20 figures;
- most popular months for enquiries were May (which incorporated Foster Care Fortnight), June, January and September, which coincided with the months in which the digital marketing campaign was active; and
- 76 enquirers went on to complete a Registration of Interest (ROI).

The presentation also advised that:

- 60% of all enquiry leads and 26% of all ROIs had come through Facebook advertising;
- 30% of all enquiry leads and 54% of all ROIs had come through the Bolton fostering web form on the Council's website;
- visits to the fostering web pages had increased by an average of 89% during months when the paid digital campaign was active; and
- the Paid Search campaign accounted for approximately 50% of direct visits to the Council fostering web pages.

Enquiries had come from a broad geographical area of Bolton:

- 85% of enquiries received had been from women;
- 24% of enquiries were from the BAME community;
- 15% of enquirers had no spare room.

In terms of recruitment, the presentation informed members that:

- the Fostering Service had been reorganised to create a dedicated Recruitment Team to provide more timely responses, grip and drive;
- a tracker had been devised for assessments with clear headlines and timescales to ensure senior management oversight and facilitate challenge in Performance Board;
- there was a clear target timescale set for allocating ROI and completing initial visits and assessments;
- schedule of rolling program of Skills to Foster training courses to avoid built in delays;
- assessments were booked into panel upon allocation of an assessing social worker with a 6-month target for completion of the assessment; and
- Stages 1 and 2 of the assessment process ran concurrently to reduce assessment timescales.

With regard to the forecast for 2021/22:

- there was a projection of 20 approved carers in 2021/2022 which was double the number of carers from 2020/2021;
- a rollover of the impact of improved marketing should extend the improvement into 2022/23; and
- retention of carers also improving with 13 resignations in 2020/21 as compared to 19 in 2019/20.

The presentation also made the following points in respect of the fostering career:

- there were currently 192 mainstream foster carer households providing 241 placements – the third best

performing Local Authority in the GMCA for placing children 'in-house';

- there were 69 family and friends placements but still had 73 Independent Fostering Agency placements - however, 44 were over the age of 60 so over the next 5 years may have to recruit up to 8 carers a year just to 'stand still';
- average age of mainstream foster carers was between 45 and 59 and on average fostered for Bolton for 9 years, with 10% of carers fostering with the Authority for between 20 and 40 years and 37% between 10 and 20 years;
- information gathered from various forums suggested foster carers felt supported by their Supervising Social Workers - when the decision was made to leave fostering it was often due to retirement;
- foster carer representative on the Corporate Parenting Board to ensure their views were represented; and
- there was a tracker in place to monitor and review void placements for senior manager oversight to best ensure maximum efficiency in the system.

In respect of retention, the presentation also referred to:

- a monthly newsletter distributed to carers to ensure they were kept up to date with any developments and share information about resources and topics of interest;
- a range of support groups available to carers and children which had continued during the Covid 19 pandemic;
- Voice 4 You event annually to celebrate the achievements of our Looked after Children;
- Buddy System to ensure all carers were linked to an experienced foster carer to provide them with guidance and support;
- discount card for carers to ensure accessibility to a range of activities;
- the Foster Carer Forum ensured carers met regularly with the manager to share their views, concerns and compliments;

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- celebration events for long standing foster carers recognising their continued service to the department and the children of Bolton;
- involvement of foster carers in our recruitment activities such as during skills to foster training; and
- foster carers supporting with initial visits to utilise their skills, knowledge and experience.

Future developments included:

- pooling resources and expertise with other GM Authorities such as home adaptation scheme, joined up marketing campaign on a sub-regional basis and development of a recruitment/enquiry/assessment hub;
- a deep dive into fostering data and continued evaluation of recruitment activity which was reviewed through the recruitment meetings;
- continue to build on foster carer recruitment year on year underpinned by high quality recruitment activity; and
- possible Mockingbird model to be launched in Bolton to enrich placement stability, retention and enhance the current short break offer.

The presentation concluded that Bolton needed foster carers as too many children were still being placed out of Borough and in more expensive IFA placements where outcomes were less certain. Significant progress has been made but more work needed to be done and Bolton was facing a significant demographic challenge in the next few years.

The presentation was supplemented by various graphs and statistical diagrams which further demonstrated the position.

Following the presentation, members made various comments/observations:

- elected members to understand and embrace their role as corporate parents and to use their contacts within the community to engage;
- the need to understand the reasons that potential foster carers may choose the independent sector over the Local

Authority option – Mr Walker advised that finance was a factor and that the independent sector often offered more attractive allowances – he stressed the importance of working collaboratively with Greater Manchester to become stronger together;

- whether the high standards set by Bolton often made it more difficult to receive approval – Mr Walker confirmed that as a corporate parent, Bolton sought out the best carers for its children and had set high benchmarks;
- the need to retain quality foster carers - Mr Walker advised that Bolton had excellent relationships with its carers with better outcomes and that many carers had been attracted to Bolton due to the level of support they would receive – it was noted that although the Government set the fostering standards via the National Minimum Standards for Fostering, local authorities could choose to interpret these differently;
- the level of support and training provided by Bolton was excellent and many foster carers valued the close working relationship over additional finances; and
- there was a process of accountability and capped amounts for monies spent on fostering adaptations if the process did not proceed or came to an end.

Following the presentation, Ms Brown advised members that she was the lead officer for the development of collaborative working on mental health issues for children across GM which was essential if local authorities were to compete with the Independent Sector going forward. She stressed the importance of social media to spread the word and engage with potential foster carers and sought the support of elected members to help in this regard.

Resolved – That Mr Walker be thanked for his informative presentation.

## **11. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

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

G13

- None

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.20pm)



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**NOTES**