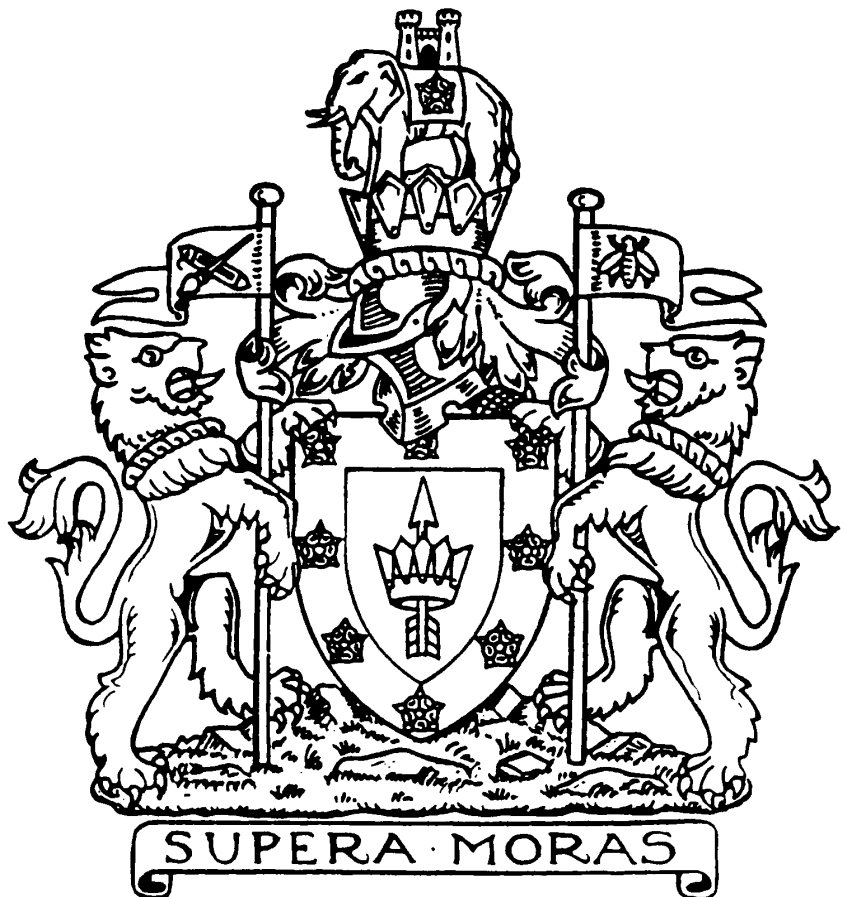


Bolton Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

7th September 2022

SUMMONS AND AGENDA



BOLTON COUNCIL

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Town Hall on Wednesday next, 7th September, 2022 at 7.00p.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 meeting of the Council held on 27th July, 2022 (Section A).

2. Policy Framework

Motion in the name of Councillor Khurram –

That the draft Gambling Act 2005 ‘Statement of Principles’ be approved and replace the current ‘Statement of Principles’ which were approved in 2019.

3. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies

4. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)

5. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)

6. Committee Proceedings

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee (See Section C)

7. Scrutiny Committees

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D) (to follow)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section E) (to follow)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

8. Motions under Standing Order No.4

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Grant -

I ask this council to request that a letter is sent to our 3 elected MPs and the government requesting:

1. That the Government
 - a. Delivers the leasehold reforms that were promised (but continually delayed) and that they include the online calculator for lease extensions and enfranchisement as soon as possible.,
 - b. Prevents the sector from fixing capitalisation rates at a low rate in the calculation as this will push up the cost for the leaseholder
 - c. speeds up progress on other reforms that the Law Commission worked on - such as Right to Manage and commonhold as this will address the abuses that we see today with service charges and insurance commissions, and,
 - d. implements planning policy changes to ensure councils adopt the estates residents live on in full, to stop developers creating what we call

“fleecehold” where fees are typically secured by a rent charge which means if residents fall into default on those fees the property can be converted from freehold to leasehold again and so the cycle begins again.

2. Furthermore, this council resolves that it will no longer sell its reversionary freehold or leasehold interests to 3rd parties without offering the first refusal to the existing leaseholder at fair value.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Veevers -

Council notes that if the proposed rises in energy caps take place many more Bolton residents will be forced into extreme fuel poverty and choosing between turning their heating off and doing without food and other essentials.

Council condemns the potential rises as a major risk to the health and wellbeing of those who are vulnerable and suffer from ill health.

Council urges the Borough’s MPs to support calls for the recall of Parliament to vote for

- a) Cancellation of the rises in the fuel cap; and
- b) Introduction of windfall taxes on the excessive profits of energy and fuel companies.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Heslop –

The national Council Tax Benefit Scheme was abolished on 1st April 2013 to be replaced by the local Council Tax Support Scheme. For some of the least well-off in this borough including low-paid workers, carers and the disabled, the former paid all of the Council Tax due. The current scheme which was devised by this Council now requires that all liable non-pensionable-age Council Tax

payers contribute at least 17.5% towards the Council Tax - the minimum currently being £170.99 per year for a single person in a Band A property. Entitlement to help under the Council Tax Support Scheme is withdrawn for non-pensionable-age residents if the householders' savings exceed £3,000 which means that many older people who are under age 66 could be excluded for simply having a small financial safety-net in their old age.

This Council acknowledges that the reduction in help with Council Tax for residents has in large part been due to central government limiting the amount that it sends to Councils to administer the scheme.

In Greater Manchester, the savings limit that triggers no entitlement to help varies from: Bolton £3,000, Stockport £8,000, Wigan £12,000 and the remaining seven Councils £16,000.

One Council in Greater Manchester looks at limiting the level of support based on only Band A levels of Council Tax but does not insist that householders pay a minimum amount to the Council Tax. Another Council gives extra help for those with children under five.

Trafford Council has looked at the percentage of available income that the resident should contribute towards their Council Tax. Trafford expects householders to pay 30% of their excess income compared to 20% by the other authorities. On the face of it, Trafford may appear to provide less help but it should be noted that many of their least well-off do not pay – the financial support that they receive only reduces with increased income over and above a minimum income level.

This Council accepts that within Greater Manchester, this borough's scheme is one of the simplest. However, it also accepts that it may also

be the most unfair – particularly for the least well-off.

This Council agrees to

1. ask officers to consider alternatives to the current Council Tax Support Scheme by reference to other schemes in Greater Manchester with emphasis on helping the least well-off, and,
2. call an urgent PDG to consider the alternatives identified by officers referred to above.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

This Council believes that the current energy bills crisis is causing serious financial hardship for the people of the Bolton Borough, and all future projections point to an even bleaker future. This is not only adding to the severe cost of living crisis, but is also a major cause of the sharp rise in inflation. This is a national emergency.

Council believes that the help offered so far by the Government is inadequate and pitiful, and that they are clearly putting the profits of oil and gas giants before the wellbeing of the public.

Oil and gas company giants are making eye watering profits, directly from the pockets of struggling households, despite their previous dire warnings of a sharp drop in profits. This council believes that they are not playing their fair and affordable part in ensuring that energy bills remain as low as possible. Therefore Council fundamentally supports the policy of additional tax on these companies to be used to cancel the Energy Price Cap rise. Council notes that this targeted tax can raise £29 billion pounds in order to save the average family £1000 this winter.

Council notes that cancelling the Price Cap would bring inflation down by an estimated 4%, thus making future interest rates rises less likely, as well as boosting consumer spending power

In addition, Council believes that the Government needs to urgently address the longer term problems through a Warm Homes Plan that would see the insulation of 19 million homes over the next decade, which again would lead to a reduction in energy costs as well as making a significant contribution to achieving our carbon emissions target. Further, we believe that a planned and sustained policy of securing our countries energy needs should be pursued as a matter of priority, through investment in British sustainable energy sources, that will bring stability to the energy sector in the long term.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Bullock –

In 2025 Stockton & Darlington are to celebrate their George Stephenson designed railway bi-centenaries-by progressing a HAZ-Heritage Action Zone-with the support of both the UK Government and Historic England, along with the support from local landowners, interested local companies and importantly residents-with much happening including a full archaeological survey of the route.

With the recent listing of this area by Historic England as a ‘Scheduled Monument’, the historic and probably unique ‘CHEQUERBENT EMBANKMENT’, now is the perfect time to bring a similar initiative to our area for the benefit of local people?

Starting at the original ‘Daubhill ‘ station site on Adelaide St., crossing over St. Helens Rd., running alongside Hulton Playing Field, through Winterfield Dr./Beaumont Chase green path system and linking up with and extending the Bolton Public Right of

Way WES121 on the Bolton & Leigh Railway route and on to 'Chequerbent Embankment' Scheduled Monument section, across the A6 down the Chequerbent Incline (one of the world's steepest adhesion worked routes) down to the Atherton rail line on the border of Bolton with Wigan.

Not only would this provide an opportunity to preserve and enhance an important piece of our history, it would provide a new Active Travel Route through mainly open spaces and countryside, protecting some of Bolton's most historic railway heritage-whilest connecting some of its highest levels of deprivation and most built-up areas in Rumworth, Daubhill and Deane with our countryside and green spaces, creating health and wellbeing benefits and opportunities for those who most need it.

'I ask....

That this Council sets up a PDG to:-

- Target applying for a HAZ-Heritage Action Zone along the remaining sections of the historic 'Bolton & Leigh Railway' route within Bolton between Daubhill and the Atherton boundary.
- Looks at ways that Bolton might participate in and permanently benefit from a programme to celebrate in 2025, the bi-centenary and beyond of our early railway history of the 'B&L', including but not limited to Bolton Museum (with a new upgraded display), Westhoughton Library and Horwich Loco. Works. With enhanced station platform signs at both Bolton and Horwich Parkway.
- Enhanced route markings and Public Rights of Way access, establishing this route as a new Active Travel & Walking Route, so that

people who live in some of the most built-up areas of our town can easily access our countryside and leisure areas.



TONY OAKMAN
Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

31st August, 2022

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 18th July to 16th August, 2022 are included for information only in a separate volume.

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2022/2023

27th JULY 2022

Present - Councillors Zaman (Mayor), Mrs. Thomas (Deputy Mayor), Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Fletcher, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Weatherby and T. Wilkinson.

18. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 22nd June 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

19. POLICY FRAMEWORK – STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

It was moved by Councillor Hewitt and seconded by Councillor Haslam –

That the revised Statement of Community Involvement be approved and be brought in with immediate effect.

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

For the Motion, 45 viz:

Councillors Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Dean, Finney, Fletcher, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin,

Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Weatherby and T. Wilkinson.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

20. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING ORDER 9(a)

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

- (i) by Councillor M. Ayub relating to the opening of One Stop Shop to the public

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor Silvester relating to the disposal of land adjacent to Telford Street and Thirlmere Avenue, Horwich

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor Hayes relating to storage of mobility scooters

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

- (iv) by Councillor Hayes relating to Space Standard for Housing

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

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- (v) by Councillor Priest relating to the performance of the Planning and Enforcement functions

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

- (vi) by Councillor Haworth relating to the Anti-Poverty Strategy

The Executive Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor Hayes relating to the Speedwatch Initiative

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

- (viii) by Councillor Hayes relating to the resignation of Boris Johnson

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ix) by Councillor Veevers relating to the reopening of Barrow Bridge Road

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

- (x) by Councillor Mrs. Thomas relating to the closure of The Urban Care and Neighbourhood Centre, Halliwell

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

- (xi) by Councillor Hartigan relating larger fines for fly tipping

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Hartigan relating to Harvey's Nursery

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

21. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor M. Ayub and approved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23rd June 2022 be approved.

22. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Khurram, seconded by Councillor Taylor-Burke and approved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 12th July 2022 be approved.

23. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – CLEAN AIR ZONE CHARGING

It was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Iqbal -

Council notes with disappointment that a letter from the Secretary of State, George Eustace to the Mayor of Greater Manchester dated 1st June 2022, again confirms the Government's intention to impose a "category C charging scheme" within Greater Manchester. This is in direct opposition to the proposals and developing plan by the 10 GM authorities for category B non-charging CAZ. This is also in direct contradiction to pledges made during the recent local elections from Conservative candidates across GM to scrap any form of CAZ charging.

Council also notes that the Government has imposed CAZ charging on other cities in England; a clear track record on the subject.

Council reaffirms its belief that an incentive driven scheme and not a charging scheme is the best way for all of the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester to achieve clean air compliance

Council notes that the Secretary of State has suggested that the charging zone could cover only an undefined city centre area of Manchester, however council further notes that the legal directive from the Government on Bolton Council to take action to reduce emissions in the shortest possible time and no later than 2026, remains in place. As the directive hasn't been lifted, the latest Government statement appears to forget that it exists! It is noted that private hire, taxi and white van drivers from Bolton will still be subject to daily charging as they go about their business in the undefined city centre area. It is further noted that a charging zone in one borough of GM would not alter levels of exceedance in Bolton or the other boroughs. Council can only therefore conclude that the letter from the Secretary of State demonstrates a lack of understanding about clean air issues across GM as well as the basic and economic geography of the region.

Council is heartened by the fact that despite the confirmation of the intent to impose charging by the Secretary of State, the reply by Andy Burnham on 2nd June makes it crystal clear that GM officials will continue to present evidence based proposals for an investment led approach that delivers clean air benefits through the appropriate financial support to those most polluting vehicles to upgrade as soon as possible.

Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State to reiterate our opposition to any form of charging CAZ and support for a non-charging investment led CAZ within the GM region.

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

For the Motion, 42 viz:

Councillors Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Connor, Dean, Finney, Fletcher, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sanders, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Weatherby and T. Wilkinson.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

24. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – NJC PAY CLAIM

It was moved by Councillor N. Ayub and seconded by Councillor McKeon -

This council notes:

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. UNISON research found that councils in England had to fill a combined funding gap of £3 billion when setting budgets for 2022/23.

Over the last two years, councils including Bolton Council have led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we

emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster.

Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 9% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.

There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2022 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

This council resolves to:

Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim

Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government

Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign

Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

Also, on condition that the pay claim is fully funded by central government and does not fall as an additional burden to local government, support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of £2,000 or the current RPI rate, whichever is the greater (along with the various conditions claims proposed)

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

For the Motion, 27 viz:

Councillors Allen, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Fletcher, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Newall, Peel, Priest, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Weatherby and T. Wilkinson.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 16 viz:

Councillors Baines, Connor, Cox, Dean, Finney, Galloway, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hill, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, Radcliffe, Taylor-Burke and Walsh.

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.10 p.m.)

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NOTES

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING, 21st JULY, 2022

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), M. Ayub (Vice-Chairman), Brady, Connor, Dean (as deputy for Councillor Morgan), Finney, Grant, Mistry, Mort, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest (as deputy for Councillor D. Wilkinson), Radcliffe and Sherrington

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen, Morgan, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 23rd June, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered various planning applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place (Development), 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:-

| Member of Council | Application Number | Nature of Interest |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Councillor Finney | 12813/21 | Her daughter-in-law works at the School |

Members of the public addressed the Committee in respect of the following applications:

B2

11852/21
13794/21

12992/21
13795/21

11067/21

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

| Application Number | Proposal and Location | Decision |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 12992/22 | erection of up to 59 dwellings with associated access, parking, landscaping and other works on land at Academy Way | <p>That the decision be delegated to the Director of Place (Development) for approval.</p> <p>A motion to delegate the decision to the Director of Place (Development) for approval was moved and seconded:</p> <p>Members voting for delegation of the application to the Director of Place (Development) for approval (15):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Mistry, Mort, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington and Walsh</p> |
| 11852/21 | Outline planning application for the demolition of existing dwellings and outbuildings and residential development (with all matters reserved) at Green Common | <p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> |

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| | Cottages, Green Common Lane, Westhoughton | <p>Members voting for approval of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Grant, Mistry, Mort, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington and Walsh</p> <p>Members voting against approval of the application (2):</p> <p>Councillors Dean and Finney</p> |
| 13209/22 | Demolition of bungalows and erection of 43 dwellings comprising four storey block of 35 flats and 8 houses together with associated access, parking, landscaping and retaining wall to south-west boundary on land at Grizedale Close | <p>Deferred for further information.</p> <p>A motion to defer the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for deferral of the application (15):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Mistry, Mort, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington and Walsh</p> |
| 13795/22 | External alterations to existing loading bay elevation to allow for new doors and louvre at Bolton Civic Library and Museum Services, Civic Centre, Le | <p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and</p> |

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| | Mans Crescent | <p>seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (15):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Mistry, Mort, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington and Walsh</p> |
| 13794/22 | Listed Building consent for the refurbishment of the existing library together with the introduction of a new mezzanine floor along with new WC facilities internally and alterations to existing loading bay elevation externally to allow for new doors and a new louvre at Bolton Civic Library and Museum Services, Civic Centre, Le Mans Crescent | <p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (15):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Mistry, Mort, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington and Walsh</p> |
| 11067/21 | Application for a lateral northerly extension to the existing quarry to facilitate the extraction of gritstone for the purpose of producing high grade stone and aggregates | <p>Refused, for the following reasons:</p> <p>1.The proposed development, both during the extraction phase and following restoration, would fail to maintain and respect the landscape character of the area,</p> |

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| | (re-submission of application 05250/19) at Montcliffe Quarry, George's Lane, Horwich | <p>contrary to Policies CG3 and OA1.11 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</p> <p>2.The proposed development would constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt in that it would not preserve the openness of the Green Belt, contrary to Policy CG7AP of Bolton's Core Strategy.</p> <p>3.The proposed mineral extraction would result in a loss of and harm to biodiversity during the operational phase of the development, contrary to Policy CG1.1 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for refusal of the application (15):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Mistry, Mort, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington and Walsh</p> |
| 12813/21 | Retrospective application for siting of 1 single and 1 double classroom temporary | Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report. |

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| | buildings at St James Daisy Hill CE Primary School, Hindley Road, Westhoughton | <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (15):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Finney, Grant, Mistry, Mort, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington and Walsh</p> |
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7. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS

The Director of Place (Development) submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 20th June and 12th July, 2022.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 3.40pm)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING, 18th AUGUST, 2022

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Brady, Connor, Finney, Iqbal (as deputy for Councillor Ayub), Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, Peel, Priest (as deputy for Councillor D. Wilkinson), Radcliffe, Sanders (as deputy for Councillor T. Wilkinson) and Sherrington.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ayub, Grant, Patel, D. Wilkinson and T. Wilkinson

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st July, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered various planning applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place (Development), 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:-

| Member of Council | Application Number | Nature of Interest |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Councillor Mort | 13593/22 | She is part of the Girl Guides Association. She withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application. |

Councillor Hayes, in his capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the meeting and addressed the Committee in respect of application numbered 13329/22.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in respect of the following applications:

13329/22

13931/22

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

| Application Number | Proposal and Location | Decision |
|--------------------|--|--|
| 13420/22 | Application to render external walls of property at 31 Shoreswood Road | <p>Approved, subject to conditions and additional condition regarding the type of render to be used.</p> <p>Members considered, as there are examples of fully rendered properties in the local area, that the proposal would not harm the character and appearance of the area, compliant with Core Strategy Policies CG3 and OA5, and they also considered that render would better insulate the property. They requested a condition be imposed to ensure the render to be applied is through colour render.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application(14):</p> <p>Councillors Brady, Connor, Finney, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh</p> |

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| 13931/22 | Erection of a single storey food hall extension (with partially covered external seating area) to the southern elevation of the existing market hall together with the siting of new outdoor market structures to the north of the site and associated hard landscaping works at Ashburner Street Market, Ashburner Street | <p>That the decision be delegated to the Director of Place (Development) for approval.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (14):</p> <p>Councillors Brady, Connor, Finney, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh</p> |
| 13329/22 | Listed Building consent for replacement of windows at 35 Fourth Street | <p>Deferred for further information.</p> <p>A motion to defer the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>An amendment to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for the amendment to refuse the application (5):</p> <p>Councillors Brady, Connor, Finney, Morgan and Radcliffe.</p> <p>Members voting against the amendment to refuse</p> |

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| | | <p>the application (9):</p> <p>Councillors Iqbal, Mistry, Mort, Newall, Peel, Priest, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh</p> <p>The amendment was declared lost.</p> <p>The original motion to defer the application was then put to the vote.</p> <p>Members voting for deferral of the application (14):</p> <p>Councillors Brady, Connor, Finney, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh</p> <p>The motion was declared carried.</p> |
| 13593/22 | <p>Temporary consent for the retention of 3 single-storey replacement classroom and welfare blocks at Girl Guide Association, 100 Shepherd Cross Street</p> | <p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (13):</p> |

| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| | | Councillors Brady, Connor, Finney, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh |
| 13209/22 | Demolition of bungalows and erection of 43 dwellings comprising four storey block of 35 flats and 8 houses together with associated access, parking, landscaping and retaining wall to south-west boundary on land at Grizedale Close | The application was withdrawn by officers at the request of the applicant and would be dealt with at a future meeting. |
| 13759/22 | Temporary consent for the continued use of the community use/service building (Use Class F2) as a school (Use Class F1) at Halliwell UCAN Centre, Hatfield Road | <p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors Brady, Connor, Finney, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh</p> |

10. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS

The Director of Place (Development) submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 23rd May and 8th August, 2022.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 3.05pm)

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 12th JULY, 2022

Present – Councillors Khurram (Chairman), Cowen, Haworth, Hill, Hornby, McMulkin, Mistry, Newall and Wright (as deputy for Councillor Grant).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dean, Grant, Meehan, Sanders and Taylor-Burke)

Councillor Khurram, Chairman

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of meeting held on 9th March and 20th April, 2022 be submitted and signed as a correct record.

2. 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.

**3. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY
CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE. LER/09/22**

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application for the grant of a hackney carriage vehicle licence where the previous licence had expired.

The driver attended the meeting.

C2

The report set out details of the application.

It was moved by Councillor Mistry and Seconded by Councillor Hill that the application for a new hackney carriage vehicle licence be granted, finding that there are exceptional circumstances.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, Cowen, Wright, Haworth, Hill, Hornby, Khurram, McMulkin, Mistry and Newall.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the Motion was declared carried.

4. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE. LER/10/22

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application for the grant of a hackney carriage vehicle licence where the previous licence had expired.

The driver attended the meeting.

The report set out details of the application.

It was moved by Councillor Haworth and Seconded by Councillor Mistry that the application for a new hackney carriage vehicle licence be granted, finding that there are exceptional circumstances.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, Cowen, Wright, Haworth, Hill, Hornby, Khurram, McMulkin, Mistry and Newall.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the Motion was declared carried.

5. APPLICATION TO RENEW A LICENCE TO DRIVE A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE. LER/11/22

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application to renew a licence to drive a Hackney Carriage Vehicle.

The driver and his representative attended the meeting.

The report set out details of the application. Additional supporting information was tabled by the applicant at the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor McMulkin and Seconded by Councillor Hornby that the application to renew the Licence to Drive a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence be refused.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, Cowen, Wright, Haworth, Hill, Hornby, Khurram, McMulkin and Newall.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Councillor Mistry.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved –

That the licence to drive a Hackney Carriage Vehicle be refused to be renewed on the basis that the Committee are not satisfied that the driver is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

It was also moved by Councillor McMulkin and Seconded by Councillor Hornby that the application to renew a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence be refused.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, Cowen, Wright, Haworth, Hill, Hornby, Khurram, McMulkin and Newall.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Councillor Mistry.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved –

That the application to renew a Hackney Carriage Vehicle be refused.

The Committee also took account of the following –

The Police information regarding the aggravated burglary that took place on 19th December, 2021 and the Committee found that the applicant's explanation of his

knowledge and involvement in the incident not to be credible.

- The applicant was unable to explain why the police felt he was connected to the incident and subsequently arrested.
- This was a serious violent incident which is still open and under review by the police.
- The applicant acknowledged that there had been an altercation between his son and the tenant on 10th December 2021 but he did not witness this happen.
- The tenant had been in rent arrears with the applicant at the time of the incident taking place and legal proceedings to evict the tenant had been commenced by the applicant.
- The applicant suggested that the property had been being used for the dealing of drugs.
- The applicant stated to committee that he had never been caught for anything that had stuck before.

Members of the public, the elderly, infirm and children or vulnerable adults entrust their personal safety and wellbeing to private hire drivers whenever they take a journey.

The Committee's primary duty is of concern for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

There is therefore reasonable cause to refuse to renew both the Hackney Carriage Driver Licence and the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm. and finished at 4.20pm.)

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 16 AUGUST, 2022

Present – Councillors Khurram (Chairman), Taylor-Burke (Vice-Chairman), Cowen, Haworth, Hornby, Jiva, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Newall and Radcliffe (as deputy for councillor Dean).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dean, Grant, Hill and Sanders.

Councillor Khurram, Chairman

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of meeting held on 9th July, 2022 be submitted and signed as a correct record.

7. 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.

8. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE. LER/12/22

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application for the grant of a Private Hire vehicle licence.

The driver attended the meeting together with his representative.

The report set out details of the application.

C7

It was moved by Councillor McMulkin and Seconded by Councillor Newall that the application for a licence to drive a Private Hire Vehicle be refused.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, Cowen, Radcliffe, Haworth, Hornby, Jiva, Khurram, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Newall and Taylor-Burke.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved –

That the application to drive a private hire vehicle be refused on the basis that the Committee are not satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

The Committee also took account of the following –

- The conviction for plying for hire and using a vehicle while uninsured from 4th August, 2020;
- The applicant's dishonesty in terms of the application form where he failed to declare that he was attending court on the following day of 4th August, 2020 or that he had an outstanding prosecution;
- He also failed to declare that he had held a licence with another authority; and
- Matters concerning the Council's Statement of Fitness and Suitability regarding major traffic offences and the guidance in relation to plying for hire.

Members of the public, the elderly, infirm and children or vulnerable adults entrust their personal safety and wellbeing to private hire drivers whenever they take a journey. Passengers often travel alone and are vulnerable to inappropriate behaviour.

The Committee's primary duty is of concern for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

There is therefore reasonable cause to refuse to grant the private hire drivers licence.

9. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE. LER/13/22

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application for the grant of a private hire vehicle licence.

The driver attended the meeting together with his representative.

The report set out details of the application.

It was moved by Councillor Taylor-Burke and Seconded by Councillor Meehan that the application for a Licence to Drive a Private Hire Vehicle be granted, subject to standard conditions.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Newall and seconded by Councillor Cowen that the application be refused, viz –

For the Amendment, Viz –

Councillors Cowen, Radcliffe, McMulkin and Newall.

Against the Amendment, Viz -

Councillors Haworth, Hornby, Jiva, Khurram, Meehan, Mistry and Taylor-Burke.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

Whereupon the amendment was declared lost.

Whereupon, the original and substantive motion was put to the vote, viz-

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Haworth, Hornby, Jiva, Khurram, Meehan, Mistry and Taylor-Burke

Against the Motion, Viz -

Councillors Cowen, Radcliffe, McMulkin and Newall.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

10. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE. LER/14/22

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application to renew a licence to drive a Hackney Carriage Vehicle.

The driver and his representative attended the meeting.

The report set out details of the application.

It was moved by Councillor Meehan and Seconded by Councillor Hornby that the application for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence be refused.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Mistry and seconded by Councillor Jiva that the application be granted, subject to standard conditions and the voting was as follows, viz -

For the Amendment, Viz –

Councillors Jiva, Khurram, Mistry and Taylor-Burke.

Against the Amendment, Viz –

Councillors Cowen, Radcliffe, Haworth, Hornby, McMulkin, Meehan and Newall.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the amendment was declared lost.

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Whereupon, the original and substantive motion was put to the vote, viz-

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Cowen, Radcliffe, Haworth, Hornby, McMulkin, Meehan and Newall.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Jiva, Khurram, Mistry and Taylor-Burke.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved –

That the application to drive a private hire vehicle be refused on the basis that the Committee are not satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

The Committee also took account of the following –

- Matter concerning the applicant's dishonesty on the application form as the applicant did not declare any convictions; and
- Matters concerning the Council's Statement of Fitness and Suitability regarding the clear guidance that all matters must be declared.

Members of the public, the elderly, infirm and children or vulnerable adults entrust their personal safety and wellbeing to private hire drivers whenever they take a journey. It was felt that the applicant had acted dishonestly by failing to declare any of his convictions on the application form.

The Committee's primary duty is of concern for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

There is therefore reasonable cause to refuse to grant the private hire drivers licence.

11. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE. LER/15/22

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application for a licence to drive a Private Hire Vehicle.

The report set out details of the application.

The driver and his representative attended the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor McMulkin and Seconded by Councillor Jiva that the application be granted.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, Cowen, Haworth, Jiva, Khurram, McMulkin, Mistry, Newall and Taylor-Burke.

C12

Against the Motion, Viz –

Radcliffe and Meehan.

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 5.55pm.)

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION
COMMITTEE (ACTING AS THE GAMBLING COMMITTEE)**

MEETING, 16th AUGUST, 2022

Present – Councillors Khurram (Chairman), Taylor -Burke Vice-Chairman), Cowen, Haworth, Jiva, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, and Radcliffe (as deputy for Councillor Dean).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dean, Grant, Hill, Sanders, Hornby and Newall)

Councillor Khurram, Chairman

1. GAMBLING ACT, 2005 – REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Director of Place Services submitted a report to invite the Committee to consider the responses to the consultation on the draft Gambling Act, 2005, Statement of Principles, and to agree amendments to the draft, Statement of Principles, following the consultation to reflect the comments of the consultees.

The meeting was informed that the Gambling Act received royal assent in April, 2005. It consolidated the regulation of casinos, bingo, gaming machines, lotteries, betting and remote gambling into one Act.

The Act established a non-departmental public body, the Gambling Commission. The Gambling Commission was responsible for advising HM Government and local government on issues relating to gambling.

The Gambling Commission issued operating licenses to organisations (required for operating gambling premises) and personal functional licences to individuals. A personal functional licence was required by an individual who performed any task that enabled them to influence the outcome of gambling or received payment of money in connection with gambling, such as a dealer or croupier.

The Gambling Commission (under section 25 of the Act) issued guidance to licensing authorities on the discharge of their functions under the Act. This guidance dealt primarily with matters intended to assist licensing authorities in the development of their, Statement of Principles, which was commonly referred to as, The Gambling Policy. The guidance set out the principles that had to be applied by the licensing authority in exercising its functions under the Act.

Section 349 of the Act required the Council to review, consult and publish a, Statement of Principles, every three years. The Council adopted the current, Statement of Principles, in 2019.

The Statement of Principles detailed the approach taken by the Council in carrying out its functions under the Act, the standards expected of licence holders and applicants applying for premises licences, permits and other permissions for example lottery registrations.

The proposed, Statement of Principles, (attached to the report) were developed by the Greater Manchester Local Authorities, who are taking the opportunity to think differently about the potential impacts of gambling across the city region, with the shared aim of preventing and reducing the negative impacts of gambling on individuals, families, and communities.

It was moved by Councillor McMulkin and seconded by Councillor Meehan that agreement be given to the amendments to the draft, Statement of Principles, following the consultation to reflect the comments of the consultees and that full Council be recommended to approve the draft, Statement of Principles, which replace the current 'Statement of Principles' approved in 2019.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Cowen, Radcliffe, Haworth, Jiva, Khurram, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry and Taylor-Burke.

C15

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

The Motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm. and finished at 6.10pm.)

C16

NOTES

**CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 25th JULY, 2022

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Heslop (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Connor, Hornby, Jiva, Meehan (as deputy for Councillor Cowen), Mistry, Peel, Patel, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Weatherby and Wright.

Also in Attendance

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Councillor Cox | Leader of the Council |
| Councillor Dean | Executive Cabinet for Stronger Communities |
| Ms. S. Johnson | Deputy Chief Executive |
| Mr. P. Rimmer | Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services |
| Ms. H. Gorman | Borough Solicitor |
| Mrs. V. Ridge | Democratic Services Manager |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brady, Cowen and Rimmer.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11th April, 2022 and the informal meeting on 27th June, 2022 were submitted.

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

**2. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR
2022/2023**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the proposed work programme for 2022/2023.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2022/2023 be approved.

3. BOLTON CVS AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Further to minute 39 of the previous meeting, a report was submitted from Bolton CVS which provided details in relation to the funding programmes for Bolton CVS for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022. Information was also provided on the Bolton's Fund Grants awarded in years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

The report also gave details on how Bolton CVS administered funding programmes and it was stated that The Bolton's Fund programme was agreed with The Bolton's Fund Co-design group who determined the priorities for future programmes.

The Chairman explained that unfortunately representatives from Bolton CVS were unable to attend the meeting this evening, however, any questions/comments from members would be sent to them and they would also be invited to attend the meeting of the Committee in October, 2022.

Members in their deliberations made the following comments/observations:-

- From Appendix B who was Action for Children's Services Limited, Breakdown Bolton, Breaking Barriers, Changing Life Directions, Raise the Youth, Stand up Sisters, Third Space and Wave Adventure;
- Further information on the conditions of each grant; the purpose of the grant and details of review and measure of success;
- Further information regarding the Bolton's Fund Grant which awarded grants via Bolton CVS in the total of £549,050 for 2021 -2022, however, the total value of all grants awarded via Bolton CVS was £1,252,205.18;
- Queried the statement that 3,000 people in Kearsley had benefited from the Fund;
- The need to look at the distribution of grants across the borough;
- How the voluntary sector funding was administered;

- How grants were given out and how this was publicised to those groups who were not aware of this funding;
- The council should do an audit on geography and subject matter of the voluntary sector which would probably identify gaps in such provision across the Borough and how could Bolton CVS assist the council with this and could information be provided on a ward by ward basis;
- The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities advised that he met with Bolton CVS on a monthly basis and he would ask them to incorporate the questions and answers in their presentation to Committee at the meeting in October;
- It was acknowledged that this report provided more transparency in terms of the grants allocated via Bolton CVS than in the previous years.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the questions/concerns raised by members be sent to Bolton CVS for a response.

(iii) That Bolton CVS be invited to attend the meeting on 24th October, 2022 and that they also be requested to provide data on the projects that they are monitoring.

4. UPDATE ON THE £150 ENERGY PAYMENT

Mr. P. Rimmer, Assistant Director Revenues and Benefits and Customer Services gave a presentation to members which outlined the work taken to date with regard to the £150 Energy Payment.

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

- The background to the support for energy bills;
- The funding levels for Bolton;
- The eligibility criteria;
- How payments were made;
- Progress to date; and
- Next steps.

In terms of the progress made to date, members were advised that the £150 rebate had now been paid to 88,302 residents which totalled £13.245m and all direct debit accounts had received the rebate. 3,650 residents had opted to have the £150 credited directly to their Council Tax account which amounted to £547,500. It was also stated that there were currently 1,261 claims outstanding that had failed the Spotlight check and 22,216 were still to claim and the deadline for payments under the main scheme was 30th September, 2022.

With regard to the next steps, members were informed that letters were issued last week to the 22,216 that had not claimed at this point and letters were being issued this week to the 1,261 that had failed the Spotlight check. Furthermore, a report was to be drafted to outline the proposals for the Discretionary Scheme and the deadline to spend the £705,150 was 30th November, 2022.

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

- When would the criteria for the Discretionary Scheme be determined;
- Credit and thanks was expressed to the team for all their efforts in administering the scheme and the quick response to members queries;
- Had any additional resources been provided from Government to assist with administering the scheme;
- An explanation of what 'Spotlight' meant;
- An increase in publicity and social media to reach out to those who had not yet applied;
- The reasons as to why people were not making a claim;
- Concerns were expressed with regard to the wording of the scheme which was being referred to as a council tax rebate rather than an energy payment;
- Could the payment be used to pay off council tax arrears;
- How many people out of the 3650 residents who had opted for a credit to their council tax account had arrears over and above £150 – Mr. Rimmer agreed to circulate this figure to members;

- Was there the ability that by the end of September, 2022 those residents who had not applied could automatically have the £150 credited to their council tax account;
- A view that people should be able to decide how they wanted to spend the £150;
- A debate ensued with regard to the terminology of the grant and whether it was a council tax rebate or an energy rebate;
- The use of post office vouchers;
- The letter which had been to sent out to those residents who had not yet applied be circulated to members of the Committee;
- Communication with other partner agencies, support from the one stop shop and the visiting service which could assist people i.e. those with mobility issues and would go into their homes to help them. Details of the two visiting officers be shared with members of the Committee; and
- A view that the least well off should be given it as a cash payment as soon as possible.

During the debate Councillor Hornby moved a motion which was seconded by Councillor Peel which asked Cllr Walsh to withdraw his statement regarding his comments on the Council Tax Rebate.

Councillor Peel then moved an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Silvester which stated that this Committee believes that referring to energy grant assistance as a council tax rebate was damaging to potentially thousands of Bolton residents who were eligible for the energy grant assistance and no member should refer to it as a council tax rebate in the future.

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

For the Amendment 11 viz:-

Councillors Allen, Heslop, Hornby, Jiva, Mistry, Peel, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Weatherby and Wright.

D6

Against the Amendment 4 viz:-

Councillors Connor, Meehan, Patel and Walsh.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon the amendment was declared carried and became the substantive motion.

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

For the Substantive Motion 11 viz:-

Councillors Allen, Heslop, Hornby, Jiva, Mistry, Peel, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Weatherby and Wright.

Against the Substantive Motion 4 viz:-

Councillors Connor, Meehan, Patel and Walsh.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon the substantive motion was declared carried.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and thanks be conveyed to officers for the presentation and for all their hard work in administering the scheme.

5. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

Q.

Public meeting on the De Havilland Way improvements levelling up bid.

On Monday 4th July, as part of the De Havilland Way improvements levelling up bid, a public meeting was organised at the Platinum Suite, Bolton Whites Hotel in which Council officers and the Leader of the Council was present. This meeting was advertised as being for 'stakeholders' however none of the 6 Borough Councillors representing either Horwich & Blackrod Ward or Horwich North East Ward in which the proposed improvement scheme is located were informed about or invited to it. Who requested this meeting took place and who authorised it took place? Who organised this meeting? What date was the meeting organised? How was the meeting advertised? Does the Leader of the Council have ultimate responsibility for the levelling up bid? Who was being classed as 'stakeholders'? Why were none of the 6 Borough Councillors covering Horwich informed about or invited to the meeting?

A.

Q1. Who requested this meeting took place and who authorised it took place?

Answer: The meeting was requested by Chris Green on Wednesday 29th June, so that residents and other stakeholders could be given a further opportunity to find out more about the project and ask officers further questions relating to the project, prior to the bid's anticipated submission date of 6 July.

Q2. Who organised this meeting?

Answer: It was organised by Council officers within our Development & Regeneration Team, at very short notice.

Q3. What date was the meeting organised?

Answer: Thursday 30th June

Q4. How was the meeting advertised?

Answer: Through the Council's website and via Chris Green's Facebook Page and via a Bolton News article referring to the meeting on Friday evening

Q5. Does the Leader of the Council have ultimate responsibility for the levelling up bid?

Answer: The De Haviland Way bid was prepared by the Council's Development & Regeneration team, working in collaboration with our Highway and Engineering team, with support from Aecom and Savills. The draft bid was discussed with the Leader and Cabinet members and fully consulted on, via a formal highways consultation process, before being finalised. Chris Green made sought further details from Council Officers and Aecom and asked that an additional public meeting be held, before deciding whether or not to support the bid.

Q6. Who was being classed as 'stakeholders'?

Answer: Anyone that wanted to express their views because they felt that they may be affected by the proposals.

Q6. Why were none of the 6 Borough Councillors covering Horwich informed about or invited to the meeting?

Answer: Several Councillors attended the event (Cllrs Grant and McKeon, for example). Councillors had previous opportunities to attend meetings and input to the consultation process. No personal invitations were issued to anyone. The only channels used to promote the meeting were referred to in Q 4.

Resolved - That the question and answer be noted and that the Director of Place Development be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to explain why Ward Councillors were not invited to the meeting.

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 11th and 25th April, 13th June and 11th July, 2022;

- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio held on 5th and 20th April, 14th and 21st June and 12th July, 2022; and
- (c) The Executive Cabinet Member Stronger Communities Portfolio held on 19th April, 2022.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.25 p.m.)

D10

NOTES

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 20TH JULY, 2022

Present – Councillors Howarth (Chairman), N. Ayub, Challenger, Hartigan, Khurram, Meehan, Murray, Priest, Radcliffe, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas and Wright.

Lay Members

- | | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Ms. B. Gallagher | - | Bolton and District Pensioners Association |
| 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 | - | Managing Director, Bolton Integrated Care Partnership |
| Mr. S. Baines | - | Managing Director of Bolton Cares |
| Ms. A. Marie Carr | - | Strategic Lead for population Health and Prevention |
| Ms. A. Seabourne | - | Medical Director |
| Ms. K. Hodgetts | - | Associate Director of Operations |
| Mr. I. D. Mulholland | - | Deputy Democratic Services Manager |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bullock, Eckersley-Fallon, Fletcher, and T. Wilkinson (Vice-Chairman) and Fiona Noden.

Councillor Haworth in the Chair.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th July, 2022 and the Informal meeting held on 5th July, 2022 were submitted.

Further to minute 25 and the reference to members of this Committee being furnished with details of the employment statistics regarding those with learning disabilities working for the Council and the NHS, Members enquired as to an update. Members were informed that the Council systems were being updated and information will be available at a later date.

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

6. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2022/23

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

Resolved – That the work programme be approved, subject to the inclusion of the Annual Report of Health Watch.

7. BOLTON CARES ANNUAL REPORT AND UPDATE ON GROWTH

Mr. Sanjeet Baines, Managing Director of Bolton Cares gave an update presentation on Bolton Cares Ltd, Bolton Council's Local Trading Company. The update covered -

- Their Organisation;
- Their People; and
- Their Progress and Future.

The meeting was advised of the following Timeline of notable achievements in relation to its services, viz-

- Established in 2016 by Bolton Council to deliver care services for local people;
- In 2019 awarded a 3+1+1year contract Supported Living and Outreach Services in Salford;
- In April, 2021 they launched the THRIVE 2024 Plan;
- In October ,2021 awarded a 5+2 year contract Supported Living Services in Wigan;
- In December, 2021 awarded a 5+2 year contract Extra Care Services in Wigan;
- In February 2022 secured a 1-year extension to Salford Contract; and
- In April 2022 Cabinet approval to award a 10-year contract to deliver care services across Bolton.

The presentation also gave an insight of the geographic areas in which Bolton Cares operated, the fact that the Company was owned by Bolton Council and the number of people it supported. It set out the services it provided in Bolton, Salford and Wigan and the Company's Governance criteria.

The meeting noted the Company's Mission, Vision, Thrive Values, the number of people supported and the schedule of care hours to support those people.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- major reforms coming through and sustainability issues;
- governance and stakeholders, a 10 year contract, CQC ratings and accountability for those in Salford and Wigan; and
- pay rise for Bolton Cares Workers

Resolved – That Mr. Sanjeet Baines be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the update be noted.

8. ACTIVE LIVES – PUBLIC HEALTH THEMATIC

Ms. Anne Marie Carr, Strategic Lead for Population Health and Prevention, gave a presentation on Food, Nutrition and Excess Weight and the risk to population health and impact on local services.

The presentation referred to the following issues of concern and how to address those issues, viz-

- The Level of risk to population health;
- Beyond the obesity crisis;
- Scale of the issue and the impact on the NHS and local authorities;
- The impact on adults; and
- The impact on local children.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Bolton Food Partnership – how public health officers worked together on fresh food;
- The meals that used to be available in schools and woks canteens;
- The issue of lots of takeaways;
- How to encourage families to purchase good balanced food in the current environment;
- Barriers regarding people's finances;
- Data in Bolton regarding finances and different strategies;
- Working with independent food banks;
- The problem of takeaways opening at 3.30pm;
- Social supermarkets;
- Type two diabetes in children and energy drinks and working with schools and others on this;
- How the issues were being tackled; and
- Poverty, effective parenting and planning all being factors.

Resolved - That Ms. Anne Marie Carr be thanked for her detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

**9. MENTAL HEALTH- GREATER MANCHESTER
MENTAL HEALTH OVERVIEW FOCUS ON
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PRIMARY CARE**

Ms. Alice Seabourne, Medical Director and Ms. Karen Hodgetts, Associate Director of Operations at the Greater Manchester Mental Health Foundation Trust gave a presentation on the following:

(a) Historical Services

- VCSE;
- Local Authority;
- Primary Care;
- Secondary Care (Adult and Later Life);
- IAPT
- Bolton Assessment Service
- Community Mental Health Teams (including assertive outreach approach)
- Home Based Treatment
- Perinatal

- (b) Developments of the Services shown in (a) above; and
(c) Further Developments of Services.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Specialist teams;
- How to access living well services;
- Lack of availability in the evening and the possibility of night hubs;
- The service being much quicker now and a good job being done;
- Work of volunteers;
- Lack of access to GP's;
- Access to primary care practitioners; and
- A recovery college – satellite for Bolton.

Resolved – That Alice Seabourne and Karen Hodgetts be thanked for their Informative presentation.

10. MEMBERS BUSINESS

The Committee 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 13th June and 11th July, 2022.
- (b) Executive Cabinet Member Adult Social Care held on 13th June, 2022.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.13 p.m.)

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 28th JULY, 2022

Present – Councillors Veevers (Chairman), Weatherby (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Atcha, Ayub, Bullock, Conner (as deputy for Councillor Patel), Hartigan, Haworth, Hayes (as deputy for Councillor Wilkinson), Heslop, M. Iqbal, Meehan and Walsh.

Also in Attendance

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Councillor Mrs. Fairclough | Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader |
| Councillor Haslam | Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport |
| Councillor Muslim | Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery |
| Councillor Hewitt | Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning |
| Councillor Warren | Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration |
| Mr. T. Oakman | Chief Executive |
| Mr. G. Brough | Director of Place Development |
| Mr. J. Dyson | Director of Place Services |
| Mr. P. Whittingham | Assistant Director Development and Regeneration |
| Mr. A. Bolan | Head of Service, Regulatory Services |
| Mr. P. Mykytiuk | Trading Standards Manager |
| Mr. I. D. Mulholland | Deputy Democratic Services Manager |
| Mr. P. Rogers | Democratic Services Officer |

(Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Brady, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon and Wilkinson)

Councillor Veevers in the Chair.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 13th April, 2022 and the minutes of the informal meeting held on 28th June, 2022 were submitted.

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

2. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report which set out details of the proposed work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year. The work programme had been put together following the suggestions made by members at the informal meeting of the Committee held on 28th June, 2022

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

3. LEVELLING UP

Mr. Gerry Brough, Director of Place Development gave a presentation on Levelling Up.

He informed the meeting of matters around Levelling Up funding, the main themes for bid submissions, the criteria for bids and timeframes for Projects, viz -

- Levelling Up was being delivered through 15 different funding streams;
- The Levelling Up Fund was £4.8bn out of £176.5 bn, in total.
- There were three main themes:
 - Regeneration;
 - Culture; and
 - Transport.
- £20m was the maximum per project except for Cultural and transport projects where there was scope to submit bids of up to £50m for regionally/nationally significant projects;
- Bids over £20m would be subject to the submission of

a full HM Treasury detailed business case assessment process;

- Bids had to be sponsored by an MP;
- Only one successful bid allowed, per Parliamentary Constituency (i.e. max of 3 successful Bolton bids);
- Round one projects started by 31st March, 2022 and finished by 31st March, 2024. Round two to start by 31st March, 2023 and finish by 31st March, 2025;
- The submission deadline was 2nd August, 2022; and
- Decisions were due in October/November.

Members were also informed of the detail of the Bolton Round one Levelling Up project which related to Bolton College of Medical Science. The Round two projects were De-Havilland Way Junction improvements and Bolton Town Centre (North) Regeneration project.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The levelling up fund and buildings – an opportunity around Newport Street and a town centre park;
- The link between levelling up and the Bolton projects as not all delivered on employment and some don't appear to deliver in terms of economic or employment;
- Other project options;
- Matters around the original master plan on those bids and where the overlap would be and where was the money coming from;
- Matters round shovel ready schemes and whether they were beneficial;
- Matters round the funding for Bolton College of Medical Sciences and GMCA Skills Pipe Line funding.

Resolved- That Mr. Brough, be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

4. TRADING STANDARDS – TACKLING THE SALE OF ILLICIT TOBACCO

The meeting was informed of a recent concern that the video clip which was intended to be played as part of the

presentation would result in potential identification of persons/premises and considering the Council's Information Governance protocols it was not considered appropriate to share the clips. To run the presentation without supporting video clips would dilute the value of the agenda item.

Resolved – That the presentation be deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

5. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 11th April, 2022;
- Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 11th April and 18th July, 2022;
- Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 22nd April and 12th July, 2022; and
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Service Delivery held on 12th April and 13th July, 2022.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 26TH JULY, 2022

Present – Councillors Grant (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah, Connor, Finney, McKeon, McMulkin, Mort, Murray, Peel (as deputy for Councillor Donaghy), Priest, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Taylor-Burke

Co-opted Members

None in attendance

Also in attendance

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Galloway | - | Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services |
| Ms B. Brown | - | Director of Children's Services |
| Mr P. Rankin | - | Deputy Director of Children's Services |
| Ms G. Whitehead | - | Assistant Director – Inclusive Education and Learning |
| Mr D. Rice | - | Operations Manager/Lead – Holiday Activities and Food |
| Mrs. H. Gorman | - | Borough Solicitor |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Donaghy (Chairman), Hill, McGeown and Rimmer

Councillor Grant in the Chair.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved - The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 28th March, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

2. MINUTES OF INFORMAL MEETING

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the informal meeting of the Committee held on 29th June, 2022 were submitted and noted.

3. PROPOSED COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

The Borough Solicitor submitted the proposed Committee Work Programme for 2022/23 which had been formulated following the informal meeting of this Committee held on 29th June, 2021.

If approved, the Programme would guide the work of the Committee over the course of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the 2022/23 Committee Work Programme, as now submitted, be approved.

4. EDUCATION WHITE PAPER RESPONSE

Ms B. Brown gave a presentation on the response of the Children's Services Department to recent legislative changes in the form of the Education White Paper and the SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper.

The presentation advised that the Education White Paper had been published in March 2022 and aimed to encourage schools to increase performance by 2030.

The SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper had also been issued in March, 2022 and aimed to address a system that was currently under pressure and that had nationally poor outcomes, low parental and provider confidence and financial unsustainability. The proposals were in consultation with an expectation to move to legislation quickly.

The changes were heralded as the biggest to the Education System in the last 20 years.

The main aims of the White Paper were summarised as follows:

- improved recruitment, training and development for teachers and the Early Years workforce;
- improved national resources to develop curricula;
- longer school week with a min of 32.5hrs
- better behaviour and attendance with a duty for schools to publish attendance policy;
- legislation to establish a register for children not in school;
- each school to have a parent pledge to show support and tutoring to ensure children were not left behind;
- a fully academy trust led system with a single regulatory approach – all schools would academise by 2030;
- ability for local authorities to set up MATs where “too few strong trusts exist”;
- a collaborative standard to ensure trusts work constructively with all partners;
- local authorities to continue to champion the interests of children;
- local authorities to retain overall sufficiency duty and will determine number of school places as well as managing admissions for all schools with new legal duties to support this; and
- Education Investment Areas to increase funding and support to areas in most need, plus extra funding in priority areas facing the most entrenched challenges.

The aims of the SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) were summarised as follows:

- a single SEND and AP system with national standards, processes and code of practice - all Education Health and Care Plans to be digitised;
- new mandated partnership arrangements in local areas across education, health and care;
- each area to have a local inclusion plan which would support parents to make a decision on which placement is best to meet the child’s needs;

- increase in investment in schools budgets and improving mainstream provision;
- AP to be an integral part of SEND systems, with AP to focus on early intervention;
- statutory guidance to integrated care boards to set out how responsibilities for SEND should be discharged;
- new national frameworks for banding and tariffs for SEND and AP placements;
- Ofsted and CQC to update the Area SEND inspection framework; and
- support to local authorities with biggest High Needs deficits via the Safety Valve Programme.

The presentation went on to describe the Safety Valve Programme:

- SEND funding was via the High Needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) ;
- many local authorities had cumulative deficits due to rising demand;
 - Bolton High Needs cumulative deficit was £19m;
- Bolton was in the 3rd wave of the Safety Valve programme;
- the DfE would provide financial assistance subject to Bolton working towards an in year balanced budget ;
- we will be required to submit a plan to the DfE in October, 2022 which detailed how this will be achieved;
- the plan would be signed off by the Secretary of State and be published in the public domain; and
- if there was any doubt that the proposals set out in the agreement were not being delivered, the DfE may withholding payment or reduce future instalments that had been agreed.

With regard to local challenges and pressure, the presentation highlighted the following major issues:

- demand management;
- cuts;
- placement sufficiency – LAC, SEND and AP;
- high needs – balancing the budget;
- secondary school places;
- rising cost of living;
- transport – rising fuel costs; and
- recruitment, retention and succession planning.

The presentation also outlined the vision of the Children's Department and the aim of the Children's Directorate Plan:

- all children ready for school;
- keep children learning successfully in our schools;
- keep children safe and help them achieve permanence;
- all children achieve their potential;
- 'One Team' workforce;
- market shaping and sustainability; and
- operating effectively and efficiently to enable current and future delivery.

The presentation also summarised the following deliverables:

- to create a network of family hubs incorporating Early Help and SEND services;
- to develop a start for life offer across all agencies working with children and families;
- maintain and improve quality of education provision in Bolton;
- further develop belonging in Bolton inclusive education strategy and align to developing national legislation;
- reform SEND and deliver a balanced High Needs budget;
- further develop approach to Early Help demand management with the voluntary sector;
- deliver the expectations of the care review;

- develop a Directorate workforce strategy to ensure appropriate capacity, including recruitment, retention, succession planning and development of staff;
- develop and implement a transition strategy to ensure support for children and young people is seamless throughout their journey;
- supporting a skilled workforce which feels valued, is person centred and works together across services and organisations; and
- supporting service users, families and carers through person centred services that deliver their desired outcomes.

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

- the significant challenges to be faced in implementing the changes and raising standards, particularly for primary schools, and the how these could be achieved, particularly as there were currently no details on additional resources – Ms Whitehead advised that only 1% of schools currently achieved 90% and that the standards to be met were challenging. She stated that Bolton was currently above the national average for Key Stage 2 SATS and, although there was no detail at present on additional funding, Bolton was one of the 55 Education Investment areas to potentially receive monies, subject to conditions;
- the benefits of the strong partnerships that existed in Bolton between the Authority and academies and the visible leadership provided by the Children's Department;
- the role of deprivation in outcomes – Ms Whitehead advised that Bolton would be included in the Education Investment Area which was based on outcomes and deprivation;
- the perception of SEND in Schools and with parents – Ms Whitehead outlined the Inclusive

Belonging in Bolton strategy, that was adopted in Bolton and had been successfully operating and reinforcing the strong partnership between the Authority and the schools;

- the difficulties facing the Authority in producing a detailed plan for the DfE to demonstrate how debts can be addressed to access additional funding – Ms Whitehead explained how Bolton was liaising with other authorities on best practice and formulating a coordinated approach across Greater Manchester – she also outlined how the safety valve meant that we could bid for additional capital funding if we could demonstrate how our debts could be addressed;
- the issues of setting up a Local Authority Multi-Academy Trust in Bolton – Ms Whitehead advised that due to the large number of Academies already in existence in Bolton, it would be unlikely that a Local Authority Multi-Academy Trust would be required;
- it would be helpful to receive updates on the Authority's response to the Green Paper once consultation started – Ms Whitehead agreed that updates would be provided to the Committee;
- the advantages of counsellors in schools – Ms Whitehead advised that although there were no recommendations in the White Paper in this regard, some Bolton schools did have counsellors and outlined the recent Mental Health support teams that had recently been launched by Greater Manchester; and
- the benefits of tracking the progress of children throughout their educational life which would help to assess whether standards would be achieved and whether intervention was required – Ms Whitehead advised that the Authority monitored standards and statistics and collected national data and that it was the responsibility of the schools and academies to assess the progress of individual children.

Resolved – (i) That Ms Whitehead be thanked for her informative presentation.

(ii) That updates on the response to the SEND Green Paper consultation be provided to this Committee in due course.

5. FAMILY HUBS

Ms B. Brown gave a presentation on Family Hubs, the associated funding and how it would be utilised in Bolton.

Members were advised that the Government had committed £301.75m for 75 upper tier authorities to deliver start for life and family help services over the next three financial years.

The package contained funding for the following components:

- £81.75 - to create a network of family hubs
- £10m - to publish Start for Life offer
- £50m - for parenting programmes
- £10m - for infant-parent mental health support
- £50m - for breastfeeding support
- £10m - for workforce pilots in small number of local authorities.

Members were informed that family hubs were a way of delivering the Supporting Families Vision of an effective Early Help system. They also provided a single access point to a range of services for families such as universal and early help and involved co-location of services and professionals. They also provided seamless access to a whole-family lead practitioner where needed.

The presentation went on to outline the vision for the Bolton Family Hub Model and how it would operate. A diagram demonstrated how they would work in practice with a single access point in each neighbourhood providing seamless service access to integrated family services. Implementation of the hubs would be a programme of change over the next five years.

There would also be core co-located services in each Hub including:

- community midwifery;
- birth registrations;
- public health nursing 0-19/25;
- infant feeding and health families;
- perinatal and parent infant mental health;
- family information and childcare brokerage;
- early years specialist family support;
- VCSE peer support;
- 0-19 targeted early help support; and
- children's mental health including i-thrive.

Overall, the hubs would help align goals and enable the delivery of a seamless model of family support.

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

- the use of Policy Development Groups would be helpful in the process of developing the hub structure;
- how the single access point would work – Ms Brown explained that there would be a physical hub and also online access; and
- it was hoped that the hubs would naturally develop into a universal service for all similar to how the Start Well Centres operated.

Resolved – That Ms Brown be thanked for her informative presentation.

6. YOUTH SERVICE AND HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME

Mr D. Rice gave a presentation on the delivery of the Government funded Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) in Bolton.

The Programme was led locally by Youth Services and a Steering Group and involved enriching activity and food sessions for primary and secondary age children who were eligible for and receiving benefits related school meals.

The sessions offered were:

- 4 hours/4 days at Easter
- 4 hours/4 days during Summer
- 4 hours/4 days at Christmas

There were over 12,500 eligible children in Bolton and the funding was available for 3 years with £1.4 million being allocated per year.

The presentation outlined the five strand delivery method:

- the Local Authority Offer – Play and Youth Service, libraries and schools;
- the Commissioned Offer- Bolton Together and VCSE Sector;
- the Private Provider Offer – Bolton Out of School Clubs (Ofsted)
- the Food Support Offer – Urban Outreach and local business
- the Programme Support Offer – spot purchasing – gaps, training, events, marketing, resources, data capture

Members were advised that the feedback and principles from the pilot year in 2021/22 still applied. The Council and VCSE offer had been built on by a Steering Group led in a Bolton Context.

Eligibility was required to be in areas of high benefits related FSM/ Absolute priority for DfE and the preference was for hot food, but there was some flexibility

Other factors included:

- no vouchers, no fuel support and not to be used to purchase presents or for remote provision.
- working with children with SEND/Additional needs
- working with the secondary school age range
- environment and sustainability; and
- 15% budget flexibility to support

A map showing where eligibility was based across the Borough was also included in the presentation.

It was anticipated that an outcomes report would be brought to this Committee after the Summer activities had been evaluated.

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

- issues associated with some children being treated differently than others although it was acknowledged there was a universal offer as well as a targeted one;
- sometimes certain systems did not work as well but were inflexible due to DfE restrictions;
- although everyone would be given the opportunity to take up the offer, not everyone would; and
- it was a complex area that could lead to inconsistencies in delivery but was being well managed by the Children's Department.

Resolved – (i) That Mr Rice be thanked for his informative presentation and that the Team be thanked for their work on delivery of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.
(ii) That a report on outcomes of the Programme be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee later in the year.

7. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

- the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 4th April, 27th June and 11th July, 2022

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

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.45pm)

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 24TH AUGUST, 2022

Present – Councillors Donaghy (Chairman), Grant (Vice-Chairman), Connor, Finney, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mort, Murray, Priest, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Taylor-Burke

Co-opted Members

None in attendance

Also in attendance

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Galloway | - | Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services |
| Mr P. Rankin | - | Deputy Director of Children's Services |
| Mr G. Kelly | - | Capital Programme Manager – Children's Services |
| Mrs. V. Ridge | - | Democratic Services Manager |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Abdullah, Hill and Rimmer and from Reverend Canon Dr Bracegirdle (Co-opted Member)

Councillor Donaghy in the Chair.

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved - The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 26th July, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record, subject to the removal of Councillor Radcliffe from the list of attendees.

9. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

The Borough Solicitor submitted the Committee Work Programme for 2022/23 which had been formulated following the informal meeting of this Committee held on 29th June, 2022 and which would guide the work of the Committee over the course of the Municipal Year.

The issue of corporate parenting was raised and that training for all members in this area should happen prior to the start of the first Scrutiny Committee.

Mr Rankin stated that corporate parenting training was currently being programmed for all members of the Council. He acknowledged that for future years, sessions would be timetabled so that members were trained prior to the start of the Committee Cycle.

Resolved – That the 2022/23 Committee Work Programme, as now submitted, be noted.

10. SCHOOL PLACE PRESSURES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Mr P. Rankin and Mr G. Kelly gave a presentation on school place planning in Bolton and associated pressures.

The Council had a Statutory Duty to offer a school place for every child and since 2009/10, Bolton had seen:

- a 26% increase in primary school children;
- a 28% increase in secondary school children;
- £66m used to expand existing schools;

G14

- several new schools announced in recent years to help meet rising demand in some areas; and
- £6.44M Basic Need confirmed for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

The presentation outlined the differences between expansion of existing schools and building of new schools and the processes involved with each. In brief, councils were required to work with existing schools to expand whilst Academy Trusts could apply to the DfE for funding for a new build.

With regard to pupil projections, members were advised that various factors were taken into account:

- previous patterns and trends;
- birth data (from NHS);
- movements in and out of Bolton;
- housing developments (with high degree of confidence where these would be delivered);
- parental preference;
- termly school census used to update data 3 times a year; and; and
- highest weighting normally given to the last year however 2020 was not a normal year due to the pandemic.

It was noted that projections were not an exact science and subject to change and that a minimum 2% working capacity was required across all schools to allow for growth.

The position over the last three years had been volatile with Covid, Brexit, increased elective home school education and international travel and there was still a net increase in children moving into Bolton.

The DfE had released a statement that although the 2021 school census data showed notable decreases in enrolment in nursery and primary schools and alternative provision compared to previous years, these were expected to be temporary due to the pandemic rather than long-term changes. However, using this data resulted in decreases across future

years which were not considered to be realistic estimates of the pupil population over the next ten years.

With regard to primary schools, the presentation went on to provide various statistical graphs that outlined projected numbers and capacity in all areas of the Borough. The following conclusions were made:

- projections were volatile due to the events of the last 3 years;
- demand was not uniform across Bolton;
- the greatest demand was in the North and Central areas - additional bulge year capacity to be considered – expressions of interest requested from schools to focus on Astley Bridge - projected drop off in reception demand in this area 2025/26;
- demand in the South area - making current temporary capacity permanent to meet demand in the Great Lever area;
- the need to be mindful of rising surplus places around periphery of the Borough, especially in the West and particularly Horwich - implemented proposals to reduce planned admission numbers in Westhoughton from 2023; and
- discussions ongoing with school clusters.

With regard to secondary schools, there had been two new secondary schools built in the last four years to meet demand. Projections were more reliable as children were known and within the Borough's primary schools but there was a need to remain vigilant of possible increase in demand, given recent volatility. The projection model was for all of Bolton rather than locality based.

Various statistical graphs were provided that outlined projected numbers and capacity in all areas of the Borough. The following conclusions were made:

- projections were volatile due to the events of the past 3 years;

G16

- additional capacity was needed to ensure sufficient secondary school places for the future;
- bulge year in 2023/24;
- pressures up until 2027/28 then a reduction in demand in Year 7 admissions;
- ongoing pressures on in-year admissions;
- the DfE had currently put on hold proposals for a new Wave 14 secondary free school; and
- discussions were progressing with existing secondary schools regarding expansion options and in year pressures.

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

- temporary buildings to accommodate additional children rather than school expansions were not always ideal – Mr Rankin stated that the temporary accommodation available was of good quality and well equipped and that many schools using these arrangements continued to be popular and over-subscribed;
- concern that funding was not allocated to local authorities to build new schools in their own right although it was noted that the council have received Basic Needs Funding for school expansions;
- the use of the school census to assess movements into and out of the Borough;
- difficulties in predicting numbers of International New Arrivals to the Borough – Mr Rankin advised that the pandemic had limited the numbers of International New Arrivals to Bolton although these were slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels – he stated that many families from within the UK were also moving to Bolton for various reasons;
- the good working relationships between schools and the Authority and a willingness to adapt arrangements for the greater good of the children in the Borough such as reducing or increasing planned admission numbers;
- the use of capacity in existing school buildings to accommodate increasing numbers in certain areas;

- the White Paper would give authorities a greater role in pupil projection management and discussions with academies to assist with this although it was acknowledged that arrangements already worked well in Bolton;
- the difficulties in predicting increased pupil numbers and when impact may be realised from the building of new housing estates in certain areas and how we can assess their accuracy – Mr Rankin stated that much work was undertaken to ascertain when new housing estates would be completed and the when the resulting impact on local schools would occur – the DfE had recently confirmed that the projections of the Authority in this regard were as accurate as they could be; and
- the potential to review the admission criteria if there was a need for children in certain areas of the Borough to attend schools further away if they had the capacity.

Resolved – That Mr Rankin and Mr Kelly be thanked for their informative presentation.

11. MEMBERS BUSINESS

(a) The Committee was informed that a question had been submitted by Councillor Priest for consideration under Standing Order 36, as follows:-

Question

The Department for Education published the 'Condition of School Buildings Survey Key findings' in May 2021 and there were various articles in the press including the Guardian where the Government was urged to tackle crumbling school buildings as Unions expressed shock at the state of our schools. Out of 20,000 school buildings inspected, that constitutes 99.8% of the estate, between 2017 and 2019, a total of 19,442 had at least one building component that had "major defects" or was "not operating as intended".

The average condition need per school for the North West was £484,065 and the average need per m2 was £146. Whilst not the worst in England the Government response that the new school rebuilding programme would transform the learning environment at 500 schools over the next decade, prioritising schools in poor condition or with potential safety issues, is obviously totally inadequate when we are looking at over 19 thousand schools having major defects.

Can the executive member for Children's Services tell us exactly how Bolton schools measure against this reports' criteria and when you will be in a position to share with us a timed, costed plan to ensure that all Bolton schools are fit for purpose?

Answer

The State funded school system that operates across England is a complex one, which comprises LA Community, Voluntary Controlled, Voluntary Aided, and Academies and Free schools. Local Authorities are only responsible for building maintenance at LA Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. Annual capital funding, in the form of School Condition Allocation grant funding is provided to local authorities to help them address building condition needs in their schools. The amount of funding allocated by the DfE to Local Authorities is based upon the number of pupils in Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. As more schools convert to academy status, the amount of School Condition Allocation funding provided to Local Authorities diminishes, and so will the number of schools that Local Authorities will be responsible for. In addition, schools receive devolved formula capital grant funding and revenue to help them with undertaking minor works. At present, less than 50% of primary schools and less than 20% of secondary schools in Bolton fall under LA Community or Voluntary Controlled status. The majority of schools in Bolton lie outside of Council control and responsibility in respect of building maintenance. These other schools are funded separately by the DfE in respect of building maintenance and property repairs. As a result, the council

does not have visibility of the condition of all school buildings in the borough and cannot advise on how all schools measure against the report's criteria.

Separate to the DfE exercise, the Council commissioned its own condition surveys of all LA Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in 2021, and all included schools have been provided with a copy of their surveys, so that they can address any minor works that are identified and so that they can budget for larger, future schemes. The Council's condition surveys are used to identify priority liabilities, especially those that may become a health and safety issue, or could lead to a potential school closure, and these surveys are used to create an annual programme of works referred to as the School Building Maintenance Programme, which is supported through the Departmental Capital Programme, with funding provided by the School Condition Allocation grant that is provided annually by the DfE. Schools are also required to contribute to projects that are delivered through this programme. The amount of funding allocated to support this programme is directly proportionate to the amount of funding received each year from the DfE. In 2021/22 this amounted £3.2M and in 2022/23 was £3.5M. It is believed that the increase in funding reflected rising construction and materials costs, as well as helping to off-set the higher costs of undertaking energy saving initiatives and carbon reduction within schemes. The annual school building maintenance programme typically includes amongst others, schemes to undertake roofing repairs and replacement of heating systems, to ensure that schools remain open, and that pupils and staff are accommodated within appropriately safe environments. Schemes are identified ahead of time, and feasibilities and cost estimates are developed with the assistance of colleagues in Place, utilising the Council's partner, Robertson. Once the broad details of the schemes are agreed, the proposed programme is presented to the Executive Member to confirm funding support. Schemes within the current 2022/23 programme were approved by the Executive Member at the meeting on the 4th April this year.

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Resolved – That a summary of the condition surveys carried out by the Council in 2021 of all Local Authority Community and Voluntary Controlled schools be provided to this Committee.

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

- the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 15th August, 2022

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

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