

Bolton Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

16th March 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, 16th March, 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 meetings of the Council held on 16th February, 2022 (Section A).

2. Policy Framework

Motion in the name of Councillor Cox –

That the Bolton Council Pay Policy Statement 2021/2022, as circulated, be approved.

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 Committee:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

7. Scrutiny Committees

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

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

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

8. Motions under Standing Order No.4

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Heslop -

At the full council meeting of 6th October, Cllr Paul Heslop asked a question about traffic management at Remembrance Sunday events that aimed to establish how much the council will be billed in respect of Bolton Town Centre along with the other outlying towns in the borough.

Information received since suggested that whilst Bolton's Remembrance Sunday event is being financially supported by the Council, the other towns in this borough are not receiving the same financial support for their towns' Remembrance Day events and that the events organisers – usually ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen – must pay for their own traffic management.

This Council agrees that all Remembrance Sunday Events - at every cenotaph/war memorial in this borough - are of equal importance. This Council also agrees that the cost of traffic management in the other towns in this borough should not fall upon the event organisers. This Council requests that a PDG is called to consider what options there are for supporting these other events.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Baines -

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

wellbeing and prosperity of children, families, and the wider community.

Background

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

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

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

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

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

1. Protecting children and young people against advertising and against the sale of products designed to entice young people to use nicotine products (either tobacco and/or vaping)

2. Promoting Smoke free environments which will also include the absence of second-hand vape, including playgrounds and other outdoor and indoor venues

Further, that Council should seek to:

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

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor McMulkin –

The value and importance of parks and green spaces to local residents has been brought strikingly home since the onset of the Covid pandemic, especially for residents living in homes without access to outdoor living space. Public Parks and green spaces are not only a cornerstone in our efforts relating to the climate crisis, but significantly contribute to health and wellbeing and should not simply be judged by what they cost to maintain.

We know from numerous research studies that access to local quality green spaces improves the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all sections of the community. Indeed, the Marmot Review of 2010, recommends that improving the availability of good quality green spaces across the social gradient will help reduce health inequalities.

In terms of health, parks and green spaces save the NHS at least £111 million per year through prevented GP visits, which is enough to pay for more than 3,500 nurses.

Fields in trust research confirms that any decision by a public body to remove a park or green space is often short-sighted and will, in most cases, cost more money than is saved.

The evidence is clear: green spaces are good; they do good and they need to be protected for good.

I therefore call on this Council to as a matter of urgency hold a PDG to consider how it can establish protection of all the eligible public parks and green spaces in the Borough from being sold off or built upon in perpetuity and agree to appoint the mover of the motion as a member of this PDG.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor McKeon –

We are seeing a crisis of food poverty born out of the political choices and systemic failings created since 2010 which have now reached a tipping point for so many in our communities. The figures are devastating for one of the richest nations in the world and highlight the inequality of the UK in 2022.

Need for food banks is already at a record high. Food banks in the Trussell Trust network gave out 2.5 million emergency food parcels between April 2020 and March 2021, a 33% rise on the previous year. This comes on top of year-on-year increases in need.

This council notes the consistent high rates of poverty across our borough. We recognise the growing concern amongst our health and care professionals of the current situation and the likely exacerbation of poverty figures through the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and economic uncertainty.

To clarify the local context the following statistics indicate the numbers of households in Bolton who are reliant on state support as of Autumn 2021:

	Bolton West	Bolton South East	Bolton North East
On Universal Credit	11,489	10,373	6,690
On Legacy Benefits and Tax Credits	8,880	7,126	4,495

We also note the Government's forthcoming White Paper in response to the National Food Strategy which reported in July 2021 and was the first independent review of England's entire food system for 75 years. The Right To Food campaign believes that the 11 million people currently living in food poverty must be central to the response from Government.

Enshrining the 'Right To Food' into law would clarify Government obligations on food poverty and would introduce legal avenues to hold Government bodies accountable for violations.

This council calls for the 'Right to Food' to be incorporated in the Government's White Paper in response to the National Food Strategy. We ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister to further this request.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Haworth –

The social care sector is in crisis. Without urgent action to support recruitment and retention, there is fear for the consequences for people who receive social care, and their families who care for them, also for providers and care workers themselves. It

is estimated that in the country employees will need to increase by 520,000 in the next fifteen years to meet the increasing demand for social care. It is in the interests of the NHS and the wider public that action on social care recruitment and retention is taken now.

Council notes that the government are providing an Adult Social Care Worker Recruitment and Retention Fund grant and an Adult Social Care Omicron Fund grant to Bolton Council, and whilst welcome, the former, must be spent by 31st March 2022, having covered a five month period and so, has limited use for recurring revenue financing.

This council also notes that Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, has committed to Greater Manchester becoming a living wage city-region and called for care workers to receive a massive pay rise.

Therefore, in light of the urgency in recruitment and retention in this sector, council calls on the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member to back bringing in improved basic pay for care workers through the Foundation Living Wage of £9.90 an hour as a minimum starting salary for all directly employed and commissioned care workers.

Council also proposes that a review be undertaken to map out how the council can reach the foundation living wage as a minimum offer for the borough and make best use of evidence of success in other councils who have acted to improve recruitment and retention of staff.

Costs of the foundation living wage as a minimum, are not reflected in the councils existing models for commissioned care in part due to the chronic underfunding for adult social care by central government. Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer

and set out the council's need for more funding in order to increase investment in adult social care in Bolton and address the ongoing social care recruitment and retention crisis.

(f) Motion in the name of Councillor Veevers –

Council notes with concern that inflation has risen to its highest point for 10 years and that further increases to the cost of power, fuel, food and other consumer goods and to fares for public transport are likely to mean more rises.

Council also notes that this is happening at a time when real incomes are being reduced by increases to National Insurance, below inflation pay rises, cuts to Universal Credit and ending or suspension of the 'triple lock' safeguarding for state pensions. This will have a proportionately greater impact on those on low or medium incomes.

Council believes that Government must take urgent action to reduce the impacts on those who cannot afford it and spread the cost to those at the top of the earnings scale and Companies that have largely avoided paying a fair level of taxation.

Council resolves to make these views known to appropriate levels of Government and ask the Borough's MPs to support these moves to reduce the impact on the majority of Bolton's inhabitants.

(g) Motion in the name of Councillor Hayes –

Council notes its severe disappointment in the Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Council further notes that the Prime Minister acted unlawfully, misled Parliament and lied to the residents of our country.

Council adds that while the Prime Minister attended Downing Street parties, millions of people obeyed the lockdown rules, often at huge personal cost. They missed funerals, cancelled weddings and said goodbye to dying loved ones on video calls - some on the very day that Number Ten illegally hosted a garden party.

Council condemns the Prime Minister who has now become a threat to the health of our nation, and for the sake of the country still gripped by this awful pandemic he must resign.

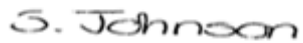
Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to write to Boris Johnson stating that council has no confidence in his leadership and calls for him to resign.

Council resolves that we no longer have confidence in the Prime Minister.

(h) Motion in the name of Councillor D. Wilkinson –

Council strongly believes that it is unreasonable for residents of the Borough to be expected to live in accommodation that does not meet the Minimum Space Standards described in the DCLG Technical House Standards Nationally Described Space Standard.

Council notes that despite being frequently raised at Planning Committee, with apparent cross party agreement, these standards have still not been adopted by this Council. Accordingly, Council instructs officers to bring forward a report to consider those standards being adopted at the earliest opportunity.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Johnson". The signature is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

SUE JOHNSON

Deputy Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

9th March, 2022

The proceedings of the Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 7th February to 25th February, 2022, together with the Constitutional Panel, are included for information only in a separate volume.

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2021/2022

16TH FEBRUARY 2022

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

55. MINUTES SILENCE

Members observed a minutes silence in memory of Former Mayoress Shelia Hall who had recently passed away.

56. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 24th November 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

57. 2022/2023 BUDGET, COUNCIL TAX AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was moved by Councillor Cox and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough -

(i) That the following recommendations of the Cabinet on 7th February 2022 be approved:-

- (a) The Council be recommended to approve the Budget for 2022/23
- (b) That the council tax for 2022/23 be increased by 3.12% comprising

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- The Adult Social Care Precept at 1.13%
 - The general levy at 1.99%
 - (c) The Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme and Strategy for 2022/23
 - (d) The Council be recommended to approve the Investment and Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategies 2022/23 to 2024/25
- (ii) It be noted that on 15th November 2021 the Cabinet calculated
- (a) the Council Tax Base 2022/23 for the whole Council area as 77,795 (item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”); and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as:

Parish Councils

The Parish of Blackrod	1,987	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Horwich	7,611	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Westhoughton	8,702	Band D Equivalents

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year 2022/23 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(iii) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 (excluding Parish precepts) is £126,253,143

(iv) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act.

- (a) £250,422,467 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) £123,739,740 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.

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(c)	£126,682,727	being the amount by which the aggregate at (iv)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iv)(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).						
(d)	£1,628.41	being the amount at (iv)(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T ((ii)(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).						
(e)	£429,584.00	being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, each individual parish precept being: <table><tr><td>Blackrod</td><td>£73,847</td></tr><tr><td>Horwich</td><td>£204,559</td></tr><tr><td>Westhoughton</td><td>£151,178</td></tr></table>	Blackrod	£73,847	Horwich	£204,559	Westhoughton	£151,178
Blackrod	£73,847							
Horwich	£204,559							
Westhoughton	£151,178							
(f)	£1,622.89	being the amount at (iv)(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iv)(e) above by Item T (ii)(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.						
(g)	Part of the Council's Area	<table><tr><td>Parish of Blackrod</td><td>£1,660.06</td></tr><tr><td>Parish of Horwich</td><td>£1,649.77</td></tr><tr><td>Parish of Westhoughton</td><td>£1,640.26</td></tr></table>	Parish of Blackrod	£1,660.06	Parish of Horwich	£1,649.77	Parish of Westhoughton	£1,640.26
Parish of Blackrod	£1,660.06							
Parish of Horwich	£1,649.77							
Parish of Westhoughton	£1,640.26							

A4

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at (e) above divided in each case by the amount at (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(i) Part of the Council's Area

Valuation bands	Parish of Blackrod	Parish of Horwich	Parish of Westhoughton	All other parts of the Council's area
A	£1,106.70	£1,099.84	£1,093.50	£1,081.92
B	£1,291.17	£1,283.17	£1,275.77	£1,262.26
C	£1,475.60	£1,466.45	£1,458.00	£1,442.56
D	£1,660.06	£1,649.77	£1,640.26	£1,622.89
E	£2,028.95	£2,016.37	£2,004.75	£1,983.52
F	£2,397.87	£2,383.01	£2,369.27	£2,344.18
G	£2,766.76	£2,749.61	£2,733.76	£2,704.81
H	£3,320.12	£3,299.54	£3,280.52	£3,245.78

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (f) and (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands

(v) That it be noted that for the year 2022/23 the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and the Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

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Precepting Authority

Valuation Bands	Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)	Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept
A	£68.63	£152.20
B	£80.07	£177.56
C	£91.51	£202.93
D	£102.95	£228.30
E	£125.82	£279.03
F	£148.70	£329.76
G	£171.58	£380.50
H	£205.90	£456.60

(vi) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iv), (f), (i), and (v), the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2022/23 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

(i) Part of the Council's Area

Valuation bands	Parish of Blackrod	Parish of Horwich	Parish of Westhoughton	All other parts of the Council's area
A	£1,327.53	£1,320.67	£1,314.33	£1,302.75
B	£1,548.80	£1,540.80	£1,533.40	£1,519.89
C	£1,770.04	£1,760.89	£1,752.44	£1,737.00
D	£1,991.31	£1,981.02	£1,971.51	£1,954.14
E	£2,433.80	£2,421.22	£2,409.60	£2,388.37
F	£2,876.33	£2,861.47	£2,847.73	£2,822.64
G	£3,318.84	£3,301.69	£3,285.84	£3,256.89
H	£3,982.62	£3,962.04	£3,943.02	£3,908.28

(vii) That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2022/23 at an increase of 3.12% is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- (viii) That the Deputy Chief Executive be delegated authority to collect revenues and disburse monies from the relevant accounts.
- (ix) That it be noted that the Government have set a National Non-Domestic Rate of 49.9p in the pound for small businesses and 51.2p in the pound for larger businesses for the financial year 2022/23.
- (x) That the Council's current policy in respect of discretionary relief for charitable organisations, as approved by the Cabinet on the 7th February 2022, be reaffirmed and that the Deputy Chief Executive be delegated authority to determine applications for such relief.
- (xi) That War Disablement Pensions and War Widows' Pensions be disregarded for the purposes of the Council Tax Support Scheme.
- (xii) That Council approves the following definition for the 'minimum occupancy period' for Council Tax Discount Class C properties, to apply from 1st April 2022:

“For the purposes of Discount Class C, in considering whether a dwelling has been vacant for any period, any one period, not exceeding six weeks, during which it was not vacant shall be disregarded”.
- (xiii) That the minutes of the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committee regarding their consideration on the budget be noted:-

Corporate Cultural and External Issues 10th February 2022

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Zaman -

That this council reiterate the unanimous decision it made at the Council meeting on the 2nd December 2020, whereby Council resolved that due to the extraordinary circumstances of the Covid 19 Pandemic, it, and others, be allowed set a deficit budget to allow for a pragmatic approach to planning the future finances of local government. Council expresses its disappointment that this opportunity was missed by HM Government, and that Bolton Council was yet again hit with damaging cuts of over £32 million for the period 2021/23.

In particular, Council notes that the Government failed to honour its promise of reimbursing local councils for costs incurred due to lost income and demand pressures as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Council once again condemns the Government for the starving of local government of the resources it needs to properly fund essential services.

In consideration of the 2022/23 Budget, Council resolves to:

Reiterate its clearly stated determination to give Harveys Nursery a 'fighting chance'. This cannot be done unless the corporate body of the Council using its expertise and resources to assist the nursery, through a new Collaborative Working Group, in developing a business plan that would aim to make the nursery financially viable. Council notes that Children's Services reserves are currently planned to be used to keep the nursery open until August 2022, and further notes that a viable business plan, looking again at available reserves, will enable the nursery to remain open long term, with the intention that the subsidy will be reduced to as low as possible. And that, full reports on the progress of this business plan be brought to the Executive Cabinet Member.

In addition, Council resolves to amend the 2022/23 Capital programme as follows:

1. Council resolves that the provision of a new secondary school, along with the protection of Haslam Park is of paramount importance to the people of Bolton. Therefore, the additional £1 million allocated towards "Highways Maintenance" be instead allocated to the relevant Department for the express purpose of the provision of a site for a new secondary school in the Rumworth / central part of Bolton. All sites that are developable for the new school, that have so far been discounted, and any other potential local sites, should

be considered. The capital allocation could be used for the purchase of private land. Alternatively, the capital could be used to relocate council facilities on currently occupied and developed land, such as Mayor Street and Wellington Yard Depots. And that any surplus from the £1 million be redirected to the Highways maintenance budget.

2. Council resolves that fly tipping and litter is at unacceptable levels, and that urgent action needs to be taken to address this. A one-off capital allocation of £200,000 will be made available to the Place Department from YPO dividends in order to: a) establish a new community hub base at Heaton Fold for all of the environmental based voluntary groups in the borough, b) to establish a fund to properly equip those voluntary groups c) the provision of skips for community clean up days. Council notes that this project has already been worked up and costed by officers, and that £200,000 of funding would enable significant investment into our streets and environment for up to 3 years. £100,000 of this funding has been earmarked for works to Moss Bank Park car park, therefore council resolves that these proposed works be promoted as a capital scheme in a future year.

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

For the amendment, 19 viz:

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

Against the amendment, 32 viz:

Councillors Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough,

Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hayes, Hewitt, Hornby, McGeown, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Abstained, 0 viz:

Whereupon, the amendment was declared lost.

Whereupon as a second amendment, it was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor D. Wilkinson -

1. In considering the Budget, Council notes that:
 - a) Following Council last year accepting the Liberal Democrat amendment to convey our concerns about Government funding 'in the strongest terms to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Association and the Borough's Members of Parliament' (paragraph 6 of the amendment) , this year's settlement has been slightly better than feared allowing some of the proposed cuts to be reversed;
 - b) Following Council last year accepting the Liberal Democrat amendment urging the Cabinet to find further sources of capital to continue with the maintenance of residential roads, Council welcomes allocation of a further £1 million for this purpose. However, Council recognises that is only a drop in the ocean against the over £100 million backlog which increases with every winter;
 - c) Once again the Government has failed to keep its promise made in 2016/17 of a Fair Funding Review of local government, or on their promise of a business rates reset;
 - d) The Government has still not honoured its promise to reimburse the Council in full for the costs incurred and income lost as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, particularly lost income from Manchester Airport;
 - e) Government half baked proposals for a national scheme for social care with funding from national

resources unfairly penalises those on average or lower than average incomes and fuels inflation by increasing National Insurance contributions. By prioritising the income generated initially at the NHS rather than the care sector, it also leaves the Council Tax payers having to fund a considerable portion of it for the foreseeable future.

2. Council notes that the promised review of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) appears to have stalled, and urges that it be completed as soon as possible with the objective of reducing the number that are paid. Council fully recognises that some roles carry considerable responsibility and fully merit an additional allowance. However, others carry only limited responsibility and it appears that the SRA is used as a means for rewarding loyalty to the Council or Group Leader.

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

For the amendment, 7 viz:

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

Against the amendment, 44 viz:

Councillors Adia, Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hewitt, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Murray, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, Wright and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the second amendment was declared lost.

Whereupon, as a third amendment it was moved by Councillor Veevers and seconded by Councillor McGeown –

In consideration of the 2022/23 Budget, Council resolves to:

Reiterate its clearly stated determination to give Harveys Nursery a ‘fighting chance’. This cannot be done unless the corporate body of the Council using its expertise and resources to assist the nursery, through a new Collaborative Working Group, in developing a business plan that would aim to make the nursery financially viable. Council notes that Children’s Services reserves are currently planned to be used to keep the nursery open until August 2022, and further notes that a viable business plan, looking again at available reserves, will enable the nursery to remain open long term, with the intention that the subsidy will be reduced to as low as possible. And that, full reports on the progress of this business plan be brought to the Executive Cabinet Member.

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

For the amendment, 31, viz:

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

Against the amendment, 0

Abstained, 20, viz:

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

Whereupon, the third amendment was declared carried.

Whereupon the original motion incorporating the amendment by Councillor Veevers was then put to the meeting, when the voting was as follows:-

For the motion, 25 viz:

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

Against the motion, 21 viz:

Councillors Adia, Ayub, Challender, Donaghy, Evans, Grant, Haworth, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Murray, Pattison, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Wright and Zaman.

Abstained, 5 viz:

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

Whereupon, the original motion, (as amended,) was then declared carried.

58. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Khurram and approved –

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

That the following members be appointed to the Constitutional Panel:-

- Cllr Galloway
- Cllr Sherrington
- Cllr Pattison

59. PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9th December 2021, 6th and 20th January and 3rd February 2022 be approved.

60. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 25th November 2021 and 12th January 2022 be approved.

61. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

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

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee – 13th December 2021 and 10th February 2022

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees – 14th December 2021

Place Scrutiny Committee – 8th December 2021

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 6th

December 2021 and 31st January 2022

Councillor Silvester made a comment in respect of minute 27, City Status, of the meeting of the Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee held on 13th December, 2021.

Councillor Hayes made a comment in respect of minute 31, Greater Manchester Pension Fund, of the meeting of the Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee held on 10th February, 2022.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.25 p.m.)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING, 24th FEBRUARY, 2022

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Brady (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Ayub, Connor, Dean, Donaghy (as deputy for Councillor McKeon), Galloway (as deputy for Councillor Morgan), Hill (as deputy for Councillor Finney), McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders (as deputy for Councillor T. Wilkinson), Sherrington and D. Wilkinson.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Finney, McKeon, Morgan and T. Wilkinson

32. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd February, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

33. 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.

Councillors Bullock, Hewitt and Cox, in their capacity as Ward Councillors, attended the meeting and spoke in respect of application numbered 12218/21.

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

12218/21

12865/21

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

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
12218/21	<p>Land at, and adjacent, Hulton Park, Manchester Road, Over Hulton:</p> <p>PART A: a full planning application for restoration works to Hulton Park and various existing structures and heritage assets within it, including the pleasure grounds, dovecote, walled garden and lakes; the demolition of various existing buildings and structures; the development of a golf resort, including an 18-hole championship-grade golf course, clubhouse, golf academy (comprising driving range, practice course, adventure golf course and academy building with sports and learning facilities, a golf shop and cafe), a hotel with adjoining spa and conference facility, and other ancillary buildings, structures and</p>	<p>Refused</p> <p>1. The impact of the development and resulting congestion that would impact upon both clean air and pollution as a result of the development would be contrary to Core Strategy policies CG4.1 and CG4.2 and contrary to guidance contained within paragraphs 174 (e) and 186 of the National Planning Policy Framework.</p> <p>2. The development by reason of the operation of the golf course would give rise to the pollution of and damage to the water courses contrary to Core Strategy policies CG1.1 and CG4.2 and contrary to guidance contained within paragraphs 8 (c), 174 (e) of the National Planning Policy Framework.</p> <p>3. The development as a whole represents inappropriate development within the greenbelt, whereby the</p>

	<p>engineering and landscape works including a maintenance building, highway accesses, internal access roads, highway underpass, various bridges, boundary treatments, external lighting, parking areas and new and replacement landscaping and open space; highways infrastructure; and, where applicable, the re-routing, upgrading and extension of the public rights of way network and the creation of new public rights of way, footpaths and trails.</p> <p>PART B: an outline application for the residential development of up to 1,036 dwellings; a village centre; village hall; community allotments; primary school; short stay holiday accommodation, comprising the conversion of home farm cottage and the construction of a mews building, cabins and lodges; and a</p>	<p>harm is not outweighed by the benefits put forward as very special circumstances contrary to Allocation Plan policies CG7AP and guidance contained within paragraphs 147 – 149 of the National Planning Policy Framework.</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 Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Donaghy, Galloway, Hill, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and D Wilkinson</p> <p>Councillors voting against refusal of the application (1):</p> <p>Councillor Allen</p>
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	<p>range of other retail, leisure, recreation, community and food and drink-related uses; highways infrastructure; the regrading of land to accommodate the golf course and staging and subsequent regrading for residential development; and, where applicable, the re-routing, upgrading and extension of the public rights of way network, and the creation of new public rights of way, footpaths and trails, with all matters reserved except for (in part) access, and in respect of the short stay holiday accommodation, layout.</p>	
12865/21	<p>Variation of condition 23 (approved plans) of approval ref: 09993/20 for minor material amendments including removal of projecting and recessed balconies, reduction in height and width of ginnel, relocation of plant and</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 (15):</p>

	servicing access and other changes on land east of Central Street.	Councillors Allen, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Donaghy, Galloway, Hill, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh
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34. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS

The Director of Place (Development) submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 1st January and 14th February, 2022

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 16.45pm)

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NOTES

**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 2ND FEBRUARY, 2022

Present – Councillors Khurram (Chairman), Fletcher, Grant, Hartigan, McMulkin, Peel (as deputy for Councillor Challenger), Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sherrington and Taylor-Burke.

Lay Members

Ms. B. Gallagher - Bolton and District Pensioners Association

Also in attendance

Councillor Morgan	- Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Baines	- Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
Mr. P. Lee	- Director of Operations, Social Care and Health
Ms. T. Minshull	- Assistant Director Commissioning and Integration
Mr. A. Wolstenholme	- Integration and Improvement Manager
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	- Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Challenger and T. Wilkinson and Fiona Noden, Bolton FT, Suzanne Hilton (Age UK), Ann Schenk (Health Watch Bolton), Dr Helen Lowey, Director of Public Health and Dr Ratnarajah (Chair Bolton CCG).

Councillor Khurram in the Chair.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14th December, 2021 were submitted.

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

24. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2021/22

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

Resolved – That the updated work programme be noted.

25. SOCIAL CARE TRANSFORMATION – DEMAND STRATEGY AND MARKET SHAPING

Mr. Paul Lee, Director of Operations Social Care and Health and Ms. Tracy Minshull, Assistant Director Commissioning and Integration gave a presentation on the adult social care demand management strategy 2021-2023.

Members were advised of the reasons that demand for social care was changing and those included –

- Population and life expectancy increases:
- Large numbers now more likely to need some social care in retirement;
- Advances in healthcare enabled people with chronic conditions to live longer;
- More working age adults with disabilities lived longer and with more complex needs; and
- The highest unit costs were associated with supporting people with a learning disability.

The meeting was also apprised of the service demand trends and the priority evidence base information.

In terms of the demand management strategy, 2021-23, there were 6 priorities –

C3

- Neighbourhoods and strengthening partnerships;
- Embracing new technologies;
- Integrated partnership approaches and practice;
- Market sustainability;
- Supporting the most vulnerable; and
- Supporting carers.

The risks associated with the strategy were also referred to.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The 2040 date;
- Living wills and talking to those who are 50 – quality of life, e.g. those with dementia;
- Reducing demand as it's expensive;
- Getting those with learning disabilities into work and how many does Bolton Council and the NHS employ;
- People being pushed into using technology – older people like to talk to a human being; and
- Supporting vulnerable people and what that means.

Resolved – (i) That Mr. Paul Lee and Ms. Tracy Minshull be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

(ii) That members of the Committee be furnished with details of the employment statistics regarding those with learning disabilities working for the Council and the NHS.

26. MEMBERS BUSINESS

The Committee considered two members questions and their answers which had been submitted in accordance with standing order 36, viz –

The following question was submitted by Councillor Haworth in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the response was prepared by the Fiona Noden, Chief Executive of the Bolton NHS FT.

Q.

Question on Miscarriage Matters

To ask Bolton GP Federation, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust including senior nurses, how they might respond in Bolton, to the relevant part of the Miscarriage Matters Campaign set out in The Lancet in April 2021, highlighting that miscarriage was common, affecting one in ten women in their lifetime. Despite this, the impact and consequences of miscarriage were underestimated, resulting in an attitude of acceptance of miscarriage, a system of care which could be fragmented, and care for women that could be of poor quality.

A.

Bolton had a clear focus on and was committed to improving the care pathway for women experiencing miscarriage and to standardise care for all women suffering pregnancy loss.

Our Consultant Lead was co-author of the Regional Northwest 2nd trimester pregnancy loss and Integrated Care Pathway which provided guidance to standardise care across the region and gave us a clear plan with regard to follow up of women suffering pregnancy loss.

During the Covid Pandemic in 2020 Bolton NHS Foundation Trust extended our early pregnancy assessment services from the hours of 8am – 8pm and had a dedicated 24hour assessment unit for women suffering with symptoms of miscarriage.

We had been committed in the provision of a 24/7 triage nurse who was the point of contact for early pregnancy for self, GP and emergency department referrals, who provided both clinical and emotional support and advice to ensure that women received appropriate care in the appropriate setting.

Our services provision included an Early Pregnancy streaming pathway so women who attended the Emergency Department experiencing symptoms in early pregnancy were fast tracked to EPAU (Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit), avoiding delays

and providing the specialised compassionate and clinical care required, in the most appropriate setting.

When women experienced a miscarriage they were offered appropriate choices regarding miscarriage management to suits their needs and preferences, including expectant, medical and surgical options and we ensured treatments were scheduled as expediently as possible.

Bolton EPAU signposted all women to information about miscarriage and resources to address their physical and mental health needs following pregnancy loss including counselling and ways to optimise their health for future pregnancy. This included patient support-groups such as Cradle, Miscarriage Association, Beyond Bea and 4 Louis.

All our EPAU nursing and support staff had been trained in bereavement support by Miscarriage Association and some also by Beyond Bea. There was a plan to roll this out to medical staff.

Bolton EPAU Senior Nurses were trained or in training as Non-medical prescribers to ensure women were provided the necessary treatment without delay.

We were over 90% compliant with Nice Guidance for the management of ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage.

The following question was submitted by Bernie Gallagher, Lay Member in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the response was prepared by Rachel Tanner, Managing Director Integrated Care Partnership

Q.

Bolton & District Pensioners recognised the many benefits provided by Personal Assistants, not least the ability to employ someone they knew and trust who would understand their personal needs either culturally, religious, language or other specific need.

However, it came as a surprise to our members that Personal Assistants were not regulated as with other social care staff.

This might or might not be a problem in Bolton but a recent radio 4 programme on the topic stated that vulnerable people with a Personal Assistant were more likely to be the victim of financial abuse.

Could the Cabinet members for Social Care provide the following information to the Scrutiny Committee:

1. How many people were on Direct Payments?
2. What oversight did the council have where individuals employed a PA directly?
3. were there any statistics from the Adult Safeguarding team regarding investigations / outcomes?

A.

1. How many people were on Direct Payments?

1133 adults were in receipt of direct payments on 31st December 2021

2. What oversight did the council have where individuals employed a PA directly?

Bolton Council was committed to the health and wellbeing of its residents through the provision of flexible interventions that allowed people to exercise choice and control in the way their care and support needs are arranged.

Direct Payments were available to:

- people aged 16 or over with eligible care and support needs under the Care Act 2014.
- carers aged 16 or over (including people with parental responsibility for a disabled child)

- parents of children who had eligible assessed needs under the “Children Act 2004”.

Direct Payments were cash payments made to adults who preferred this method to meet some or all of their eligible care and support needs. It enabled the person to take ownership of their own care planning by choosing how and when they received support instead of Bolton Council arranging services on their behalf. The legislative context for Direct Payments was set out in the Care Act, Section 117(2C) of the Mental Health Act 1983 and the Care and Support (Direct Payments) Regulations 2014. The Care Act provided a power to enable Direct Payments to be made to the adult in need of care and support, or a nominated/authorised person acting on their behalf if the adult with care and support needs so requested.

The Care Act, 2014 made clear that service users had choice and it was not lawful to demand that the money be spent on preferred providers of care and support. That would risk the challenge of negating choice, as this was the point of the direct payment scheme. Saying ‘you cannot use any provider who was not approved’ would be unlawful. Instead, in support of potential safeguarding concerns, there was a condition that provided for exclusion of named providers, but no condition allowing a council to prescribe any particular specific provider. The same applied to individuals chosen by the service user to provide their care and support.

Nonetheless, ensuring that service users were supported and protected was a key priority of the Department. Any financial abuse was treated very seriously. The Local Authority and partners provided oversight as follows:

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- Social workers reviewed all cases on at least an annual basis
- The finance team audited direct payments within the first six months and annually thereafter
- Use of the Brokerage Service was encouraged to provide technical oversight such as HR, financial management, DBS, etc.
- Partners were trained to spot financial abuse and know to report it to the Safeguarding Team in the first instance
- The Safeguarding Team investigated if financial abuse was suspected. The police would be notified if judged necessary.

3. Were there any statistics from the Adult Safeguarding Team regarding investigations / outcomes?

In the period 2020/21, 19 service users in receipt of a direct payment were referred into the Safeguarding Team where it was suspected that financial abuse had occurred. Of those individuals 9 investigations concluded that financial abuse had occurred with one relating directly to the management of the direct payment. The remainder related to other concerns.

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

- (a) Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing held on 6th December, 2021.
- (b) Executive Cabinet Member Adult Social Care held on 6th December, 2021.

Resolved – (i) That the members questions be noted.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 6.36 p.m.)

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 9th FEBRUARY, 2022

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

Also in Attendance

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. G. Brough	Director of Place Development
Mr. J. Dyson	Director of Place Services
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Mr. J. Kelly	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Mrs. J. Pollard	Head of Finance
Mr. G. Langley	Strategic Transport Manager
Ms. C. Hansall	Principal Project Officer
Ms. M. Horrocks	Head of Economic Development
Ms. A. Carr	Population Health and Prevention Strategic Lead
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

(Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Finney and Ismail and Mrs. Fairclough as Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader)

Councillor Bagnall in the Chair.

26. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 8th December, 2021 were submitted.

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

27. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

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

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

28. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE FINANCE MONITORING REPORT

The Directors of Place submitted a report which provided members with information relating to the financial quarter three projected outturn position of the Directorate of Place, 2021/22.

In terms of revenue expenditure a projected overspend against a budget of £403k was shown, after planned reserve movements.

There was one significant variance within the Directorate of Place as described in the report.

Capital expenditure for the Directorate of Place, as at quarter three, was £25.421m against a revised quarter three budget of £71.795m.

Directorate of Place projected at quarter three to have fully used all general reserves in year and to hold a projected balance of £4.870m earmarked reserves.

The budgeted efficiency savings for 2021/23 for the Directorate of Place were £6.161m. £3.439m of savings had been realized which equated to 56% of the programme.

Members in their discussions referred to matters of concern in relation to rising energy costs and risk and whether other means of negating the forecast increase in expenditure were being considered in terms of street lighting.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

29. ACTIVE TRAVEL

Mr. Jon Dyson, Director of Place Services, Mr. Graham Langley, Strategic Transport Manager and Ms. Anna-Marie Carr, Population Health and Prevention Strategic Lead gave a joint presentation on matters around active travel.

By way of background information, members were informed of the national active travel picture in terms of policy, funding and the formulation of Active Travel England. The Meeting was also informed of the bold vision for cycling and walking, Gear Change document produced by the Department for Transport in 2020 – with a vision to make England a great walking and cycling nation.

It was confirmed that future funding opportunities from the Department for Transport needed to be compliant with Local Transport Note LTN 1/20 and demonstrate a commitment to addressing the balance of road space reallocation to all users. Reference was made to the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement allocation of £1.07bn to Greater Manchester. Active Travel England would monitor Local Highway Authorities performance and commitment to active travel in allocating future funding.

The Combined Authority's vision for transport was set out in the Greater Manchester 2040 Transport Strategy and delivery plan with the target for 50% of all journeys in GM to be made by walking, cycling or public transport by 2040.

Bolton's Climate Change Strategy and net zero carbon emissions target for 2030 were also referred to.

Members were also appraised of the health and wellbeing benefits which included tackling inequalities, helping to address climate change and increasing prosperity.

In terms of Bolton's active travel programme, members were informed of matters concerning Trinity Street, Farnworth Streets for All, Manchester Road, Bolton Town Centre East, Bolton Town Centre to Doffcocker and other potential schemes at the programme entry stage.

Members in their discussions referred to, viz-

- Funding for schemes and types of schemes and timelines;
- Cycling training;
- Air quality and street modelling impacts including in Kearsley;
- LTM120 in relation to retrofit schemes;
- The Common Place app and problems with it;
- Funding being key;
- Part of roads taken away from motorists;
- Facilities for employees at work who travelled by bike;
- The Police end up with loads of bikes which could be re-used;
- The car and the need for behaviour change;
- Cycling take up for leisure but less so for commuting;
- People walking on cycle lanes around Bolton Railway Station;
- How did we measure success;
- Balancing needs with those of local businesses;
- There has to be a rise in other forms of transport;
- Matters around personal safety;
- The need for a strong bus strategy;
- The need to re-nationalise the buses; and
- Bus passes for teenagers in GM.

Resolved – That Messrs Dyson and Langley and Ms. Carr be thanked for their detailed presentation and that the position be noted.

30. REGENERATION OF BOLTON DISTRICT CENTRES

Mr. Gerry Brough, Director of Place Development, Ms. Michelle Horrocks, Head of Economic Development and Ms. Caroline Hansell, Principal Project Officer gave a joint presentation on matters concerning the regeneration of the district centres in Bolton.

Members were reminded of background information which included the fact that 12m had been allocated to deliver district centre regeneration and a further £4m was approved subject to the Council's ability to generate this amount via capital receipts. It had also been agreed that each district would have a steering group comprised of Councillors and from the local community and that the steering group would agree key development priorities within the Town Centre master plans.

Members were also reminded of some budgetary approvals relating to Farnworth, Horwich, Little Lever and Westhoughton which were agreed prior to the £12m allocation and were included in the general funding overview.

In terms of Farnworth, it was explained that £13.27m had been secured through the Future high Streets Fund to deliver in terms of the Farnworth master plan and £4m co-funding had been approved from the Council. The progress in Farnworth was also reported and draft layout plans shared.

With regard to Kearsley, members were informed that the Farnworth Steering Group had agreed to undertake improvement works to Kearsley Precinct included resurfacing of Kearsley Precinct and the opposite side of Manchester Road and installation of street furniture including planters with trees.

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In terms of projects for Westhoughton, members were advised of matters around improvements to pedestrian links to the town centre, the carpark strategy, re-modelling of Market Street, improvement works to Central Park and feasibility of Pavilion buildings and the civic buildings.

In Little Lever, members were advised of projects relating to traffic calming measures on Radcliffe Road, relocation of Puffin Crossing between the Memorial Gardens and the Health Centre and Library, the shop front improvement scheme, improvements to Mytham Park and Memorial Gardens, relocation of the bus stop outside the War Memorial and the health centre and library.

With regard to Horwich, it was explained that projects included the St. John Street feasibility, improvement works to the lanes, improvement works to Old Station Park, cycle link feasibility study from Old Station Park to the Middlebrook Way, public realm improvement to Hampson Street, the car park strategy, Horwich Health Centre and improvements in Blackrod in terms of gateway improvements and the Spar layby.

Members in their deliberations referred to, viz-

- Traffic modelling in Horwich and issues with the car;
- The need for more regular meetings of the Horwich Steering Group;
- Spending in Kearsley compared to Little Lever;
- Spending in Farnworth;
- Who would be the occupants of the Hub in Farnworth;
- The need for shop front transformation;
- The possible effects of inflation on contractor pricing;
- The general role of the steering groups; and
- The good work undertaken to date.

Resolved – That Mr. Gerry Brough and Ms. Michelle Horrocks be thanked for their detailed presentation and that the position be noted.

31. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 13th December, 2021 and 17th January, 2022;
- Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 13th December, 2021 and 17th January, 2022;
- Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 13th and 21st December, 2021; and
- Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 17th January, 2022.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 8.48pm)

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NOTES

(This meeting is for information only, it was approved by Council on 16th February 2022.)

CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 10th FEBRUARY, 2022

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Veevers (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Connor, Cowen, Jiva, McMulkin, Mistry, Peel, Radcliffe, Walsh, Weatherby and Zaman.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Cox	Leader of the Council
Councillor Dean	Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities
Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Chief Executive
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place - Development
Mr. P. Rimmer	Assistant Director Revenues and Benefits
Mr. R. Martinez	Head of Community Safety and Neighbourhoods
Mr. M. Burton	Fossil Free GM
Ms. J. Bennett	Fossil Free GM
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Silvester in the Chair

28. FORMER MAYORESS SHELIA HALL

The Committee observed a minutes silence in memory of former Mayoress Shelia Hall who had sadly passed away.

29. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th December, 2021 were submitted.

Further to minute 27 – question 2, a concern was raised regarding the statement that there was no mechanism for reporting back on the decision taken with regards to City Status and it was felt an item on decision making could be included in a future work programme.

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

30. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/2022

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

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

31. GREATER MANCHESTER PENSION FUND AND PENSION FUND INVESTMENTS

The Deputy Chief Executive circulated a paper which detailed the Council's financial contributions to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund over the last three years.

Mr. Burton and Ms. Bennett, representatives from Fossil Free GM, then gave a presentation to members which provided information as to why the Greater Manchester Pension Fund should not invest in fossil fuels.

Information was provided in relation to the following, viz:

- The Greater Manchester Pension Fund;
- The Greater Manchester Pension Fund and Fossil Fuels;
- Fiduciary duty;
- A modelling study by Jeremy Grantham on the impact of divestment from 1989 to 2017 which showed that you can

divest from oil, or anything else, without much consequence;

- The moral arguments;
- The financial arguments;
- Engagement;
- Just Transition; carbon metrics; and overclaiming;
- A number of reference links;
- What other Pension Funds were doing;
- Organisations which had full divestment;
- Organisations who had partial divestment;
- Organisations which had gone carbon neutrality;
- Organisations who proposed to transfer to Low Carbon Funds; and
- The situation overseas and the Dutch Civil Servants and Teachers fund.

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

- An assumption that the Committee were going to scrutinise representatives from the Greater Manchester Pension Fund;
- The primary directive for the Fund was to maximise its return on investments for its members;
- The need to rationalise the risk on investments;
- The use of fossil fuels was declining;
- What powers did the Council have to change the Greater Manchester Pension Fund's investment strategies;
- Disappointment was expressed that the Committee were not able to scrutinise the Greater Manchester Pension Fund and to receive their views on why they invested in fossil fuel companies;
- Could more detail be provided on the map which showed the impact of divestment and that this be sent to the Chairman of this Committee;
- Two of the companies BP and Shell were in the top level of highest performers for environmental, social and governance;
- BP were amongst the top ten for investing in non fossil fuels and alternatives; and

- The council has a duty of care to its taxpayers and pensioners to ensure a good rate of return.

The Borough Solicitor outlined the legal position with regards to scrutinising the Greater Manchester Pension Fund and the Leader of the Council provided a response to the two questions in relation to the work being undertaken by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and other local authorities within Greater Manchester.

The Chairman also advised members that Cllr Hartigan, the Council's representative on the Greater Manchester Pension Fund, could not attend this meeting due to another commitment, however, he had produced a letter which was circulated to members which outlined his role on the Pension Fund. It was noted that the Greater Manchester Pension Fund were not prepared to answer the questions which had previously been raised by this Committee.

Resolved – (i) That Mr Burton and Ms Bennett be thanked for their very informative presentation.

(ii) That the Chairman of this Scrutiny Committee be requested to write to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund to try and get answers to the questions raised and that the outcome be reported to the next meeting of this Committee.

32. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Mr. R. Martinez, Head of Community Safety and Neighbourhoods, gave a presentation which outlined the work being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership.

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

- The Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review;
- The Anti-Social Behaviour Young Person Pathway;
- The Domestic Abuse theme which included new statutory duties;
- The Hate Crime theme;

- The Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week which ran from 7th to 13th February, 2022;
- The Prevent Radicalisation theme;
- The Serious Violence theme;
- Wider partnership developments; and
- The Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 2022-2025.

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

- the reason for the high increase in case reviews from 2017 to 2019; and
- the need to understand the root cause of domestic abuse in order to address the issues and the need for a pathway.

Resolved – That officers be thanked for their very informative presentation.

33. COVID 19 AND FINANCES UPDATE

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that, since the last meeting, there was no further detrimental impact on the budget due to Covid 19.

Mr. P. Rimmer, Assistant Director of Revenues and Benefits gave a verbal update on the latest position with regards to the Household Support Fund. It was stated that Bolton received £2.78 million with effect from October, 2021 and it was confirmed that funding had to be spent by 31st March, 2022. He provided an overview of the way funding had been spent to date to support Bolton residents and proposed that a full presentation on the allocation of grants be made at the next meeting of this Committee in April, 2022.

Following the update, members made the following comments/observations, viz:-

- the number to ring for advice was not a free phone number which was an issue for some residents; and

- how fraudulent claims had been dealt with by the Council.

Resolved – That the position be noted and that an item on the grants which had been received by the Council to assist residents and businesses be considered at the next meeting of this Committee on 11th April, 2022.

34. BUDGET REPORT 2022/2023

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which provided members with the following:-

- The consolidation of service budgets to provide the Council's overall 2022/2023 budget;
- Options to inform Council Tax setting for 2022/2023; and
- The Financial Arrangements account for 2022/2023.

Members were reminded that, at the Council budget meeting on 8th February, 2021, a two-year budget was prepared covering the financial years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 which included a savings target of £36.5 million, £31.6m in 2021/2022 and £4.9 million in 2022/2023, in order to set balanced budgets.

It was stated that the local government settlement for 2022/2023 was a one-year settlement with no indication of local government funding from 2023/2024 onwards. However, it was announced that next years would be a three-year settlement and the key points to note for the 2022/2023 settlement were detailed in the report.

In terms of the savings programme for 2021-2023, members were informed that the additional funding allocations received in Children's and Adults Social Care had provided the opportunity for some of the original savings requirements in those areas to be reduced. As a result, the following changes to the savings targets were proposed, viz:-

Savings and Efficiencies £'000s	Adults	Children's
Transformation of Older Adults and Learning Disability Day Care	965	

Review of staffing in the Adults portfolio	820	
Review of Intermediate Tier provision	500	
Review of all contracts and grants	29	
Review of delivery model of Integrated Equipment Stores	87	
Review of Housing Services – protection of homeless and vulnerable people	130	
Review of staffing within the commissioning and support services		100
Review of resources within staying safe		1,000
Total Grant for S&E	2,531	1,100
Grant towards Fees	369	
Total	2,900	1,100

Furthermore, of the current 2021-2023 savings programme, almost 70% had now been achieved and details of this were provided in the report.

The report also outlined a number of pressures which impacted on the current financial year and 2022/2023.

Members were also reminded that the Council has had to find significant savings over the last ten years which totalled around almost £225 million by the end of 2022/2023. It was also stated that beyond 2021/2022 there were some key funding issues yet to be confirmed which could impact further on the Council which were as follows:-

- Fair Funding Review (FFR) – as part of the 2016/2017 finance settlement it was announced that there would be an FFR of authorities' funding needs, initially to be implemented in 2019/2020. This was subsequently deferred by one year to 2020/2021 and the Brexit debate pushed this further back to 2021/2022. However, the Covi-19 pandemic had now pushed this back further to 2023/2024; and
- Business Rates – the government had announced that from 2023 business rates retention would be 49%, 1% of

this being passed to the Fire Authority and 50% to central government. However, this had been deferred to 2023/2024. Furthermore, the business rates reset initially intended to be implemented in 2021/2022 had also been deferred until at least 2023/2024. As a result this made forecasting business rates beyond 2022/2023 extremely difficult to do. In addition, it was not possible to project what the council could receive in some form of re-distributed grant from any potentially available funds.

In terms of Manchester Airport, members were advised that the Airport trading had started to pick up in the Autumn of 2021 as restrictions were relaxed, but then subsequently worsened as a result of the Omicron variant. There was no intention to pay a dividend in 2022/2023 and loan interest continued to be accrued until payments resume.

The report also provided an updated expenditure forecast for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. This forecast was based on the assumption that Council Tax would increase by 1.13% for Adult Social Care and 1.99% for the general levy for 2022/2023. It was explained that the level of Council Tax would be determined by the Council at its meeting on 16th February, 2022 following a recommendation from the Cabinet.

In terms of reserves, the council estimated its reserves balance to be £145 million at the end of 2021/2022 excluding the DSG and Collection Fund balances and details of this were provided in the report. Appendix E to the report also provided some information of the implications of not holding these reserves.

Currently it was estimated that available balances as at 31st March, 2022 would be £10.66 million and the Deputy Chief Executive recommended, as a minimum, balances of £10 million or higher should be maintained based upon her understanding of the risks and financial issues facing the Council over the next three years and the proposals around the budget, as identified in the report.

The individual parish precepts were also detailed in the report and as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1982

these needed to be added to Bolton's budget requirement.

With regard to the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services), it was explained that this was set by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The proposed increases in the Mayoral Precepts, which were still to be confirmed, were as follows:-

- For the Mayoral General (including Fire Services) a £12/13.2% increase; and
- £10/4.6% increase for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept.

It was stated that should the final decisions of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority be different, this would be reported to members at the meeting.

With regard to Business Rates, whilst the Council was part of the Greater Manchester 100% pilot, it should be noted that the Government determined the rates to be collected and had set these at 49.9p in the pound for small businesses and 51.2p in the pound for larger businesses.

In terms of setting the Council Tax, it was explained that based upon the Adult Social Care precept being set at 1.13% for 2022/2023 plus a 1.99% general levy increase for Council Tax for Bolton Council for 2022/2023 (i.e. excluding Parish and Mayoral precepts) this was the equivalent to an additional 63p per week for Band A properties which were more than 40% of the overall tax base. A Draft Substantive Council Tax Resolution was set out in Appendix H to the report.

Members were also advised that the Cabinet at its meeting on 7th February, 2022 agreed the following recommendations to Council at its meeting on 16th February, 2022:-

- (i) The budget for 2022/2023 as set out in the Budget Report.
- (ii) That the Council Tax for 2022/2023 be increased by 3.12% represented by a 1.13% increase for Adult Social Care and a 1.99% general increase.

- (iii) That the Council Tax figures included in the report for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) are the recommended provisional amounts pending their formal approval.

Following consideration of the report, a discussion ensued with regard to the recent announcement from Government to introduce an energy payment of £150 for all residents in Bands A to D properties. It was acknowledged that this would place a huge burden on officers to get the required information to allow the payments to be made and a debate took place regarding some statements made by politicians that this was a council tax cut. A question was also raised as to what the costs would be for the Council to implement the payments.

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the Council was still awaiting final guidance on how this would operate and it was intended to include some wording in the council tax leaflets to make residents aware of the payment.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

35. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

- (a) The Cabinet held on 10th January and 7th February, 2022;
- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio held on 7th December and 16th December, 2021 and 17th January, 2022; and
- (c) The Executive Cabinet Member Stronger Communities Portfolio held on 11th January, 2022.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.25 p.m.)