

NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 30TH JUNE, 2015

Present – Councillors R. Silvester (Chairman), D. Burrows (Vice-Chairman), Chadwick, Haslam, Hayes, Peel, Pickup and J. Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Ms. D. Ball	-	Assistant Director Waste, Fleet and Community Services
Mr. K. Roberts	-	Head of Service Community Services
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Bashir-Ismail.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 17th December, 2014 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

2. FUNERAL OPTIONS FOR PEOPLE ON LOW INCOMES

Mr. K. Roberts, Head of Service Community Services, gave a presentation to members which put forward a number of recommendations in relation to the funeral options for people on low incomes which included details of the Municipal Funeral tender which was scheduled to be retendered in September, 2015.

Information was provided with regard to the following, viz:-

- The contributory issues related to high cost; lack of pre-paid funeral plan or insurance; access to additional financial support; and access to information;
- The different types of funerals for people on low incomes;
- What a Municipal Funeral Type 1, which was paid for by the Council, entailed;
- What a Municipal Funeral Type 2, which was paid for by next of kin or close friends, entailed;
- Details on what both types of funerals included; and
- Recommendations.

In terms of the recommendations these were set out as follows:-

- Retender of the Municipal Funeral Type 2 from September, 2015;
- The provision of resources to support the delivery of clearer and more accessible information; and
- Provision of staff awareness information.

Following the presentation, a discussion ensued and the following comments/observations were made:-

- With regard to the Municipal Funeral Type 1 it was felt that this package should include an obituary being placed in the Bolton News and that the cost of this should be negotiated with the Bolton News and reported back to members;
- There needed to be increased publicity of this facility being available for people on low incomes and also how people could access support in these circumstances;
- The need to change the thinking of people that it was not a paupers funeral but one which was affordable; and
- Slight concern that if the contract was retendered the costs might increase, therefore, it should be explained that, due to increased publicity, there was the potential for these types of funerals to increase which could bring down the costs.

It was agreed that the recommendations be supported with the addition of an obituary in the Bolton News being considered for Type 1 funeral and that the report be submitted to the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services for approval.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 6.45 p.m.)

