ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 7th APRIL, 2015

Present – Councillors Spencer (Chairman), Silvester (Vice-Chairman), Allen, L. Byrne, G. Harkin, Haslam, Irving (as deputy for Councillor Pickup), Kellett, Martin, Mistry, Richardson, A. Walsh, J. Walsh and Watters.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Councillor Chadwick	Cabinet Member, Highways and Transport
Councillor D. Burrows	Cabinet Member for Police and Community Services.
Mr. S. Young	Assistant Director Development and Regeneration
Ms. S. Schofield	Assistant Director of Environmental Services (Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services)
Mr. J. Kelly	Head of Service, Highways and Engineering
Ms. L. Butcher	Senior Group Accountant
Supt. A. Jones	Greater Manchester Police
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Bashir-Ismail as Cabinet Member for Community Services and Pickup.

Councillor Spencer, Chairman.

33. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10th February, 2015 were submitted.

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

34. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2014/15

The Committee received the proposed work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme as submitted be noted.

35. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FINANCE REPORT, 2014/15

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided the Committee with the financial quarter three position in respect of the Environmental Services portfolio for the 2014/15 financial year.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- matters around the trade waste budget;
- the highways capital programme calculations;
- the trust fund for graves in perpetuity and the use of these monies; and
- the Albert Halls budget projections.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

36. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Ms. Sarah Schofield, The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services) and Superintendent Andrea Jones of Greater Manchester Police gave a presentation updating the Committee on the work of the

Be Safe Strategic Partnership – Bolton's Community Safety Partnership.

By way of background information, members were reminded of the work of the Partnership in terms of –

- reducing reoffending;
- improving confidence protecting vulnerable people;
- tackling alcohol and drugs; and
- domestic abuse and violence strategy.

Members were apprised of various performance statistics which included burglary, vehicle crime, criminal damage, victim based crime and anti-social behaviour.

Members were also apprised of matters around the Partnership work programme.

Ms Schofield also explained matters concerning Domestic Homicide Reviews and that these were a statutory function of the CSP.
Also mentioned was the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner who sets the strategic direction of the Police Force via the Police and Crime Plan – 5 years based on local priorities.

In terms of the challenges and opportunities, members were advised of the following –

- the impact of further public sector cuts on partnership working and community safety outcomes;
- new relationship with the Community rehabilitation Company;
- public service reform aimed at reducing demand and new financial models; and
- serious and organised crime (including modern day slavery / human trafficking).

In conclusion, the Committee was informed –

- there was a strong partnership / reviewing priorities and new partnership plan for 2015 – 2017;
- performing well despite cuts and significant change;
- engagement at all levels; and
- fully involved in the Greater Manchester arrangements.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- domestic violence reporting and people coming forward;
- the night time economy and clubs bearing responsibility for dealing with individuals causing problems; and
- matters concerning the disclosure of previous convictions for new taxi drivers.

Resolved - That messrs Schofield and Jones be thanked for their informative presentation and that the position be noted.

37. PARK LAND ASSETS AND USE

Ms. Sarah Schofield, The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services) gave a presentation on matters concerning park land assets and their use.

By way of background information members were advised that the green space portfolio of today was a result of historic developments over the last 150 years and various local government political structures up to the formation of the current Authority in 1974.

Members were advised of the following –

- the Local Plan was a collection of documents that described the spatial strategy for Bolton and these were used to help plan for the long term growth of the Borough and as a base for the determination of planning applications;
- the Allocations Plan showed how sites could be used in the future for developments such as housing, employment and health facilities. It also showed land that should be protected from development;

- matters around the evidence base which includes existing strategies and policy documents;
- issues concerning key strategic aims; and
- open space assessment land typologies.

In summary the Committee were advised of the following –

- seeking to maintain / improve quality of provision and giving up (where appropriate) quantity within the overall strategic planning framework;
- reviewing and revising as appropriate the use of limited revenue resources;
- supporting community partners to be active in carrying out elements of supplementary maintenance;
- strong partnership working with LWT;
- seeking to maximise external funding within the strains of capacity; and
- exploring opportunities for devolved management of facilities.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- play areas and the policy going forward;
- sports clubs and lease agreements;
- sports clubs and self-generating income; and
- Chorley New Road conservation area and its possible extension.

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

38. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environment Services held on 23rd February and 25th March, 2015; and

- Environmental Services and Waste Policy Development Group held on 3rd February, 2015

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.10pm)

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