

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 28th AUGUST, 2018

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Evans (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Flitcroft, Gibbon, Harkin, Haslam, Hewitt, Ibrahim (as deputy for Councillor Darvesh), Iqbal, Kellett, Khurram, Mistry and P. Wild.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member for
Councillor Chadwick	Environmental Services
	Executive Cabinet Member for
	Highways and Transport
Councillor J. Byrne	Executive Cabinet Member for
	Sport and Culture
Mr. G. Brough	Interim Director of Place
Ms. K. Hopkins	Assistant Director of
	Neighbourhood and Regulatory
	Services
Mr. J. Kelly	Assistant Director Highways and
	Engineering
Mr. J. Morrissy	Assistant Director, Policy,
	Projects and Public Sector
	Reform
Mr. A. Bolan	Head of Service, Regulatory
	Services
Mr. P. Whittingham	Head of Development
	Management
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services
	Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Critchley and Darvesh.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair.

4. BOLTON FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked officers involved in the Bolton Food and Drink Festival for all their work.

5. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2018/2019

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

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

6. DEPARTMENT OF PLACE PERFORMANCE REPORT (ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) – QUARTER 4, 2017/18

The Director of Place submitted a report which provided the Committee with an update on the quarter 4, 2017/18 departmental performance.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Fly tipping enforcement and charges per incident and matters around the introduction of the new £400 charge;
- Work with private landlords – 599 properties brought back into use and whether they counted towards the Council's housing allocation;
- The sickness absence increase and matters around the breakdown between long term and short term sickness; and
- Details of what the Fixed Penalty Notices related to as set out in section 2.8 of the report.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That matters around the breakdown between long term and short term sickness be circulated to members of this Committee.

(iii) That members of this Committee be provided with details of what the Fixed Penalty Notices related to, as set out in section 2.8 of the report.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND HOUSING SERVICES - FINANCE REPORT, 2017/18 – FINAL OUTTURN

The Director of Place and the Borough Treasurer submitted a joint report which provided the Committee with information relating to the financial outturn position for the Environmental Services and Housing Services portfolios, which were part of the Place Department, for the 2017/18 financial year.

Members in their discussions referred to matters around whether the, Albert Halls operated as a trading account.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That members of this Committee be informed of matters around whether the Albert Halls operated as a trading account.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES VARIOUS ISSUES

(a) CONSERVATION AREAS

Mr. Paul Whittingham, Head of Development Management gave a presentation on matters around conservation areas.

He explained that the first conservation areas were designated in 1967 and there were currently 26 within Bolton. They were designated for there special architectural and historic interest. Furthermore, the Council had a duty to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of Conservation Areas via Conservation Area appraisals.

Mr Whittingham went onto explain about the practicalities of development or changes within conservation Areas. There was no additional funding nationally or locally directly associated with Conservation Areas or there improvement.

The Committee was provided with information on the location of the Conservation Areas and which wards they were in.

Members were also provided with information on highway matters within Conservation Areas and street lighting issues.

In conclusion, the Committee was notified of how issues in Conservation Areas should be reported.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Street lighting and whether there could be better street lighting in residential areas in terms of the environmental appearance; and
- Management of Conservation Areas with regard to Council properties.

Resolved – That Mr Whittingham be thanked for his presentation and that the position be noted.

(b) FLY TIPPING AND LITTER

Mr. Andy Bolan, Head of Service, Regulatory Services gave a presentation on matters concerning fly tipping and litter. He highlighted that fly tipping was not only unsightly, inconsiderate, dangerous and expensive to clean up, it was also illegal.

The Committee was informed that individuals were responsible for disposing correctly of their own waste. Mr Bolan went onto highlight examples of fly tipping and also the effect of illegal waste carriers and rogue landlords.

It was explained that educating communities was fundamental when combating environmental crime and residents and businesses needed to be made aware of the law.

The meeting was also informed of fly tipping incidents across Greater Manchester and in terms of the tonnages in Bolton.

Following the savings and efficiencies that had been made in

the Department the creation of behaviour change teams had been undertaken. The aim was to change behaviour in the communities and make positive visual improvements throughout the Borough. Also mentioned were matters around residents taking ownership of fly tipping incidents, volunteering in Bolton with over 8000 volunteer occasions last year in Bolton, the establishment of the Green Umbrella Group and over 3000 businesses contacted regarding their trade waste arrangements.

Mr Bolan went on to explain about fixed penalty notices and proactive enforcement. Since 2015, 854 fixed penalty notices for fly tipping had been issued.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The good and successful enforcement work;
- 3rd party liability insurance information for volunteers;
- The good work of the behaviour change teams and the cultural change;
- Licensed waste disposal people – how to check if they were bona fide;
- Sweeping areas coupled with enforcement;
- Tipping in the country and the erection of signs;
- How to recycle each item – the possibility in the future of instructions on packets;
- Unsheeted hgv lorries;
- Litter thrown from car windows; and
- Businesses trading without a licence.

Resolved – (i) That Mr Bolan be thanked for his presentation and that the position be noted.

(ii) That members of this Committee be apprised of details of 3rd party liability insurance in relation to volunteers.

(c) GULLY CLEANING UPDATE

Mr John Kelly, Assistant Director of Highways and Engineering gave a presentation on matters around gully cleaning.

The Committee was informed that there were 61,000 gullies and many were now well beyond any design life. Also much of the highway drainage network was unmapped and the condition unknown. Mr Kelly also explained matters around restricted budgets, there being no specific programme of asset renewal and improvements were only carried out off the back of other works.

The meeting was also notified of the frequency of the gully cleaning in the Borough, the costs involved and the vehicle resources available.

In conclusion, Mr Kelly highlighted the challenges which included the expanding network and climate change.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- New build houses and use of the existing drainage systems; and
- Flooding hotspots and monitoring and programming for work.

Resolved – That Mr. Kelly be thanked for his presentation and that the position be noted.

(d) THE USE OF COUNCIL STAFF

Mr John Morrissy, Assistant Director, Policy, projects and Public Sector Reform gave a presentation on matters around the use of Council staff to help the Place Department. He explained that all operational staff reported issues to the Team Leader by the end of each working day and they then notified the appropriate services via an in-box system. There was also a tracking system which was used.

Over 200 issues were reported by staff and swiftly dealt with in 2017/18.

Mr. Morrissy also mentioned the one team approach adopted by Place staff within Bolton's neighbourhoods. He also

highlighted area based work, the trust in staff from a community and guidance given from libraries.

The Meeting was also informed of the added value in terms of neighbourhood services, social needs transport and highways and parking, waste and recycling, regulatory services and Heaton Fold.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Overhanging bushes;
- Illegal banners tied to highway structures;
- Assistance to vulnerable people; and
- The Heaton Fold Team and the good work they do.

Resolved – (i) That Mr Morrissy be thanked for his presentation and that the position be noted.

(ii) That members of the Heaton Fold Team be informed of this Committee's congratulations on the excellent work they do.

9. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services held on 9th July and 13th August, 2018;
- Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 9th July and 13th August, 2018;
- Executive Cabinet Member Culture and Sport held on 9th July, 2018; and
- Place Policy Development Group held on 14th June, 2018.

Resolved – (i) That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(ii) That in respect of the minutes of the Executive Cabinet Member Culture and Sport held on 9th July, 2018 thanks be passed onto the staff involved in the Rugby League World Cup

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(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.52 p.m.)