

**CHILDREN'S AND CULTURE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 8TH APRIL, 2015

Present – Councillors Wild (Vice-Chairman), Gillies, Hall, Haworth, Iqbal, Mistry, Murray, Richardson, Shaw, Spencer, Sherrington, Swarbrick and Watters.

Also in Attendance

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|---------------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Mrs. Thomas | - | Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader |
| Councillor J. Byrne | - | Executive Member for Culture and Youth |
| Mr D. Smith | - | Acting Assistant Director of Children's and Adult Services |
| Ms J. Spencer | - | Head of Libraries and Museums |
| Mr P. Bartle | - | Managing Director , Bolton Arena |
| Mrs S. Bailey | - | Principal Democratic Services Officer |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ashcroft and Jones and from Mr S. Dunne and Mr J. Firth.

Councillor Wild in the Chair.

37. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Children's and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 11th February, 2015 were submitted.

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

38. MONITORING OF DECISIONS

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the progress of decisions taken at previous meetings of this Committee

Resolved - That the position be noted.

39. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which set out details of the updated work programme for the Committee for the current Municipal Year, which had been formulated following the workshop session at the first meeting.

Resolved – That the updated work programme be approved.

40. IMPACT OF GROWTH IN SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES

Mr D. Smith gave a presentation which outlined the implications of the increasing demand for secondary school places over forthcoming years and outlined the process being undertaken to plan for this.

The presentation focused on:

- secondary intake and forecasted intake in Bolton;
- Bolton secondary schools and percentage primary school pupils by ward;
- the implications of the Horwich Loco Works;
- the capacity of Free School and University Technical College;
- a summary of places shortfall by geographical clusters within the Borough;
- the financial impact of a shortfall in places;
- identification of secondary school pupil growth hotspots;
- factors to be considered in deciding which schools to expand; and
- next steps.

The presentation highlighted the need to continue to raise the issue regionally and nationally and to monitor pupil projection growth closely. The issue of the financial impact in the shortfall of spaces was being raised nationally through work commissioned by AGM A.

Following the presentation, members made a number of comments, as follows:

- the implications of sibling links in the admission criteria, particularly families from out of the Borough;
- other large scale housing developments that may be planned for the future; and
- the implications of younger people remaining in education until the age of 18 on projections.

Resolved – That Mr Smith be thanked for his informative presentation.

41. BOLTON ARENA UPDATE

Mr P. Bartle gave a presentation which updated the Committee on the work and activities taking place at the Bolton Arena.

The presentation reminded members of the background to the establishment of the Arena which was currently managed by the Bolton Middlebrook Leisure Trust on behalf of the Council.

Particular reference was made to:

- the extensive range of activities provided at the Arena;
- the financial arrangements and the re-investment of all revenues into the facility, activities and people;
- usage figures;
- partnerships;
- community tennis;
- impact and benefits on the community; and
- future planned activities.

The presentation also focused on the Inspire 2 Action and Step 2 Action Programmes that were run at the Arena and which aimed to help adults who were inactive or who had low mood state, anxiety, low self-esteem or depression through sporting activity. The various benefits of these schemes were highlighted.

The projects were due to end this summer and plans were being put in place to identify funding to enable similar schemes to continue.

Resolved – That Mr Bartle be thanked for his informative presentation.

42. EGYPTOLOGY – HERTIAGE LOTTERY FUND UPDATE

Ms J. Spencer gave an update on the latest position regarding the Egyptology Heritage Lottery Fund application.

Arrangements had now been completed and the Council was awaiting formal confirmation on outcome of Heritage Lottery Bid.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

43. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

- The Executive Cabinet Member - Deputy Leader held on 16th February and 16th March, 2015

(The meeting started at 5.00pm and finished at 6.15 pm)