PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 8th FEBRUARY, 2023

Present – Councillors Veevers (Chairman), Atcha, M. Ayub, Brady, Donaghy, Grant, Hartigan, Haworth, Heslop, Iqbal, Meehan, A. Patel, S. Patel, Walsh,

Also in Attendance

Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning
Councillor Muslim	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration
Mr. J. Dyson	Director of Place
Mr. L. Fallows	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Development and Regeneration
Mr. D. Lowe	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Mr. A. Williamson	Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Property
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Finance
Mr. J. Cooper	Head of Asset Management
Mr. K. Questel-Lewis	Corporate Resources
Mr. K. Edwards	Clear Futures
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Eckersley-Fallon

Councillor Veevers in the Chair.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 7th December, 2022 were submitted.

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

25. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

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

Resolved – That the updated work programme position, as outlined be agreed.

26. PLANNING PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Committee received statistical information on the planning service in relation to the following, viz:-

- Key Performance Indicators;
- Outstanding applications; and
- The oldest applications;

Resolved – That the update be noted.

27. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER TWO

The Chief Executive Submitted a report which provided Members with information relating to the financial quarter two projected outturn position of the Directorate of Place, 2022/23.

The Committee was advised that revenue expenditure, as at quarter two, for the Directorate of Place showed a projected overspend against budget of £692k after planned reserve movements.

There were two significant variances within the Directorate of Place as described in the report.

Capital expenditure for the Directorate of Place, as at quarter two, was £10.226m against a revised quarter two budget of £95.086m.

The Directorate of Place had fully used all general reserves in year and held a projected balance of £4,486m earmarked reserves.

The budgeted efficiency savings for 2021/23 for the Directorate of Place were £6.161m.

Members discussed matters around energy costs and street lighting.

Resolved – That the report and its contents be noted.

28. ACTIVE TRAVEL- ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Dwayne Lowe, Assistant Director Highways and Engineering gave a presentation on the EV Charging Infrastructure.

Members were advised of matters around the national EV Policy – Decarbonising Transport: A Better Greener Britain.

The Committee was informed of the city regional EV Policy including the aim for carbon neutrality by 2038, the roll out of technology and innovation and the shift to EV being an important part of the transport mix. In Greater Manchester there were 360 charging points and by 2025 the aim was to have 3,000.

In terms of local EV Policy, members were advised of matters relating to synergy with Bolton's Climate Change Strategy and more sustainable transport options and that the Council would work with TfGM to reduce carbon emissions from transport and travel to achieve the right mix target of one million more

sustainable journeys per day by 2040 with zero net growth in motor vehicle traffic.

In conclusion, details of the charging infrastructure in Bolton were shared with members of the Committee.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Talking to Bolton at Home and housing providers regarding infrastructure;
- The capacity of Electricity NW to do this;
- How things operate in China and pull out batteries;
- The UK being behind other nations; and
- The price of vehicles;
- Taxi locations and EV charging options.

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

29. THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (SAMP)

Mr. Andrew Williamson, Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Property, Mr. Keith Questel-Lewis, Corporate Resources and Mr. Keith Edwards, Clear Futures gave a joint Presentation on the Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan.

Members were advised that the SAMP was approved in October, 2020 with the key aims to manage the corporate land portfolio and generate outcomes including: inward investment, attract funding, operate in a more economic, sustainable and environmental way and offer value for money.

The five strategic anchors were, corporate landlord, estate optimisation, economic growth and regeneration, partnerships and housing.

Members were advised of some achievements sine the last update and these included the disposal of 27 assets to the value of £3.9m and debt reduction of £0.5m.

The presentation went onto provide information in relation to-

- Corporate Property Robertson FM contract deliverables ;
- Key performance indicators;
- Supporting the local economy;
- SAMP action plan priorities;
- SAMP overview including asset data, lease and debt reduction, vacant properties, asset challenge, occupancy, energy plan, asset disposal, CIPFA compliance, condition surveys, community asset transfers, SAMP portfolio challenges and risks, the property model update, economic growth and regeneration including Bolton Market, library upgrades, The Wellsprings, public realm and green spaces and schools projects.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Income generation and commercialisation were covered but nothing about the social benefits or social value;
- Community asset transfers;
- There being no mention of partner Parish or Town Councils;
- It being a comprehensive and detailed report;
- Issues around a scoping maintenance exercise on the Town Hall;
- Matters concerning the issue of the feasibility of solar panels on the Town Hall;
- The proportion of income from land / buildings;
- Breaking assets up;
- The Wellsprings and the target dates;
- Consultation with Councillors regarding SAMP items and timescales;
- Reports that included Councillors views;
- Regeneration matters;
- £15.41m funding and how much was kept for other things;
- The value in some buildings other than financial;
- The occupancy in the Town Hall and across other Council buildings;

- The worth of the 429 property portfolio; and
- A review of the whole portfolio.

Resolved – That Messrs Williamson, Questel- Lewis and Edwards be tanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the update be noted.

30. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

(i) Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 16th January, 2023;
(ii) Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 12th December, 2022;
(iii) Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 12th December, 2022; and
(iv) Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery held on 18th January, 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.15 p.m.)