

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 8TH APRIL, 2014

Present – Councillors Mistry (Chairman), Silvester (Vice-Chairman), Allen, C. Burrows, L. Byrne, Evans, G. Harkin, Haslam, Kellett, Lewis, Pickup, Radlett, A. Walsh, Watters and Wild.

### Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Councillor J. Byrne	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Community Services
Councillor Chadwick	Cabinet Member, Highways and Transport
Councillor Sherrington	Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Housing
Ms. S. Johnson	Assistant Director of Finance and ICT and Chief Officer Support
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Mr. T. Hill	Chief Planning and Housing Officer
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy
Mr. A. Bolan	Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager

Mr. I. D. Mulholland

Principal Democratic Services  
Officer

Councillor Mistry in the Chair.

### **34. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 were submitted.

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

### **35. MONITORING OF DECISIONS**

The Committee was informed that there were currently no outstanding decisions which had not been actioned.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

### **36. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2013/14**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out details of the proposed work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

### **37. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Andy Bolan, Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager gave a presentation updating the Committee on environmental education and enforcement Matters in the Borough.

Members were reminded of the problem of rubbish being dumped in back streets and the campaign to deal with the problem. Mr Bolan went onto explain matters around the impact of loose refuse and the impact of there being little enthusiasm for recycling.

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Furthermore, the campaign highlighted the consequences of non-compliance and the legal proceedings available to the Council and the Police.

The presentation went on to highlight matters around -

- doorstep engagement regarding increase awareness and change behaviour towards local environmental issues;
- the implementation of a series of zero tolerance enforcement days;
- the post back street waste campaign and the initial soft touch approach; and
- enforcement days of action to address poor recycling rates and continuing problems with back street dumping.

Mr Bolan also mentioned the Council's food on the go campaign and the resultant litter problem. He went on to refer to the commitment to change behaviour and the introduction of a voluntary code of practice for businesses selling food for immediate consumption.

In conclusion, the meeting was informed of matters around the Big Bolton Tidy Up Campaign and the role of volunteers in this regard.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- takeaways signing up to the litter campaign and the effect;
- noticeable improvements in street cleanliness;
- the reporting of dumped rubbish;
- bin collections at the end of streets following their emptying;
- the good news around the volunteer litter pickers;
- traveller sites;
- Westhoughton Park rubbish issue;
- action around dog fouling;
- the culture of waste disposal in certain areas;
- education work with schools; and
- a recognition of the efforts and success of the Environmental Education and Enforcement Team.

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

**38. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FINANCE  
MONITORING REPORT, QUARTER THREE, 2013/14**

The Director of Environmental Services and the Borough Solicitor submitted a report which outlined the financial quarter three position in respect of the Environmental Services portfolio.

In terms of revenue expenditure, it was explained that there was an underspend against the budget of £396,000 after planned reserve movements. The main variances were in Neighbourhood Services, Albert Halls and School Meals.

The Executive Cabinet Member was also notified that capital expenditure so far this year was £10.320m against a programme of £25.576m.

The Department had a projected general reserve of £620,000 for the end of the year.

Budgeted efficiency savings for the Department were £1,795,000 and all planned efficiencies were being achieved.

Specific areas of financial risk identified for the year related to loss of income due to the economic downturn, energy prices for street lighting and business continuity risk related to the market redevelopment.

Members in their discussions referred to spending around security services, new waste vehicles and graves in perpetuity.

Resolved – That the financial position be noted.

### **39. HOUSING SERVICES FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER THREE, 2013/14**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which provided information relating to the financial quarter three position for Housing Services, 2013/14.

In terms of revenue expenditure, it was explained that there was a projected underspend of £131,000 after reserve movements.

With regard to capital expenditure, the position was £3,015,000 against a budget of £4,267,000.

The Department had a projected year end general reserve of £1,338,410.

The budgeted efficiency savings for the Department were £443,000. All planned efficiencies had been achieved.

In conclusion, it was indicated that specific areas of financial risk related to loss of grants and occupancy within the accommodation services.

Members in their deliberation referred to empty dwellings and care and repair spending in the Housing Capital Programme.

Resolved – That the financial position be noted.

### **40. MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

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

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environment Services held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2014;

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- Cabinet held on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2014; and
- Rail Enhancement Policy Development Group held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 6.52pm)