

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

Present – Councillors Zaman (Chairman), Darvesh (Vice-Chairman), R. Allen (as deputy for Councillor A. Walsh), Cottam, Critchley, Mrs Fairclough, Peel, and D. Wilkinson.

Also in Attendance

Mr M Cox	-	Director of Environmental Services
Mr P Molyneux	-	Assistant Director of Environmental Services
Mr K Roberts	-	Head of Service Community Services
Mr J White	-	Manager – Cemeteries and Crematorium
Mr P Bolton	-	Security Services Manager
Mr P Davies	-	Senior Engineering Manager
Mr J Fox	-	Principal Engineer
Mr P Smith	-	Head of Operational Asset Management
Mr P. Bailey	-	Assistant Head of Cleaning Services
Mrs S Bailey	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor A. Walsh.

Councillor Zaman in the Chair

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Group held on 16th August, 2010 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

18. CREMATOR EMISSIONS ABATEMENT EQUIPMENT

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which requested consideration of revised proposals in respect of the installation of cremator emissions abatement equipment in response to the Government requirement to reduce mercury emissions from cremators by 1st January, 2013.

Members were reminded that in June, 2009, the Executive Member had granted approval of £1m for the purchase of three new cremators and abatement equipment at Overdale Crematorium by the end of 2012 in order to comply with the Government requirements to reduce mercury emissions from national cremations by 50% from 1st January, 2013.

The report advised that as part of the investigations into investment options, visits had taken place to view equipment at various other areas namely, Manchester, Carlisle and Chesterfield. It had become apparent that Bolton's

equipment was some of the best maintained in the country with the lifespan of the existing cremators being longer than the original replacement date.

In this regard, the report proposed the available funding should be used to fit abatement equipment to the existing cremators rather than replace with new. This would mean a reduction in the number of cremators from 5 to 4 to create space to fit abatement equipment on 2 of the remaining cremators in order to meet the Government's 50% minimum requirement. This option could then release some of the available funds to extend the West Chapel as part of the same programme of civil works.

Some provisional work had taken place with Corporate Property Services to assess options for extension of the West Chapel and a tender process with a timetable. Full details were outlined in the report.

The revised proposals were summarised in the report as follows:

- a. fit emissions abatement equipment to the existing cremators rather than replace with 3 new cremators and abatement equipment;
- b. reduce the number of existing cremators from 5 to 4 to create the space to fit abatement equipment on 2 of the remaining cremators in order to meet the government's minimum requirements to reduce mercury emissions from national cremations by 50%; - this would mean that there would be no surplus cremator abatement to trade through the Crematoria Abatement of Mercury emissions Organisation scheme to generate an annual revenue stream to offset some of the investment in the new abatement equipment;
- c. use the Framework Agreement set up in 2009 by East Cheshire, Fylde, Burnley, St Helens and Salford Councils with 7 participating equipment suppliers relating to the supply, installation and maintenance of new cremators and emissions abatement equipment as access to the framework was open to various crematoria in the NW region of England.
- d. develop a site-specific Specification and Conditions of Contract, with the assistance of NIFES Consulting Group or a similar type specialist, for the removal of one existing cremator and the supply, installation and maintenance of new emissions abatement equipment on 2 of the remaining cremators against which participating equipment suppliers could prepare their detailed tenders; and
- e. obtain method statements and prices from the 7 equipment suppliers on the Framework and appoint and select a preferred supplier based on a price to quality evaluation.

The outcome would be reported to the Executive Member and a proposed programme of works with the successful equipment supplier.

With regard to the Extension of the Overdale Crematorium Chapels, the report advised that in response to the PDG's request to consider extending the chapels, Bereavement Services had been working with Corporate Property Services to carry out a provisional assessment of possible options to extend the Overdale Crematorium chapels. An on site review of the two chapels had been conducted and due to the orientation of the building and the external and internal layout, it was only considered practical to extend the West Chapel only. Indicative costs were in the region of £300-£500k dependant upon which option was selected.

It was proposed to work with Corporate Property Services to appoint a specialist design consultant to work up detailed proposals for the extension of the West Chapel.

Following consideration of the report, members discussed the appointment of a design consultant and enquired whether there was anyone suitable within the organisation on redeployment or from within Bolton at Home that could be identified to undertake such works. Officers agreed to investigate this option.

It was agreed that the Executive Member be requested to agree:

- (i) the recommendations contained within the report regarding the crematorium and mercury abatement equipment;
- (ii) to support the provision of additional seating capacity within the West Chapel;
- (iii) to support the proposal to further investigate the options prior to formal approval of the work; and
- (iv) to approve a sum of approximately £15,000 from the capital spend for a detailed investigation and feasibility study of the options.

19. SECURITY AND RESPONSE – PRESENTATION

Mr P. Bolton attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the role and function of the Council's Security and Response Division.

Members were informed of the main role and responsibilities of the Section together with details of their work in partnership with the private sector.

The presentation also outlined:

- the buildings covered by the Section;
- work with schools;
- accreditations held by the Section;
- specialist areas; and
- the wide range of customers who received the service.

The presentation also focused on the proposed service developments planned for 2010/11 namely:

- work in partnership with the private sector – this work had recently been retendered with a 10.9% saving;
- introduction of new technology;
- diversification of business such as collection of private sharps;
- shared services with other authorities; and
- obtaining quality assurances for cleaning and caretaking service.

Future issues were also identified which concerned:

- no budget – reliance on income generation and charging;
- identification of more efficient ways of working.

Following the presentation, Mr Bolton invited and responded to members' questions.

It was agreed that Mr Bolton be thanked for his informative presentation.

20. BUILDING CLEANING PRESENTATION

Mr P. Bailey attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the role and function of the Authority's Building Cleaning Services.

The service cleaned over 200 buildings daily including 80 schools and 120 Council buildings with a staff of over 350.

The service was reviewed in 2008/09 under the Value for Money agenda. Benchmarking was a constant exercise to ensure best value.

The presentation outlined expenditure and outturn and stressed that there was no budget attached to the services with a reliance on income from customers.

Other areas of service were being developed in order to attract additional income. An example was to pursue a joint cleaning and security service. Improved marketing to compete was also being explored.

Following the presentation, Mr Bailey invited and responded to questions from members.

It was agreed that Mr Bailey be thanked for his informative presentation.

21. GREATER MANCHESTER REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS ON A AND B CLASS ROADS

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which outlined various recommendations arising from a Greater Manchester Review of Speed Limits on A and B Class within Bolton.

The report set out the rationale behind the Greater Manchester Review of speed limits on A and B class roads and detailed the lengths of road where there had been a recommendation for a change in the speed limit, as shown in Table 3.

The report advised that there had been no central monies allocated to fund implementation of the changes. One option for funding was the Greater Manchester Casualty Reduction Partnership, although the future of this grant was now uncertain.

The report recommended that a decision on the funding of the speed changes be deferred until the outcome of the Government Comprehensive Spending Review was known.

Members discussed options for alternative funding of the scheme and asked officers to investigate this.

It was agreed that:-

- (i) officers be requested to investigate alternative means of funding the proposals to change the speed limits; and
- (ii) the Executive Member be requested to approve any proposals for speed limit changes once the outcome of the Government Comprehensive Spending Review is known and a funding mechanism is identified.

(The meeting started at 1.30pm and finished at 2.00pm)