

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 18th AUGUST, 2016

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Pickup (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Harkin, Haslam, Hayes, Parkinson, Kellett, Newall, Spencer, Shaikh, J. Walsh, Whitehead and P. Wild.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Councillor Sherrington	Cabinet Member for Housing, Procurement and Highways
Councillor Watters	Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Voluntary Sector and Community Services
Councillor D. Burrows	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services Police and Community Safety
Councillor Chadwick	Cabinet Member for Special Projects, Transport and Skills
Mr. S. Young	Director of Place
Ms. S. Schofield	Assistant Director Neighbourhood Services
Mr. P. Green	Assistant Director Economic and Regeneration
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Finance and Business Development
Mr. J. Sharrock	Head of Service Neighbourhood Service
Mr. K. Roberts	Head of Service Community Services
Mr. M. Fairhurst	Senior Engineering Manager
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Hornby.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7th June, 2016 were submitted

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

7. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2016/2017

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

The Committee was informed that notification had been received from United Utilities explaining that the Drinking Water Inspectorate had not yet completed its investigations into the Bolton water supply issue of last summer and that it could be another six months before they did.

Members in their deliberations expressed concern at the length of time it was taking the Drinking Water Inspectorate to complete its investigations.

Resolved – (i) That H M Government be notified of this Committee's great concern at the length of time it is taking the Drinking Water Inspectorate to conclude its investigations into the Bolton water supply issue of last summer and ask that they use any avenues available to them to ensure a speedy conclusion to this process.

(ii) That further discussions take place regarding the possible inclusion of the previously suggested work programme item of, Areas Around The Licensed Trade.

8. DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE – QUARTER 4, 2015/16

The Director of Place submitted a report which set out details of the quarter four, 2015/16 performance and the outturn position regarding the Environmental Services elements of the Place Department. It also incorporated the inaugural inclusion of Housing Services as part of the portfolio.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Matters around the tonnes of domestic waste statistics;
- Garden waste statistics;
- Prosecutions regarding waste receptacle issues;
- Issues around bringing empty properties back into use and hardship allowance; and
- The possible use, in the future, of Section 106 monies in terms of empty properties and the possible consideration of this matter at a meeting of the relevant scrutiny committee.

The Assistant Director Place Services also submitted a report which specifically updated the Committee on the progress of the slim bin roll out as at the end of July, 2016.

The report also provided details of –

- performance monitoring information,
- waste audits and requests for advice and support from residents;
- orders for recycling bins; and
- presentation of side waste and issuing of advisory legal notices.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- fly tipping areas including on un-adopted roads;
- slim bin roll out and impact;
- categories of bulky items; and
- the recycling of grey bins.

Resolved – (i) That the performance reports be noted.

(ii) That members be provided with further details which clarify the position around the tonnes of domestic waste statistics.

(iii) That members be provided with additional information regarding the empty properties strategy and in particular the hardship allowance arrangements.

(iv) That in terms of the possible use of Section 106 monies, regarding empty properties, consideration be given to discussions being held at the relevant scrutiny committee.

(v) That members be updated with details of what is classed as a bulky item.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND HOUSING SERVICES – FINANCE REPORT 2015/16 – FINAL OUTTURN

The Director of Place and the Borough Treasurer submitted a joint report which provided the financial final outturn position for the Environmental Services and Housing Services portfolios, 2015/16.

Members in their discussions referred to matters around the trade waste account.

Resolved – That the finance report be noted.

10. THE GRASS CUTTING REGIME

Mr John Sharrock, Head of Service Neighbourhood Service gave a presentation on matters around grass maintenance which included the bowling greens within Bolton.

The presentation included –

- the current cutting programme which included verges, high speed roads, ornamental grass and conservation

areas;

- issues including the weather and breakdowns;
- bowling greens of which there were 26 in operation and maintenance matters, locations and the different arrangements at the different clubs; and
- bowling green end of season maintenance, the age of some greens and drainage and invasive pests and future plans.

Members in their deliberations referred to -

- monitoring of mobile mowing teams;
- future maintenance review options;
- people cutting grass on verges; and
- grass cutting issues on high speed roads and roundabouts.

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

11. REVIEW OF ROAD SIGNAGE IN THE BOROUGH

Mr. Malcolm Fairhurst, Senior Engineering Manager gave a presentation which advised members of the various types of road signage in use in the Borough.

The Committee was advised of the following types of signs –

- regulatory signs;
- directions signs;
- parking signs;
- warning signs; and
- pedestrian signs.

Mr Fairhurst went onto explain matters around records of signs, obsolete signs, the maintenance budget and signage review.

Members were also advised of recent changes relating to traffic signs regulations and general directions which included a relaxation of the need for the illumination of some signs and alterations to the signage and lining of parking restrictions.

In conclusion, Mr Fairhurst highlighted the Department for Transport's agenda in terms of de-cluttering the network without compromising safety and how this could be done.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- de-cluttering issues and pro-active sign maintenance;
- illegal signage clutter action; and
- signage criteria issues.

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

12. REVIEW OF ASSETS OF THE AUTHORITY

Mr. Phil Green, Assistant Director Economic and Regeneration gave a presentation which explained matters around the disused chapel assets within the environmental services portfolio.

The meeting was advised that there were various disused chapels in cemeteries within the Borough as follows –

- Astley Bridge;
- Tonge; and
- Heaton.

Chapels were though in use at Blackrod and Horwich / Ridgmont Cemeteries.

Mr Green explained matters around the risks associated with relatively costly old buildings in public areas; suffering from unauthorised access and age.

He outlined the specific issues in relation to each chapel.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Viable uses and maintenance costs; and
- Different options for different chapels.

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

13. 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 13th June, 11th July and 15th August, 2016; and
- Environmental Services and Waste Policy Development Group held on 28th June and 27th July, 2016.
- Extract of the Cabinet held on 4th July, 2016.

Further to minute 19, Petition Requesting The Council to investigate Alternative Highway / Traffic Solutions to Keep the Free Flow of Traffic on Blackburn Road of the meeting held on 15th August, 2016, members discussed matters around the review to be undertaken and what would be its remit.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.40pm)

E8

NOTES