

Bolton Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

6th September 2023

SUMMONS AND AGENDA



BOLTON COUNCIL

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Town Hall on Wednesday next, 6th September, 2023 at 7.00 p.m. when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

1. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 26th July, 2023 (Section A).

2. Constitution

(a) Motion to be moved by Councillor Peel –

That the proposed changes to Standing Orders Relating to Proceedings of the Council (and other formal meetings) 2023/2024, as now circulated, be approved.

(b) Motion to be moved by Councillor Peel –

That the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation 2023/2024, as now circulated, be approved.

3. Recommendation to Council

Motion be moved by Councillor Silvester –

That a Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise decisions of the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee and the Clean Air Administration Committee, as detailed in the report now circulated, be established.

- 4. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies**
- 5. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)**
- 6. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)**
- 7. Committee Proceedings**

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee (See Section C)

- 8. Scrutiny Committee Proceedings**

To approve the proceedings of the following Scrutiny Committees:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

- 9. Motions under Standing Order No.4**

- (a) Motion in the name of Councillor Warren –**

Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence. Victims of domestic violence come from all walks of life, varying age groups, all backgrounds, all economic levels, all cultures, all ethnicities, all abilities and all lifestyles. 1 in 4 woman and 1 in 6

men experience domestic abuse and around a million children are affected in the UK.

Ask ANI (Action Needed Immediately) is a codeword scheme that enables victims of domestic abuse to discreetly ask for help in participating pharmacies, job centres and banks.

When a victim uses the code word they are taken to a safe space and assisted to contact the police, a domestic abuse helpline, a family friend or family member or even a solicitor.

Launched in Jan 2021 Over 5000 organisations have signed up to the Ask for ANI, safe spaces campaign and many individuals have been helped and assisted to stay safe. Within Bolton all of the Boots Pharmacies have signed up to the scheme however this means large areas of the Borough currently have no safe spaces.

This council has a strong history of supporting Domestic abuse victims in the borough and has strong working partnerships through the domestic abuse and partnership board.

I request that the council works in partnership with UK Says No More and creates safe spaces in council assets such as Libraries, Schools, Community Centres and Start Well Centres and also work with the many partnerships boards in the town to create as many safe places as possible.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Grant –

Council writes to Michael Gove MP, Secretary of state for levelling up Housing and communities in relation to the planning inspector's decision to allow an advertisement within a conservation area contrary to NPPF section 16 sections 189 to 208.

Recently a government inspector (Elaine Moulton) overturned Bolton Councils planning officers over the erection of an internally illuminated sign in a conservation area in Horwich ref: App/N4205/23/3316435. Both the NPPF and local plans put emphasis on not only preserving conservation areas but enhancing them.

In the past due to lack of challenge a few have been permitted however to stop the over proliferation and eventual eradication of these horrendous signs we needed to inspector to focus on enhancement which she does not refer to in her report.

This decision has serious ramifications not only for Horwich, Blackrod and the other Towns of Bolton but every historic town in our country who wish to protect their heritage and culture and historical distinctiveness. We believe this decision should have been "called in" on the basis of its national significance that this precedence sets.

We therefore write to ask that the secretary of state for levelling up Housing and communities to acknowledge Bolton Councils disappointment and to look at this decision and offer guidance in such circumstances to officers of the planning inspectorate over the importance of conservation areas to local communities possibly with a view to reviewing national guidance to correctly weight the significance of local historical classifications in their towns.

Currently members only get an appeals decision notice so Council will require that the planning department regularly informs ward members of any application that has been appealed so they may make representations to the inspectorate.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Meehan –

It is essential for Bolton Council to promote an inclusive and respectful community, free from discrimination and prejudice; and

Anti-Semitism remains a persistent and concerning issue that requires a proactive approach in combating it on a global scale; and

Whereas, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has established a working definition of anti-Semitism that has been widely accepted, providing a valuable framework for identifying and addressing anti-Semitic acts in all their forms; and

Whereas, adopting this internationally recognized definition would reinforce the council's commitment to combating anti-Semitism and creating a safe environment for all residents; and

Whereas, by adopting this definition, Bolton Council demonstrates its dedication to eradicating bigotry and discrimination, fostering a culture of understanding and acceptance;

Be it resolved that Bolton Council hereby adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of anti-Semitism as follows:

"Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

This definition should be accompanied by the following examples, which are provided by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance:

- Making derogatory or offensive remarks about Jews or Judaism, including Holocaust denial and conspiracy theories relating to Jewish people.
- Engaging in stereotypes, myths, or negative generalizations about Jews.
- Accusing Jews as a people, or Israel, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Denying Jews their right to self-determination by claiming that the existence of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the State of Israel.

Furthermore, Bolton Council commits to raising awareness about this definition and to incorporate it into our existing policies and procedures.

By adopting this definition, Bolton Council sends a strong message that it stands united against anti-Semitism, reaffirming its commitment to ensuring a diverse, inclusive, and respectful community.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

Islamophobia is the fear of, hatred of, or prejudice against the religion of Islam or Muslims in general especially when seen as a geopolitical force or a source of terrorism. Anti-Semitism is anti-Jewish prejudice, discrimination, hatred, hostility, violence, or oppression.

These two issues continue to be in the news headlines for one reason or the other. Some people have tried to use these as political tools for the wrong reasons however we cannot deny the fact that both of these phenomenon have one thing in common. They almost certainly result in discriminatory practices which manifest themselves as disempowerment, low self-esteem and self-confidence, marginalisation, restricted

opportunities, unemployment, lack of social cohesion, negative behaviours such as violence or criminality and loss of rights for Muslims and Jewish people which is not acceptable at all.

Over the years there have been quite a lot of debate and research into the two topics.

In 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Plenary defined the Antisemitism as follows:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

In 2019, the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims proposed the following definition: “Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.”

This Council believes that Islamophobia and Antisemitism have no place in British society. If we are to be a truly anti-racist borough, we must root out Islamophobia and Antisemitism from our borough with serious commitment.

This Council therefore fully adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Anti-Semitism and the definition of Islamophobia by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG).

- (e) Motion in the name of Councillors Cox, Hayes, Grant and Sanders -

Council is aware of reports circulating on social media that the Mayor, on behalf of Bolton, has

signed a Town Twinning agreement with Khuerta in Kashmir. Apparently, he has visited Khuerta in the company of Councillors N Ayub and Khurram in what was viewed in Khuerta as an official delegation.

Council considers that this is not a good example of openness or transparency.

Council demands an explanation from the Chief Executive or the Leader of the Council to clarify:

- What was the status of this visit;
- Were any Council resources used to fund this visit;
- What agreement, if any has been made between Bolton and Khuerta; and
- Why no discussion was held with other parties represented on the Council.

Council resolves that until it receives full details of what is contained in the agreement and has an opportunity to discuss them, it shall not be considered an official expression of Council views.

Council further resolves that:

- a) any future proposals for Town Twinning or Friendship Agreements involving Bolton should be considered by Full Council before anything is agreed; and
- b) the circumstances of this signing be referred to an early meeting between representatives of all political groups to determine a sensible way forward to implement the content and spirit of this Motion.

S. Johnson

SUE JOHNSON
Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

30th August, 2023

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet
Member Portfolio meetings from 18th July to 16th August, 2023
are included for information only in a separate volume.

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2023/2024

26TH JULY 2023

Present – Councillors Zaman (Deputy Mayor), Ali, Atcha, Bamforth, Barnard, Bullock, Chadwick, Connor, Donaghy, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Fielding, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Aalaina Khan, Amjid Khan, Livesey, Maher, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrisey, Mort, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Price, Priest, Rigby, Rotheram, Sanders, Shaikh, Silvester, Taylor, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Tighe, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Webb, Wilkinson and Wright.

19. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 28th June, 2023 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

20. APPOINTMENT OF MISS SUE JOHNSON AS THE LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER FOR THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY MAYORAL ELECTION

It was moved by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and unanimously agreed –

That Miss Sue Johnson be appointed as the Local Returning Officer for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Mayoral Election.

21. CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL (AND OTHER FORMAL MEETINGS) 2023/2024

It was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Chadwick -

That the proposed changes to Standing Orders Relating to Proceedings of the Council (and other formal meetings) 2023/2024, as now circulated, be approved.

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Priest -

That for clarification the following amendments be made to the proposal:

SO3(b)(iii) Add at the end the words -

‘In the case that any Group wishes to put in more than one amendment this will apply to their first amendment. Any subsequent amendments will be treated as independent members’ amendments.’

‘For the avoidance of doubt there will be one debate covering all amendments, then votes on each amendment taken in the above order.’

SO7 After the words ‘... next meeting of the Council’ add ‘unless the mover of a Motion decides to withdraw it.’”

The amendment was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Amendment, 51 viz:

Councillors Ali, Atcha, Bamforth, Barnard, Bullock, Chadwick, Connor, Donaghy, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Fielding, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Aalaina Khan, Amjid Khan, Livesey, Maher, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrisey, Mort, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Price, Priest, Rigby, Rotheram, Sanders, Shaikh, Silvester, Taylor, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Tighe, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Webb, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

A3

Against the Amendment, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the amendment was declared carried.

The Motion, as amended, was then put to the meeting when the voting was as follows:-

For the Substantive Motion, 50 viz:

Councillors Ali, Atcha, Bamforth, Barnard, Bullock, Chadwick, Connor, Donaghy, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Fielding, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Aalaina Khan, Amjid Khan, Livesey, Maher, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Price, Priest, Rigby, Rotheram, Sanders, Shaikh, Silvester, Taylor, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Tighe, Veevers, Warren, Webb, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Substantive Motion, 1 viz:-

Councillor Walsh

Abstained, 0

The Substantive Motion was then declared carried.

22. ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOCAL BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Peel, seconded by Councillor Fielding and approved –

That a local BEE Network Committee be established to replace the Bolton Transport Partnership and that the terms of reference be determined at their first meeting.

23. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Chadwick and seconded by Councillor Dean –

That the following appointments and changes in membership be approved:-

1. That Councillor Khurram replace Councillor Heslop on the Clarke Convalescent Fund
2. That the following Councillors be appointed to the Local BEE Network Committee:-

Councillor Khurram
Councillor Silvester
Councillor Fielding
Councillor Haworth
Councillor Donaghy
Councillor Hon
Councillor Morris
Councillor Aalaina Khan
Councillor Cox
Councillor Walsh
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough
Councillor Webb
Councillor Cowen
Councillor Maher
Councillor Wilkinson
Councillor Grant
Councillor Bamforth
Councillor Heslop
Councillor Sanders

**24. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING
ORDER 9(a)**

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(a) –

- (i) by Councillor Warren relating to fair funding in Brightmet

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor Morgan relating to the Care Home Liaison Team

The Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor Webb relating to posting of laminated public notices

The Executive Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor Fielding relating to the clock at Bolton Railway Station

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Morrissey relating to the closure of train station ticket offices

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Taylor-Burke relating to funding for Remembrance Day Events

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and Property replied to this question.

A6

- (vii) by Councillor Bullock relating to future elections in Bolton

The Chief Executive replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor Newall relating to tree and tree preservation orders

The Executive Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment replied to this question.

- (ix) by Councillor Bullock relating to voluntary litter picking

The Executive Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment replied to this question.

- (x) by Councillor Connor relating to fines for littering and fly tipping

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and Property replied to this question.

- (xi) by Councillor Veevers relating to land searches

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Galloway relating to Bolton School

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (xiii) by Councillor Heslop relating to HMO's and Council Tax

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xiv) by Councillor Livesey relating to public rights of way

A7

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (xv) by Councillor Wilkinson relating to electronic voting in the Council Chamber

The Chief Executive replied to this question.

- (xvi) by Councillor Wilkinson relating to lead piping in Schools

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (xvii) by Councillor Hayes relating to a backlog of highway repairs

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xviii) by Councillor Hayes referring to a motion relating to IX Wireless

The Chief Executive replied to this question.

- (xix) by Councillor Price relating to works at Westhoughton Town Hall

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and Property replied to this question.

- (xx) by Councillor Wilkinson relating to traffic management for Remembrance Sunday parades

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and Property replied to this question.

- (xxi) by Councillor Maher relating to works on the bridge on Church Street

The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities replied to this question.

- (xxii) by Councillor Sanders relating to the Managing Director of Bolton Cares.

The Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care replied to this question.

25. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Mistry and agreed -

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 29th June 2023 be approved.

26. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Fielding, seconded by Councillor Meehan and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 11th July 2023 be approved.

27. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

It was moved by Councillor Flitcroft and seconded by Councillor Sanders -

Council appreciates that there is sometimes a demand for Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) for transient workers, students and residents needing short-term housing solutions, but acknowledges the growing negative sentiment locally around HMOs within dense residential areas.

In recent times, the Planning Committee has seen frequent applications for 7 or 8 bed HMOs. When such an application has been refused, the applicant is quite often

accepting of the fact that they can proceed with a 6 bed HMO in any case.

Neighbouring residents put huge amounts of time and effort into bringing their local knowledge and objections to committee and they report that the current rules make it feel it is all for nothing.

The Article 4 Directive means that all HMO applications between 3-6 beds must apply for a change of use through the planning process, and not solely for an HMO licence as is Bolton Council's current policy.

Council notes that our nearest neighbouring city councils Manchester and Salford, both have the Article 4 Directive in place covering the entirety of their boroughs. In addition, Trafford council also has a blanket coverage of the Article 4 Directive, and other GM councils have specific areas within their boroughs covered. Only Stockport, Rochdale, Oldham are alongside Bolton being without this planning tool.

HMOs in Farnworth and Kearsley have become so prevalent in some areas that regular householders feel like they are the minority. Many of these are in traditional terraced streets, where generations of families have lived, but are now putting their homes up for sale as they feel that their quality of life been impacted so much.

Therefore, considering these points, council agrees to forward this matter to a Place Policy Development Group to discuss the merits of implementing this legal planning policy within the borough.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 51 viz:

Councillors Ali, Atcha, Bamforth, Barnard, Bullock, Chadwick, Connor, Donaghy, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Fielding, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Haworth, Hayes,

Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Aalaina Khan, Amjid Khan, Livesey, Maher, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrisey, Mort, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Price, Priest, Rigby, Rotheram, Sanders, Shaikh, Silvester, Taylor, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Tighe, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Webb, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

28. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – BUILDING ON GREEN BELT IN BOLTON

It was moved by Councillor Muslim and seconded by Councillor Walsh -

This Council is deeply concerned about the comments made by the Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer, in an interview with The Times on Wednesday 17th May, only a day after Labour wrangled back control of Bolton Council.

In his interview, Sir Keir Starmer says that he will ‘allow more houses to be built on the green belt’ - despite this being anathema to local residents here in Bolton and flies in the face of Conservative policy in Bolton to protect the Green Belt over the last four years.

Further, during the local elections, Labour shared graphics on social media say ‘local people... should decide what’s best for where they live’ and asking ‘ Do you want developers building on your green spaces without your say?’ - a position that they now seem to contradict only a few days after the elections are over.

Additionally, in the interview, Sir Kier Starmer states that he “wants to see more onshore wind farms built in England” by ending the moratorium on new onshore wind turbines.

This Council therefore:

1. Condemns the comments made by Sir Keir Starmer, where he commits to building on the Green Belt
2. Accepts that wind farms should not be built onshore in any land owned by Bolton Council
3. Commits to protecting the Green Belt in Bolton and not approving applications that seek to build on it

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 13 viz:

Councillors Bullock, Connor, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, Taylor-Burke, Tighe, Walsh, Warren and Webb.

Against the Motion, 38 viz:

Councillors Ali, Atcha, Bamforth, Barnard, Chadwick, Donaghy, Fielding, Flitcroft, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Aalaina Khan, Amjid Khan, Livesey, Maher, Mistry, Morris, Morrisey, Mort, Newall, Patel, Peel, Price, Priest, Rigby, Rotheram, Sanders, Shaikh, Silvester, Taylor, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared lost.

At this point in the meeting, the Chief Executive advised that, due to the time, no further motions would be debated this evening and, therefore, The Mayor asked the movers of the motions if they wished for their motion to be voted on without debate, defer to the next meeting or withdraw it from the summons.

29. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – SPEED CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS

It was moved by Councillor Veevers and seconded by Councillor Priest -

Council recognises that a major concern of many residents of the borough is the dangers on our roads caused by irresponsible speeding and generally inconsiderate driving.

Council further recognises that pressures on resources mean that neither local Councils nor the police are able to give the response that the public expects and deserves.

Council believes that a more sensible use of speed control and enforcement cameras is justified and that the current criteria for them to be installed should be reviewed to allow a wider distribution to speed 'hot spots'.

Council further believes that the current financial arrangements, whereby Councils are responsible for purchase, installation and maintenance costs, but the Government retains the income from fines is unfair and illogical and inhibits sensible decision making on where such cameras should be used.

Council therefore resolves

- a) to press appropriate Government Departments to agree changes to the criteria and funding arrangements for speed control and enforcement cameras to allow their more sensible use:
- b) to contact the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, other Greater Manchester Authorities, Greater Manchester Police and the Borough's Members of Parliament to inform them of this Council's view and to ask for their support.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Motion, 51 viz:

Councillors Ali, Atcha, Bamforth, Barnard, Bullock, Chadwick, Connor, Donaghy, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Fielding, Flitcroft, Galloway, Grant, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Aalaina Khan, Amjid Khan, Livesey, Maher, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrisey, Mort, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Price, Priest, Rigby, Rotheram, Sanders, Shaikh, Silvester, Taylor, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Tighe, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Webb, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

30. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – DOMESTIC ABUSE

Councillor Warren deferred her motion to the next meeting of the Council.

31. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – FUTURE FUNDING FOR LOCAL POLICE SERVICES

Councillor Meehan withdrew his motion.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.20 p.m.)

A14

NOTES

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING, 20th JULY, 2023

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Mistry (Vice-Chairman), Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Galloway, Grant, Hayes (as deputy for Councillor Wilkinson), Iqbal, Meehan (as deputy for Councillor Dean), Morgan, Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Newall, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh and Taylor.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dean and Wilkinson

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 29th June, 2023 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered various planning applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

The following Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business:-

Member of Council	Application Number	Nature of Interest
Councillor Walsh	15275/23	He lives near to the application site. He withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application and took no part in the proceedings.

B2

Councillor Galloway	15275/23	<p>She had pre-determined her view in respect of the application.</p> <p>She addressed the Committee in her capacity as Ward Councillor.</p> <p>She then withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application.</p>
Councillor Galloway	15992/23	She had pre-determined her view in respect of the application.
Councillor Taylor	15275/23	<p>She knows the applicant.</p> <p>She withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and the determination of the application and took no part in the proceedings.</p>
Councillor Morgan	15275/23	<p>He has a family connection with the applicant.</p> <p>He withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and the determination of the application and took no part in the proceedings.</p>
Councillor Mort	16113/23 and 15853/23	She is a Governor at Rumworth School.

B3

Councillor Mistry, Vice-Chairman, took the Chair whilst Councillor Walsh withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of application numbered 15275/23.

Councillor Galloway, in her capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the Committee and spoke in respect of application numbered 15275/23.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in respect of the following applications:

16027/23	15275/23	14759/22
16113/23	15853/23	15824/23

Resolved – That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place be dealt with, as follows:

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
15824/23	Variation of conditions 9 (roads, footways and footpaths), 10 (parking), 113 (closure of existing access), 14 (electronic vehicle parking points), 16 (boundary treatment) and 24 (approved plans) on application 12992/22 on land at Academy Way, Lostock	<p>That the decision be delegated to the Director of Place for approval, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to delegate the decision to the Director of Place for approval, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (19):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Galloway, Grant, Hayes, Iqbal, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Newall, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor and Walsh</p>

16027/23	Erection of a single storey temporary teaching block on land south of Freshfields Avenue	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions as recommended in the report, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (19):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Galloway, Grant, Hayes, Iqbal, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Newall, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor and Walsh.</p>
16113/23	Installation of a modular two storey classroom building for a temporary period of 12 months from September, 2023 to September, 2024 at Rumworth School, Armadale Road	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (19):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Galloway, Grant,</p>

		Hayes, Iqbal, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Newall, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor and Walsh.
15275/23	Change of use of existing building (Class F1) to a restaurant (Class E) and first floor offices together with retrospective erection of an external steel staircase to rear and installation of retractable canvas canopies to front and layout of external seating area at Dale House, 61-63 New Hall Lane	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report, and additional condition regarding closure of the premises at 5pm on Sundays.</p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>An amendment to approve the application, subject to conditions as recommended in the report, and additional condition regarding closure of the premises at 5pm on Sundays, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>The amendment was put to the vote.</p> <p>Members voting in favour of the amendment (11):</p>

		<p>Councillors Bamforth, Grant, Hayes, Iqbal, Mistry, Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Newall, Priest and Shaikh.</p> <p>Members voting against the amendment (4):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Connor, Meehan and Sanders</p> <p>The amendment was declared carried.</p>
15853/23	<p>Erection of a two-storey teaching block, reconfiguration of car park and relocation of bin store alongside associated works following removal of existing structures on site at Rumworth School, Armadale Road</p>	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (19):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Galloway, Grant, Hayes, Iqbal, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Newall, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor and Walsh.</p>

09059/20	Demolition of existing ground floor rear extension and erection of new part single part two storey extension. Alteration to fenestration on existing front, side and rear elevations together with change of use of first floor to provide 2 self-contained flats with separate amenity space at rear at 77-79 Church Street, Blackrod	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (19):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Galloway, Grant, Hayes, Iqbal, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Newall, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor and Walsh.</p>
15228/22	Change of use of vacant land to residential curtilage and garden area at Brae Crest, Victoria Road	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report, and additional conditions regarding the use of land for garden purposes only, access to the site being from the existing Brae Crest access only and TPOs being placed on the remaining trees.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report, and additional conditions</p>

		<p>regarding garden use, access to the site and protection of trees, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (18):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Galloway, Hayes, Iqbal, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrisey, Mort, Newall, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor and Walsh.</p> <p>Members voting against approval of the application (1):</p> <p>Councillor Grant</p>
15992/23	Erection of a two-storey extension to side, single storey to rear, rear dormer and porch to front at 18 Welbeck Road	<p>Deferred, for further information.</p> <p>A motion to defer the application for further information, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for deferral of the application (18):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Grant, Hayes, Iqbal, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrisey, Mort, Newall, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor and Walsh</p>

14759/22	Redevelopment of the site to provide 142 new dwellings together with associated public open space and requisite on site infrastructure at former Tarmac Building Materials Ltd, Stopes Road, Little Lever	<p>That the decision be delegated to the Director of Place for approval, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to delegate the decision to the Director of Place for approval, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (19):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Galloway, Grant, Hayes, Iqbal, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Newall, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor and Walsh</p>
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6. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS

The Director of Place submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 21st June and 11th July, 2023

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 3.45pm)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING, 17th AUGUST, 2023

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Mistry (Vice-Chairman), Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Dean, Galloway, Grant, Iqbal, Morgan,

Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor and Wilkinson

Councillor Walsh in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Newall

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th July, 2023 were submitted and signed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Councillor Mort is a Governor at Lifebridge Ascend, which is an arms-length provision at Rumworth School.

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered various planning applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

The following Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business:-

Member of Council	Application Number	Nature of Interest
Councillor Galloway	15992/23	<p>She had had expressed a view on the application.</p> <p>She addressed the Committee in her capacity as Ward Councillor.</p> <p>She then withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application.</p>

Councillor Bamforth	10395/21	He is a member of the Montcliffe Quarry Liaison Group
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Councillor Galloway, in her capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the Committee and spoke in respect of application numbered 15992/23.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in respect of the following applications:

15832/23

16079/23

Resolved – That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place be dealt with, as follows:

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
10395/21	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 93076/14 to increase the period of time for re-profiling and stabilisation works by 10.5 years on land adjacent Montcliffe Quarry, Georges Lane, Horwich	<p>Deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee following a request by the applicant.</p> <p>A motion to defer the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting to defer the application (18):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Dean, Galloway, Grant, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrisey, Mort, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor, Walsh and Wilkinson</p>

16079/23	Erection of 27 dwellings comprising 19 semi-detached and terraced dwelling houses and 8 apartments together with associated car parking and landscaping works at former Eden Boys School Site, Cotton Street	<p>That the decision be delegated to the Director of Place, for approval.</p> <p>A motion to delegate the decision to the Director of Place for approval, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (18):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Dean, Galloway, Grant, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrisey, Mort, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor, Walsh and Wilkinson</p>
15832/23	Installation of a gas governor and kiosk and creation of a parking area on land on the west side of Chorley Road, Blackrod opposite no. 101-107 Chorley Road, Blackrod	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (18):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Connor, Dean, Galloway, Grant, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Morrisey, Mort, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor, Walsh and Wilkinson</p>

15992/23	Erection of a two-storey extension to side, single storey to rear, rear dormer and porch to front at 18 Welbeck Road	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for refusal of the application (2):</p> <p>Councillors Connor and Morgan.</p> <p>Members voting against refusal of the application (15):</p> <p>Councillors Ali, Bamforth, Dean, Grant, Iqbal, Mistry, Morris, Morrissey, Mort, Priest, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor, Walsh and Wilkinson</p>
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9. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS

The Director of Place submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 12th July and 8th August, 2023.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 2.45pm)

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NOTES

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 15TH AUGUST 2023

Present – Councillors Fielding (Chairman), Ali, Chadwick, Cowen, Grant, Haworth, Amjid-Khan, Meehan and Newall.

(Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Taylor-Burke).

Councillor Fielding, Chairman

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July, 2023 and the minutes of the Gambling Committee held on 11th July, 2023 be submitted and signed as a correct record.

**7. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY
CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE LER/16/23.**

The Director of Place submitted a report which set out details of an application to grant a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence where the previous license has been revoked. The vehicle no longer complied with the Council's Hackney Carriage Vehicle age policy of 10 years and a first grant application would be refused by the licensing team.

The applicant and his representative attended the meeting.

The report set out specific details of the application.

It was moved by Councillor Howarth and seconded by Councillor Fielding that the application be granted, finding that there are exceptional circumstances.

Whereupon the voting was as follows:

For the Motion, Viz-

Councillors Ali, Fielding, Haworth, Khan, Meehan, Cowen, and Grant.

Against the motion, Viz –

Councillors Chadwick and Newall

Abstain, Viz –

Nil

Whereupon the Motion was declared carried.

8. APPLICATION FOR A STREET TRADING CONSENT LER/17/23.

(At this junction the Chairman left the meeting and the Committee resolved that Councillor Chadwick take the Chair for the remainder of the Committee meeting.)

The Director of Place submitted a report which set out details of an application which had been received for a street trading consent.

The Committee also viewed footage of the applicant's interaction with another person from the window of his ice-cream van.

The applicant, the legal representative and an observer attended the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Cowen that the street trading consent be refused.

Whereupon the voting was as follows:

For the Motion, Viz -

Councillors Ali, Chadwick, Haworth, Amjid Khan, Meehan, Cowen, Grant, and Newall.

Against the Motion –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was - specifically resolved –

That the application for a street trading consent be refused as the Committee is not satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person to hold a licence.

The committee also took into account -

- Footage showing the applicant making threats to a shopkeeper and brandishing a wheel brace. The Committee were concerned of the applicant's aggressive nature, making threats, using foul language and physical threat gestures. This behaviour took place in front of a young child and the Committee were concerned how the applicant reacted to provocation, especially given he will be potentially working with children and vulnerable adults.
- The footage showed the applicant drive off and was very near to colliding into a child on a bike, the Committee were concerned that this applicant demonstrated undue care and attention.
- Further information from Greater Manchester Police regarding an allegation from a 17-year-old girl, who stated that the applicant told her he would only give her an ice cream if she showed her boobs or nipple. Further allegations that the applicant messaged this girl on Facebook asking for her number, leading her to ignore and block him. Due to this, a separate crime of harassment was created. The applicant denied this allegation, and denied all communication with the girl via Facebook, but he does remember her.
- The applicant, by his own admission, had been trading without Street Trading Consent in 2016 and 2020.

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- The Committee had safeguarding concerns in relation to the applicant.
- The Committee also considered the dishonesty of the applicant, firstly, when not providing information to the Council on his application, stating, 'No' to a question which asked if he had ever had a street trading licence revoked (March 2023). Secondly, dishonesty in relation to failing to disclose similar information with Bury Council, which has since lead to Bury Council also revoking the applicant's street trading licence.

The Committee agreed their primary duty is of concern for the safety and well-being of the public, especially given the applicant would be working with children and vulnerable people.

Therefore there is reasonable cause to refuse to grant the street trading consent.

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 4.15 p.m.)

**CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 24th JULY, 2023

Present – Councillors Galloway (Chairman), Atcha, Bamforth, Chadwick, Dean (as deputy for Councillor Cowen), Fielding, Flitcroft, Heslop, Iqbal, Morgan (as deputy for Councillor Cox), Morris, Mort, Mistry, Price, Priest, Rigby, Taylor, Tighe and Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Leader of the Council
Councillor Jiva	Executive Cabinet for Stronger Communities
Ms. S. Johnson	Chief Executive
Mr. L. Fallows	Director of Corporate Resources
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. A. Williamson	Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Property
Mr. C. Hart	Head of Digital Customer Service
Ms. N. Connell	Corporate Programme Manager
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors N. Ayub, Cowen and Cox.

Councillor Galloway in the Chair

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17th April, 2023 and the informal meeting on 26th June, 2023 were submitted.

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

2. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2023/2024

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the proposed work programme for 2023/2024.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2023/2024, as circulated, be approved.

3. THE COUNCIL'S DIGITAL AND CORPORATE CHANGE PROGRAMMES

Mr. A. Williamson, Mr. C. Hart and Ms. N. Connell gave a presentation to members which outlined the work being undertaken and the progress made so far in relation to the Council's Digital and Corporate Change Programmes.

Information was provided in relation to the following, viz:-

- The Council's Digital Strategy which was launched in April, 2021;
- The six Digital Strategy Themes;
- The Digital Theme Priorities;
- Some of the highlights from the Digital Programme;
- The Technology Service Underpinning Digital;
- The background to the Corporate Change Programme;
- The role of Change Managers and the anticipated outcomes;
- The aims and potential of the Self Service project;
- Project Management Toolkit and Training; and
- What had been delivered since February, 2023.

Members in their deliberations made the following comments/observations:-

- Had the Digital Programme been accelerated as a result of Covid-19;
- Was age a barrier in terms of those residents who could not access online services;

- The need for services to be integrated to assist customers;
- The challenges facing staff as a result of the technological and organisational changes;
- The use of community centres to facilitate voluntary organisations with the use of technology;
- The implications for the One Stop Shop and the need for data on the types of calls they currently received as a result of the Digital change;
- The need for simple processes to enable residents to use online Digital services;
- How long would it take to reach an acceptable level of residents who were using Digital services;
- How do we provide services for those people who will not/cannot engage with online services;
- A request for more detail on each of the individual ten projects that the Change Management Team were currently looking at;
- The need to look at partnership working with external organisations to provide Digital training for residents;
- The need to undertake a benchmarking exercise with other GM Authorities and External Partners who had already gone through this process; and
- The rationale behind using two technologies i.e.: Oracle and Microsoft.

Resolved – (i) That the presentation be noted.

(ii) That officers be thanked for their informative presentation.

(iii) That further details on the ten projects currently being looked at by the Change Management Team be circulated to members of this Scrutiny Committee.

4. BOLTON COUNCIL – SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE – JULY, 2023

Mr. L. Fallows, Director of Corporate Resources gave a presentation to members which outlined the current Senior Management Structure at Bolton Council.

D4

Information was provided in relation to the following areas, viz:-

- The Bolton Context;
- The work undertaken by the Council;
- The Workforce profile;
- The population and employee numbers for local authorities within Greater Manchester;
- The number of Chief Officers at top three tiers in each local authority within Greater Manchester;
- The appointment of Senior Managers;
- The structure for the Directorate of Corporate Resources and the Core Services;
- The structure for the Directorate of Adults, Communities and Integration; its statutory duties and the areas of work;
- The structure for the Directorate of Children's Services; the numbers of people the service is provided to; the work of the Children and Young People's Board and the corporate parenting responsibilities in relation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers;
- The Leadership Team for the Place Directorate and the Statutory functions and responsibilities for Highways and Engineering, Environment and Regulation and Economic Development and Regeneration; and
- The Leadership Team for the Public Health Directorate and its responsibilities.

Following the presentation, members made the following comments/observations:-

- Were there any issues with recruiting to vacancies at Chief Officer level;
- Concern that some Directors might be dealing with casework which should rather be dealt with by officers lower than Director/Assistant Director level and was the balance right in the expectations of Directors/Assistant Directors;
- How was the Council maximising efficiencies in relation to Personal Assistants to assist Directors/Assistant Directors;

- Concern that the Directorate of Public Health was top heavy in its senior management structure compared to the number of staff within the division and was there a reason for this;
- It would be useful to undertake a benchmarking exercise with other Greater Manchester authorities to compare the salaries of Chief Officer posts and also were there any of the Chief Officer posts jointly funded with other organisations;
- The new Member Enquiry System for routine case work worked very well; and
- What impact had the reduction in the number of Chief Officer posts since 2009/2010 had on services.

5. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

- (a) The Cabinet held on 17th April, 19th and 26th June and 10th July, 2023;
- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio held on 4th, 18th and 24th April and 12th July, 2023; and
- (c) The Executive Cabinet Member Culture Portfolio held on 10th July, 2023.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.45 p.m.)

CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 21st AUGUST 2023

Present – Councillors Galloway (Chairman), Atcha, Bamforth, Chadwick, Cox, Fielding, Heslop, Iqbal, Mistry, Morris, Mort, Price, Priest, Rigby, Taylor, Tighe and Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Leader of the Council
Councillor Jiva	Executive Cabinet for Stronger Communities
Mr. L. Fallows	Director of Corporate Resources
Ms. J. King	Assistant Director Human Resources and OD
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors N. Ayub, Cowen, Flitcroft and Sanders.

Councillor Galloway in the Chair

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24th July, 2023 were submitted.

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

7. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2023/2024

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the proposed work programme for 2023/2024.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2023/2024, as circulated, be noted.

8. REVIEW OF HYBRID WORKING

Ms. J. King, Assistant Director of Human Resources and OD, gave a presentation to members which outlined the work being undertaken and the progress made so far in relation to Hybrid Working.

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Information was provided in relation to the following:

- An overview of Hybrid working;
- The Hybrid working policy provisions;
- Information around benefits and challenges for hybrid working;
- Details surrounding consultation on the policy;
- Issues raised by staff and managers;
- Support required for working from home;
- An overview on how many staff are currently working in a hybrid way;
- Details around the training available, and which training is required;
- Information around how the Council is benchmarked against other councils for hybrid working;
- Further information around the guidance provided to the Council by National Joint Council (NJC); and
- Hybrid working and the further review.

Members in their deliberations made the following comments/observations:

- Was the implementation of the hybrid policy partly to address the issues in relation to the recruitment and retention of staff rather than a savings issue;
- The definition of short notice when asking staff to come into the office;
- Was the clear desk policy for all staff;
- When working from home was there a stipulation on the speed of their internet connection;
- The percentage of staff working from home who had not undertaken DSE training;
- Had there been any research in terms of productivity levels between staff working from home and those working in the office;

D8

- A view that new starters in the Council should spend the majority of their time, at the beginning of their employment, in their place of work to allow them to familiarise themselves with the organisation and colleagues;
- Hybrid working was welcomed;
- Had any tension been caused by the wording in the policy that the majority of time should be spent in the office;
- Inconsistencies with email signatures for Council staff;
- Was the policy at the stage where it could help to inform the Council's Property Strategy review;
- Does the Council have the facility to allow staff to condense their hours over a working week;
- The current wellbeing offer and how we deal with the wellbeing of staff who do not/were unable to engage when working from home;
- Hot desking and was there still a need for wise terminals when the majority of staff now used laptops;
- Do departments regular monitor staff productivity and by what criteria;
- Was access to senior managers and heads of service working from home an issue;
- It was important that a policy was put in place;
- Concern regarding the effect on young people with hybrid working;
- It was felt that it was the senior managers responsibility to be in the workplace most of the time;
- Feedback from staff and managers on hybrid working arrangements;
- Had the implementation of the hybrid policy resulted in any additional costs to the Council;
- The benefits of hybrid working in the future on staff attendance/absence; and
- The impact of working from home on the Town Centre Economy.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

9. APPRENTICESHIPS AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

Ms. J. King, Assistant Director of Human Resources/OD, gave a presentation to members which outlined the work being undertaken and the progress made so far in relation to apprenticeships and succession planning.

Information was provided in relation to the following areas:

- Background information to the Council's apprenticeship strategy;
- The current approach taken by Bolton Council;
- Information around the process taken for existing staff;
- Detail around the apprenticeship levy and the rules for funding;
- The number of apprenticeships by Directorate, as of August 2023;
- Detail around the levy and expenditure from April 2017 to July 2023;
- Workforce planning, to include opportunities and age profiles of apprentices;
- Information around how apprenticeships can be used to tackle skills shortages, February to July update;
- Further information around T level industry placements;
- Information on future development opportunities; and
- The recruitment strategy for young people.

A video was also shown from a member of staff within the Corporate Resources Department who joined the Council as an apprentice and explained how his career had progressed from being on the scheme.

Following the presentation, members made the following comments/observations:

- Did the Council set a target for how many apprenticeships we should have over the next few years;
- What was the average term for an apprenticeship;
- How are we fully utilising the levy fund;

D10

- The success rate of retaining staff once they had completed their apprenticeship;
- Would some individuals have to take a pay cut to be on the apprenticeship scheme;
- The possibility of implementing a loyalty clause in the apprenticeship contract;
- Disappointment was expressed regarding the restrictions imposed on the voucher scheme and it would have been more beneficial if they could have been directed towards paying part of the salaries;
- The flexibility to allocate vouchers, which had not been used, to small businesses was welcomed;
- The involvement and engagement with establishments/organisations who work with ex-service men to promote the apprenticeship scheme within Bolton Council;
- The use of the GMAX website to recruit to positions within the Council; and
- Workforce profile and reflecting ethnic minority communities within the Borough.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and that further details on the work being undertaken in relation to workforce profile and recruitment ED&I interventions be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

10. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

- (a) The Cabinet held on 14th August 2023; and
- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio held on 16th August 2023.

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

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

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 18TH JULY, 2023

Present – Councillors Veevers (Chairman), Morgan (Vice-Chairman), Ali, Atcha, Barnard, Hon, Aalaina Khan, Livesey, Morris (as deputy for Councillor Patel), Morrissey, Rotheram, Sanders, Shaikh, Taylor-Burke (as deputy for Councillor Eckersley-Fallon), Tighe (as deputy for Councillor Cowen), Webb (as deputy for Councillor Moller), Wilkinson and Wright.

Lay Member

- Ms. B. Gallagher - Bolton and District Pensioners Association
- Ms. A. Schenk - Health Watch Bolton.

Also in attendance

- Councillor Mrs. Thomas - Executive Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing.
- Ms. L. Donkin - Director of Public Health
- Ms. F. Noden - Place Based Lead, Chief Executive of Bolton NHS Foundation Trust
- Mr. I. D. Mulholland - Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Patel, Moller, Eckersley-Fallon, Dean and Cowen and Ms. S. Hilton from Age UK, Bolton.

Councillor Veevers in the Chair.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 29th March, 2023 were submitted. Also submitted were the minutes of the informal meeting held on 4th July, 2023.

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

2. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2023/24

The Committee received a report which set out the proposed work programme for the ensuing Municipal Year, following discussions with members at the previous informal meeting.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved but the, End of Life Care including Bolton Hospice, item be moved to the meeting to be held on 25th October, 2023.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Lynn Donkin, Director of Public Health submitted her annual report for 2022.

In her accompanying presentation, members were reminded that the publication of the report was a statutory obligation and provided an independent assessment of the health and well - being of the population.

The meeting was informed that Covid had highlighted the important role of communities and local action, Bolton's population was growing and was more diverse, the cost of living had changed how people supported themselves and others, Bolton Locality Board was forming and brought new opportunities to work together to improve outcomes and there was an established evidence base for action to address inequalities.

The meeting was also informed of the factors that made us healthy – socio economic conditions, lifestyle behaviours and chronic conditions and that life expectancy was declining and showed a gradient with an 11 year gap.

The meeting was also advised of the health conditions that accounted for the life expectancy gap in Bolton and health / lifestyle behaviours account for much of the difference and,

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most importantly, the wider determinants such as housing and income.

There was also a focus on mental health and wellbeing and understanding the local picture. People were struggling but Bolton had lots of assets.

The presentation concluded with the highlighting of the report's eight recommendations and informing of the next steps.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- The difference in life expectancy with mental health issues and Greater Manchester Mental Health Scrutiny in this regard;
- Matters around the national average in England, Wales and Scotland regarding life expectancy and mental health;
- The vulnerable people in the town centre;
- Causes of life expectancy variations;
- The GM Commission into anti-poverty and the free travel issue;
- It being a good informative report;
- The number of people who were struggling in the Borough;
- Statistics in the report compared to the national averages;
- Mental health – gathering insight information;
- Matters around the 26,000 unpaid carers;
- Effectiveness of outcomes and being able to make a difference;
- Matters concerning veterans, CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) was stretched and support in this area;
- The recommendations in the report and the programme going forward.

Resolved – That's Ms Donkin be thanked for the report and the accompanying presentation.

4. HEALTHWATCH ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received the Healthwatch Bolton annual report for 2022/23 and also received a presentation from Ms. Ann Schenk, lay member of this Committee from Healthwatch Bolton.

Members were informed about the project to make cancer screening more accessible, the smears means years project. This had reached out to deprived and hard to reach communities and 75 were carried out. Also 259 health checks were carried out in community settings. The project was innovative and allowed things to be done differently.

The meeting was also informed of matters around access to NHS dentistry and the impact on health and well-being. This was the top theme of all the enquiries that Health Watch Bolton received and people said that they were still unable to access a dentist taking on NHS patients in Bolton. 52% of respondents did not have access to either a NHS or private dentist. Only 30% had access to a NHS dentist. 45% said that it had impacted on their physical and mental wellbeing. The meeting was also advised of the Health Watch recommendations in this regard.

Ann Schenk also advised of matters around the information, advice and guidance service which was provided and how people have been helped recently in relation to find dental care and GP access.

Members were advised that 887 people had shared their experiences of health and social care with Health Watch. 266 people came for clear advice and information on topics. Health Watch had published five reports about the improvements people would like to see in their health and care services.

Ann Schenk also highted the funding for Health Watch Bolton which came from the Local Authority and was £151, 523.

In conclusion, the priorities for 2023/24 were mentioned, viz-

E5

- Access to care working with Bolton Deaf Society;
- Menopause and information;
- maternity services;
- support the cervical cancer screening outreach project; and
- work with Health Watch in Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester integrated Care Board.

Members in their deliberations referred to-

- dentistry survey and information and how elected members could help;
- The smears means years project and working with different groups and eligibility for screening within the national programmes;
- access to dentistry for the elderly and those in residential accommodation;
- there being many preventive issues and also matters around backlogs. Also issues of people self-medicating and the elderly didn't want virtual appointments;
- matters around the loss of the physical base of Health Watch Bolton;
- work at the University;
- the priorities for 2023/24 that related to men's health;
- Health Watch being on top of the projects which were important to people;
- Women and regular smear tests (cervical screening);
- dentistry – schools and university pathways; and
- Health Watch funding issues.

Resolved – That Ms. Ann Schenk be thanked for the report and the accompanying presentation.

5. MEMBERS BUSINESS

The following question was submitted by Bernie Gallagher, Lay Member (Bolton and District Pensioners Association) in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the response was

prepared by Helen Wright, Strategic Commissioning Manager
Elective Care (Bolton).

Q.

NHS Wheelchair Service

One of our members had asked me to raise the issue of Bolton Wheelchair service which he had recently discovered was no longer provided by the NHS. He had been told the service had been privatised and now operated from Leeds.

He and his partner had used this service for their son for almost 30 years and rated it as A star. Whenever there was a problem, the phone was answered promptly, usually by a friendly person who knew their son. The response was often within the day but no later than the day after. The person who came to fix the wheelchair also knew their son and had a chat with him. An all-round customer focused service with speedy response times.

A.

Bolton response:

Thank you for your query regarding The Bolton Wheelchair Service.

We had investigated the matter with the service provider, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust and they had provided the following answers to the questions.

If you had any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Questions and Answers

Q1. Why had a key service performing at a very high standard been privatised?

A. The Bolton Wheelchair Service had not been privatised. Regarding the Wheelchair Repair Service – this was currently provided by the Trusts iFM Division (and had been for many years). Unfortunately, over the past 2 years iFM had

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experienced difficulty in recruiting engineers to vacant posts and had subsequently been unable to respond to repair requests within the agreed timeframes. To help resolve this issue, iFM had utilised the service of an external company to assist with repairs and maintenance to wheelchairs. The clinical service currently remained unchanged.

Q 2. What were the savings in making this move or would the cost to the NHS increase?

A. There was no associated impact on NHS costs/ savings.

Q 3. What would happen to the staff who currently ran the service?

A. There was no change in the staffing model for the wheelchair service.

Q 4. How could a Leeds based service provide a better service than one provided locally.

A. Currently there was no 'local' repair service available – due to the issue highlighted above; the external company was based in Leeds but was completing Bolton work as per the iFM repair service: i.e. repairs were completed in Bolton with only exceptional circumstances requiring completion at Leeds.

Q 5. what happened to equipment, property etc. currently in Bolton.

A. There was no change to any equipment or property related to the wheelchair service.

Q 6. Would there be any change in the role of the physio who was closely involved with wheelchair users?

A. The Bolton Wheelchair Service remained unchanged regarding clinical staffing.

Q 7. Was there any consultation with service users and their families?

A. There had been no reason to consult with service users as the Wheelchair Service model remained unchanged; timely repairs were still offered regardless of the repair service being Leeds-based.

Q 8. How was this change of service delivery agreed?

A. The external company had been commissioned via iFM to assist due to lack of staffing in the repair service; there was no change to service delivery.

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

- (i) Executive Cabinet Member Adult Social Care held on 6th April, 2023.
- (ii) Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing held on 6th April, 2023.
- (iii) Executive Cabinet Member Adults, Health and Wellbeing held on 12th June, 2023.

Resolved – (i) That the members question and the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(ii) that in terms of the members question, additional information be sought regarding was use of the Leeds based company for repair and maintenance of wheelchairs temporary while engineers are recruited locally?

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.50pm)

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 25TH JULY, 2023

Present – Councillors Grant (Chairman), Rigby (Vice-Chairman), Barnard, Fielding (as deputy for Councillor Morrissey), Flitcroft, Galloway, Alaina Khan, Amjid Khan, Livesey, Maher, Meehan, Morris (as deputy for Councillor Hon), Mort, Patel, Priest, Shaikh and Taylor-Burke

Co-Opted Members

None

Also in attendance

Councillor Donaghy	-	Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services
Mr. P. Rankin	-	Deputy Director of Children's Services
Ms. H. Shearer	-	Head of Start Well Service
Mr. D. Rice	-	Operations Manager/Lead – Holiday Activities and Food
Ms. T. Minshull	-	Assistant Director - Social Care and Public Health Commissioning
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dean, Hon and Morrissey

Councillor Grant in the Chair

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved – That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 27th March, 2023 were submitted and

signed as a correct record.

2. MINUTES OF INFORMAL MEETING

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the informal meeting of the Committee held on 21st June, 2022 were submitted and noted.

3. PROPOSED COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

The Borough Solicitor submitted the proposed Committee Work Programme for 2023/24 which had been formulated following the informal meeting of this Committee held on 21st June, 2023.

If approved, the Programme would guide the work of the Committee over the course of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the 2023/24 Committee Work Programme, as now submitted, be approved.

4. HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FUND AND YOUTH PROVISION

Dominic Rice gave a presentation on the delivery of the Government funded Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) in Bolton.

The Programme was funded by the DfE and coordinated by the Youth and Play Service and led by a multi-agency steering group. It involved enriching activity and a nutritious meal for primary and secondary age children who were eligible for and receiving benefits related school meals during the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.

Bolton's annual allocation up to 2024 was approximately £1.4m and covered 12,500 plus eligible children, although not all were expected to participate. The Programme was closely monitored by the DfE and required a minimum of 85% Free School Meal eligibility. 15% could be used for other vulnerable young people.

The presentation outlined the delivery method using five strands:

- the Local Authority Offer;
- the Commissioned Offer- using the third sector;
- local private businesses;
- the Food Support Offer; and
- the Programme Support Offer.

Bolton's HAF 2022 Programme was successful with over 10,000 unique eligible individuals attending provision over the year.

The presentation also outlined the role and function of the Authority's Youth and Play Service which involved 10 young people centres with 26 play sessions, 8 junior clubs, 20 youth sessions per week and offered additional sessions that were funded by grants, elected members and other services.

Following the presentation, members made the undermentioned comments:

- the constraints of the strict eligibility criteria imposed by the DfE on delivery of the Programme; and
- it was acknowledged that not everyone who was eligible for the offer would take it up, although it was hoped to build on the success of last year and increase numbers.

Resolved – That Dominic Rice be thanked for his informative presentation.

5. FAMILY HUBS

Paul Rankin and Helen Shearer gave a presentation on Family Hubs, the associated funding and how it would be utilised in Bolton.

Members were advised that the Government had committed £301.75m for 75 upper tier authorities to deliver start for life

and family help services over the next three financial years.

The package contained funding for the following components:

- £81.75 - to create a network of family hubs
- £10m - to publish Start for Life offer
- £50m - for parenting programmes
- £100m - for infant-parent mental health support
- £50m - for breastfeeding support
- £10m - for workforce pilots in small number of local authorities.

An additional sum of £24m had also been allocated for HLE Recovery programmes.

Members were informed that family hubs were a way of delivering the National Supporting Families Vision of an effective Early Help system. They also provided a single access point to a range of services for families such as universal and early help and involved co-location of services and professionals.

A Family Hubs Vision Workshop had taken place in October with the Children and Young People's Board to identify how the programme would work in Bolton. The board vision was that the Family Hub network would reset and redefine how all organisations worked with children and families in Bolton.

The presentation went on to outline how the Family Hubs and Start for Life offer would operate in Bolton together with the system approach:

- delivered through the Children and Young People's Board which included representation from the Local Authority, Health, Education, Voluntary Sector, Parents and Carers;
- delivery would be coordinated in neighbourhoods and designed with families;
- Bolton Start Well Centres would be renamed Family Hubs;
- the Family Hub network will include schools,

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- libraries, youth centres, parks, GP's surgeries and health centres
- there would be a joined up information offer for all services to families in Bolton; and
- the Programme would link to wider health integration and the Bolton response to the cost-of-living crisis.

Full details of the funding arrangements, provisional allocations and financial implications associated with the Programme were provided. It was noted that funding could not be used to deliver existing services.

A full list of the services that would be expected to be offered at the Hubs, through the Hub network or virtually was also provided together with details of the delivery and funding approach. The activities and funding by Bolton Council (£1.8m for 2022-25) and Bolton NHS Foundation Trust (£730k) were highlighted.

The next steps involved –

- recruitment to teams and coordinate approach to programme delivery;
- redesignate Start Well Centres as Family Hubs with soft launch in Autumn;
- invitation to professionals and the community to help define the offer at each hub and in the local network using data led approach;
- creation of Family Hubs branding;
- progress reconfiguration of Family Hubs estate; and
- continue to develop the Family Hub Network.

Following the presentation, members made various comments:

- the funding arrangements for year two – members were advised that the second year of funding had been secured after meeting the deadlines and requirements of the DfE although some of the first-year monies had been reallocated to ensure they were fully utilised;

- the reasons why Bolton had chosen not to be included as a Trailblazer authority due to the tight timescales involved;
- how the soft launch of the Hubs in October would ensure that residents were aware of the new offer – Mr. Rankin advised that a communication plan was being developed to engage users and promote the new approach;
- the issues and challenges associated with recruitment of lead practitioners – it was hoped to undertake a recruitment event in partnership with other organisations;
- the importance of links between the Hubs and GPs – Mr. Rankin advised that communications had already commenced with the GP Federation together with discussions on how Hubs could be utilised to assist GPs in certain areas such as vaccinations; and
- the lack of funding to build new Hubs - Mr. Rankin assured members that a system of networks would ensure that areas without a physical Hub building would have access to services.

Resolved – That Paul Rankin and Helen Shearer be thanked for their informative presentation.

6. 0-19 PROVISION

Resolved – That this item be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of this Committee in August, 2023.

7. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

- the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 19th June and 15th July, 2023

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

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.45pm)

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 23RD AUGUST, 2023

Present – Councillors Grant (Chairman), Rigby (Vice-Chairman), Barnard, Connor, Galloway, Hon, Alaina Khan, Amjid Khan, Livesey, Maher, Meehan, Morrissey, Mort, Patel, Priest, Shaikh and Taylor-Burke

Co-Opted Members

None

Also in attendance

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Councillor Donaghy | - | Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services |
| Mr. P. Rankin | - | Deputy Director of Children's Services |
| Ms. T. Minshull | - | Assistant Director – Strategic Commissioning |
| Mrs. V. Ridge | - | Democratic Services Manager |

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Flitcroft.

Councillor Grant in the Chair

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved – That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 25th July, 2023 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

9. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

The Borough Solicitor submitted the Committee Work Programme for 2023/24 which had been formulated following the informal meeting of this Committee held on 21st June, 2023.

The Programme would guide the work of the Committee over the course of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the 2023/24 Committee Work Programme, as now submitted, be noted.

10. COMMISSIONING AND APPROACHES TO QUALITY ASSURANCE

Ms. T. Minshull gave a presentation on the Start Well commissioning arrangements in Bolton together with details of quality assurance and improvement.

The presentation advised that Bolton's strategic approach to commissioning involved outcomes that:

- focused on people, place and population;
- promoted and supported the health and wellbeing of communities, children, adults, families and workforce;
- focused on prevention and early intervention seeking to reduce inequalities and improve wellbeing; and
- were personalised and used an asset-based approach to serve the communities in Bolton.

Members were informed of the Start Well Commissioning offer in terms of the prevention and early help offer, care and support and specialist support provided.

There were currently 30 Children's placement settings in Bolton:

- 24 Regulated Childrens Homes;
- 4 Fostering Agencies;
- 1 Adoption Agency;

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- 1 Boarding School; and
- 13 Unregulated Supported Accommodation Settings.

With regard to residential, fostering and supported accommodation placements, there were:

- Residential - 7 in Borough, 16 in Greater Manchester, 29 outside Greater Manchester;
- Supported Accommodation (Over 16 placements) – 31 in Borough, 6 in Greater Manchester and 4 outside Greater Manchester; and
- Independent Fostering Agency placements – 25 in Borough, 23 in Greater Manchester and 13 outside Greater Manchester.

With regard to Start Well Quality Assurance and Improvement, members were informed that in Bolton, there was a commitment to working collaboratively with local providers to ensure that they were inspection ready and meeting contractual requirements and were supported to improve services through sharing of experiences and best practice.

The Quality Assurance and Improvement activity for Start Well was supported by a small team of officers. The cohort of providers were mainly specialists' schools, resource and alternative provisions and SEND children's homes. The aim was to work together to deliver the best possible service and outcomes for Children and Young People.

In addition, the work of the Team was underpinned by a local Quality Assurance Framework.

The presentation also outlined:

- the Start Well Team portfolio;
- the standard activities; and
- Commissioning priorities.

Following the presentation, members made the undermentioned comments/observations:

- the importance of proactive engagement with new providers coming into Bolton and the significant work that was being done to progress this;
- the joined up working that was taking place between the Children's and Planning Departments to ensure that processes were aligned and providers were located in the most appropriate areas of the Borough;
- the extensive programme of additional support given to placements requiring improvement following Ofsted inspections including the allocation of a Quality Monitoring Officer and a tailored improvement plan;
- the challenges facing the recruitment process although alternative methods including the use of social media and job fairs and advertising in family hubs/GP practices had started to improve take-up; and
- the need for greater numbers of foster carers and the ongoing recruitment campaign.

Resolved – That Ms. Minshull be thanked for her informative presentation.

11. MEMBERS BUSINESS

a) The Committee was informed that a question had been submitted by Councillor Galloway for consideration under Standing Order 36, as follows:-

Question

Could the committee be updated on the arrangements for the temporary accommodation of the pupils at St Simon and Jude's following the fire.

Answer

The fire last week at SS Simon and Jude's has resulted in the loss of nearly all the school buildings. Thankfully, and most importantly, no one was injured. The fire did not spread beyond the school grounds due to the timely action of the caretaker, who raised the alarm, and the emergency services who worked tirelessly to contain the flames.

F11

The Academy Trust has responded quickly to the fire. Working with the School, Council, Fire Service and the Department of Education, they have assessed the damage and safety of the existing structure and started to make plans for the new term. There has already been some demolition to unsafe areas of the school, and fire investigators and insurance forensic teams are working at the site to assess all the damage. We hope they will complete their work by the end of the week.

Council officers are working closely with the Trust to plan for the new academic year. All partners are in full agreement that we must aim to have face-to-face teaching for all our children as quickly as possible. Work is underway to consider how this can be achieved safely within the local community. Site options are being reviewed this week.

It will take some time to put plans in place and so, alongside our work to secure temporary classroom space, the Trust are currently developing a 'blended' learning programme for the first half term of the new school year in the first instance. This means that they will be offering a combination of online and face to face learning for pupils.

This is a difficult and uncertain time for children, families, and staff. The Trust have advised families of the progress so far and will be communicating with them next week to share details of their plans. Council officers will ensure that elected members are updated with progress.

Resolved – That the question submitted, and the response provided, be noted.

(b) The Committee received the minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 15th August, 2023

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

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.40pm)

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NOTES

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 27th JULY, 2023

Present – Councillors Warren (Chairman), Ali, Chadwick, Dean (as deputy for Councillor Cox), Mrs. Fairclough, Fielding, Grant, Heslop, Iqbal, Amjid Khan, Mistry, Morris, Rotheram, Sanders, Taylor, Veevers, Walsh (as deputy for Councillor Muslim) and Webb

Also in Attendance

Councillor Haworth	Executive Cabinet Member Regulatory Services and Property
Councillor Silvester	Executive Cabinet Member Climate Change and Environment
Councillor Zaman	Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration
Mr. G. Parker	Assistant Director Environment and Regulatory Services
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Mr. A. Bolan	Head of Service Regulatory Services
Ms. J. Hall	Principal Environmental Health Officer
Mr. A. Chalmers	Principal Development Officer (Planning)
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Cox, Maher and Muslim.

Councillor Warren in the Chair.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 12th April, 2023 were submitted. Also presented were the minutes of the informal meeting held on 20th June, 2023.

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

2. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report which set out details of the proposed Committee work programme for the ensuing Municipal Year following the discussions held at the informal meeting of the Committee on 20th June, 2023.

Resolved – That the work programme, as outlined be approved.

3. CALL IN – GREATER MANCHESTER MINIMUM LICENSING STANDARDS FOR TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE – STAGE 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee was advised that decisions in relation to the report, Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards for Taxi and Private Hire – Stage 2 Recommendations, had been called in by Councillor Cox following the decisions taken by the Cabinet held on 26th June, 2023, in accordance with the Council's rules of Procedure, Section E, Scrutiny Procedure Rules: Paragraph 17.

The Committee had previously been circulated with a copy of the report considered at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26th June, 2023, the minute in this regard and procedural matters around the options available to the Committee following consideration of the matter.

At the start of the meeting, Councillor Mrs. Fairclough on behalf of Councillor Cox, who had called the item in, explained that the decisions taken should be re-considered by the Cabinet.

It was moved by Councillor Fielding and seconded by Councillor Mistry that the matter be referred to the Cabinet for re-consideration.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Ali, Mistry, Chadwick, Fielding, Iqbal, Amjid Khan, Morris, Taylor, Warren, Mrs. Fairclough, Webb, Veevers, Rotheram, Grant, Heslop, Sanders, Dean and Walsh.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

4. FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS IN BOLTON

Mr. Andy Bolan, Head of Service, Regulatory Services and Ms. Julia Hall, Principal Environmental Health Officer gave a joint presentation on Regulatory Services and food safety in Bolton.

Members were reminded that the Food and Health and Safety Team were responsible for food safety enforcement in over 2,600 food businesses, health and safety enforcement in over 6,000 work places, registration of skin piercing activities, investigations into food health and safety issues and infectious disease / outbreak investigations.

Members were also advised of-

- The pro-active risk based inspection programme and its determinants;
- The various types of food businesses;
- The varying types of inspections including unannounced;
- Matters around the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme and the scheme safeguards;

G4

- Enforcement powers including powers of entry, written warnings, premises closure and prosecutions;
- Matters around the work carried out by the Team in the period from July, 2021 until March, 2023 including 1627 food hygiene inspections;
- Matters around Covid 19 and recovery; and
- Future issues including recruitment challenges, post Brexit legislation changes, changes to food delivery models, display of food hygiene ratings and continuing to protect the health of the Bolton family.

Members in their discussions referred to-

- the re-inspections fee;
- people who had suspicions about certain premises but did not always know how to report it;
- data and bench marking with Greater Manchester;
- ratings and display of this in partnership with the local press;
- inspection frequencies;
- the recruitment and apprenticeships route;
- matters around lobbying HM Government regarding displaying of the food hygiene certificates;
- premises awaiting inspections;
- misrepresentation of food – food standards;
- prosecutions; and
- businesses who got zero ratings and the procedure.

Resolved - That Mr. Andy Bolan and Ms. Julia Hall be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

5. PLACES FOR EVERYONE UPDATE

Mr. Paul Whittingham, Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration and Mr. Andrew Chalmers, Principal Development Officer (Planning) gave a joint presentation updating on Greater Manchester Places for Everyone.

G5

Members were reminded that this was the strategic spatial plan for nine of the ten GM districts (minus Stockport) and set out how much new development should come forward in terms of housing, employment, industry etc. It also identified important environmental assets to protect and enhance, allocates sites outside the urban area for employment and housing, supported delivery of key infrastructure and defined a new Green Belt boundary.

Members were reminded of the background to the plan being published in 2021 and the modifications that would need to be agreed going forward.

The plan set out Bolton's housing target of 787 dwellings per annum from 2022 to 2039. Around 13,400 in total. It also provided a range of new sustainability policies. Also, it did not allocate any other sites as this would be the task for the next local plan.

In terms of national policy changes, other significant consultations were around the Infrastructure Levy with changes to S106 and the CIL processes and permitted development rights.

Members were advised that any Bolton Local Plan review would need to follow and was dependent on the adoption of, Places for Everyone. It would need to be prepared under whatever the new planning system and local plans eventually looked like.

In conclusion, members were advised that, Places for Everyone, was likely to be adopted in 2024.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- the arbitrary figure of 787 dwellings and the issue of developers then not developing which forces other land to be freed up so targets can be met;
- Section 106 agreements;
- What the 787 target consisted of in terms of type of dwelling;

G6

- Who the strategic partners were;
- The contribution of Horwich to the housing stock;
- Places for Everyone – good thing for Bolton and protect the Green Belt;
- The local plan evidence base and preparations for this;
- The Westhoughton housing targets and planned developments;
- Infrastructure issues;
- The equation inspectors used nationally;
- Land supply;
- Affordable social housing; and
- What was agreed with developers and what actually happened.

Resolved – That Messrs Whittingham and Chalmers be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

6. 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 17th April, 2023.
- (ii) Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 24th April, 2023.
- (iii) Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 17th April, 2023.
- (iv) Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Service Delivery held on 18th April, 2023.
- (v) Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 9th March, 2023.
- (vi) Executive Cabinet Member Regulatory Services and Property held on 18th July, 2023.
- (vii) Executive Cabinet Member Planning, Housing and Highways held on 19th July, 2023.
- (viii) Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 11th July, 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.03 p.m.)

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 22ND AUGUST, 2023

Present – Councillors Warren (Chairman), Maher (Vice-Chairman), Ali, Chadwick, Cox, Mrs. Fairclough, Fielding, Grant, Heslop, Iqbal, Amjid Khan, Mistry, Morris, Muslim, Rotheram, Sanders, Taylor, Veevers and Walsh (as deputy for Councillor Webb)

Also in Attendance

Councillor Haworth	Executive Cabinet Member Regulatory Services and Property
Councillor Silvester	Executive Cabinet Member Climate Change and Environment
Councillor Zaman	Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration
Mr. J. Dyson	Director of Place
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Mr. D. Lowe	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Ms. L. Hunter	Head of Environmental Delivery
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Webb.

Councillor Warren in the Chair.

7. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the previous meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 27th July, 2023 were submitted.

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

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

8. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report which set out details of the Committee work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme, as outlined be approved.

9. 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.

Members in their discussions referred to-

- The use of agency staff;
- The Planning Control in box;
- The holding pen of cases; and
- The validation check list.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

Mr. Jon Dyson, Director of Place and Ms. Lory Hunter, Head of Environmental Delivery gave a presentation on the Environmental Maintenance Programme.

Members were advised that in terms of Neighbourhood Delivery Services there were 71 operatives delivering street cleansing and grounds maintenance. Also highlighted were matters around the expected standards and there had been a budget reduction of £270,000 effective from 1st April, 2023.

The meeting was reminded that the operational arrangements for street cleansing included the town and district centres and residential areas. Members were also given information regarding the grounds maintenance schedules for grass cutting, maintenance of key parks, hired sports pitches and bowling greens, high speed roads, and seasonal work.

Members were also informed of matters concerning shrub bed maintenance restrictions, weed spraying and weather conditions causing interruption and delay.

The current service delivery schedule was also shared with the Committee with the Borough divided into three areas, north, south and west.

Members also received information on an alternative demand led delivery option and the importance and opportunities presented through local partnerships volunteers and community payback teams.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The weed spraying service and practical issues;
- Concerns regarding the service in Horwich including the Memorial Gardens and parks and monitoring issues;
- Malaysian Balsam issues;
- The delivery schedule and the approach taken;
- Use of a glyphosate as a weed killer and whether this product can be reviewed;

G10

- Delivery, consistency of service and outcome;
- Future resource deployment plans and their impact on cycles of maintenance ;
- The condition of the Remembrance gardens in Horwich;
- Verges and central reservation cutting and wild flower planting opportunities;
- Fly tipping and evidence of capture and prosecution;
- The reducing budget, impact on service delivery and future options;
- Best value and quality of service issues having regard to existing budget provision;
- The high standards of maintenance for Queen's Park but not at other Parks;
- The Green Flag award for Queen's Park, what the specification was for this and risk of grant funding clawback;
- The cleansing cycle;
- Current and future maintenance data;
- Cleansing of district centres;
- Pride in the work undertaken;
- There being only one Green Flag in Bolton but 13 in Bury;
- The litter pickers hoop bins and availability;
- The good reaction of staff to the reporting of incidents;
- The role of the volunteers;
- Community payback and oversight;
- High footfall shopping streets and cleansing plans;
- Staff local knowledge and upskilling, as seen in Breightmet.

Resolved – (i) That Mr. Jon Dyson and Ms. Lory Hunter be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

(ii) That information regarding the Green Flag specification and funding clawback risk for Queen's Park be circulated to members of this Committee.

11. POLICY ON POTHOLE REPAIRS

Mr. Jon Dyson, Director of Place and Mr. Dwayne Lowe, Assistant Director of Highways and Engineering gave a presentation on the policy on pothole repairs.

Members were advised of matters concerning the Highways Asset Management Strategy and that highway infrastructure in Bolton equates to the value of £1.81bn.

Members were advised of the asset condition and intervention criteria. Highlighted, was the fact that in the UK funding to fix roads had halved over a decade. In Bolton there was a £92M backlog of works.

It was mentioned that the network was increasing annually, and the risk-based approach was being used and life-cycle planning to manage a deteriorating network. The primary aim though was to move to a planned maintenance regime rather than a largely reactive maintenance regime.

The Committee was apprised of matters around the capital programme – DfT Funding and the planned treatment of roads in Bolton for 2023/24, which was around 15.8km.

Members were also advised of matters around the numbers of inspections that had taken place and recent claims.

In terms of the next steps, members were informed of plans to revise the present Asset Management Strategy to include a minimum of a five year forward programme to reflect funding allocations, to petition for additional funding, to utilise Pot Hole Action Funding on the unclassified network, continue to monitor performance, ensure targets were met and seek improvements, investigate innovation opportunities in technology, methods and materials and monitor the spending and deliver the budget.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The road network backlog maintenance and patching defects;

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- New ways of tarmacking;
- Extra pothole funding from HM Government and even distribution across the Borough;
- Pothole repair schedules;
- Sink hole management;
- Road planning;
- UU work and onsite provision of information (inc clear reference to the works being the responsibility of UU);
- Inspection of works and how they are undertaken;
- The time on pothole repairs and the quality;
- The deteriorating road network;
- Use of Section 106 monies;
- Utilities at work and appropriate signage / signage clearance;
- How the money is stretched and it being a credit to the team;
- How to decarbonise the network in particular tarmac;
- Sealing potholes;
- Defects prioritisation;
- Alternatives to tarmac roads; and
- Expectation management.

Resolved – That Messrs Dyson and Lowe be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

12. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- (i) Executive Cabinet Member Climate Change and Environment held on 14th August, 2023.

Members in their discussions referred to matters around the decisions take regarding refuse vehicles and the previous decisions that had been taken.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.35 p.m.)