

## **CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2016

Present – Councillors Shaikh (Chairman), Ayub, Cox, Critchley, Darvesh, Dean (as deputy for Councillor Greenhalgh), Donaghy, Gibbon, Gillies, Haworth, Hornby, Martin, McKeon, Shaw and Whitehead.

### Also in attendance

Councillor Morris	-	Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Zaman	-	Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration and Human Resources
Councillor Adia	-	Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Resources
Ms. M. Asquith	-	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Young	-	Director of Place
Ms. H. Gorman	-	Borough Solicitor
Ms. D. Ball	-	Assistant Director Waste, Fleet and Community Services
Ms. A. Hughes	-	Assistant Director – Strategic ICT Contract
Mrs. J. Pollard	-	Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bury and Greenhalgh.

Councillor Shaikh in the Chair.

### **10. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 were submitted.

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

## **11. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the proposed work programme for 2016/2017.

Resolved – That the proposed Work Programme for 2016/2017 be approved.

## **12. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY**

Ms. A. Hughes, Assistant Director – Strategic ICT Contract, gave a presentation to members which provided an update on the digital position within Bolton.

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

- The Greater Manchester (GM) Digital Vision;
- GM Governance Information Management and Technology (IM&T);
- GM digital architecture;
- Bolton Locality Plan – IM&T Delivery;
- GM Broadband coverage, in particular, within Bolton;
- Digital inclusion in Bolton;
- Internet usage by age of Bolton residents;
- The estimated internet usage by Bolton residents;
- The digital family for people and place;
- Online transactions;
- Social media;
- The work undertaken in relation to the digital library services; and
- The website improvement programme.

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

- Any potential for the workforce be increased in order to implement the GM Devolution programme;
- Implications of the current infrastructure in particular with health;

- The potential for a reduction in public sector employment and an increase in charities; social enterprises; and private sector employment; and
- The complex governance arrangements in particular in relation to health and social care.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

### **13. UPDATE ON THE ALBERT HALLS REFURBISHMENT**

Ms. D. Ball, Assistant Director Waste, Fleet and Community Services gave a presentation to members which provided an update in relation to the refurbishment of the Albert Halls.

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

- An update on the refurbishment;
- Photographs of the refurbished rooms;
- The proposed business model;
- The performance partnership;
- Café-bistro, catering, bars and functions;
- The role of the Council and management;
- Opening events/bookings for 2017; and
- The next steps.

Following the presentation the following comments/observations were made:-

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

### **14. UPDATE ON GREATER MANCHESTER DEVOLUTION**

Ms. H. Gorman, Borough Solicitor provided members with an update on the recent developments with regard to Greater Manchester Devolution.

Members were advised that two different types of orders currently going before Parliament. The first was GM Specific Orders and the drafts were expected this week and related to:-

- Planning, Housing, Highways, Education and Skills, Culture and Finance;
- Health and Fire which was expected in November, 2016; and
- Police and Crime Commission which was due to be laid before Parliament in December, 2016.

The second order related to General Orders and these were Electoral which was expected in October, 2016 and Finance in November, 2016.

Members were also reminded that monthly bulletins providing an update in relation to Greater Manchester Devolution would be circulated to all members.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

**15. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION  
DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT – CURRENT  
POSITION AND QUARTER 4, 2015/2016**

The Director of Place submitted a report which provided the members with:-

- A current overview of priorities for services of the Place Department, those being Strategic Development, Economic Strategy, Development Management and Libraries and Museum Service;
- The relevant performance information for Bolton Community Leisure Trust; and
- The 2015/2016 internal departmental quarter 4 position and the outturn position as appropriate.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

**16. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION SERVICES  
(EXCLUDING HOUSING SERVICES) (INCLUDING  
CORPORATE PROPERTY SERVICES) 2015/2016  
FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT**

A joint report of the Director of Place and the Borough Treasurer was submitted which provided members with information relating to the financial final outturn position for the Development and Regeneration (excluding Housing Services) (including Corporate Property Services), for the 2015/2016 financial year.

Members were advised that the final revenue expenditure outturn position for Development and Regeneration (excluding Housing Services) (including Corporate Property Services) was an underspend of £140,000 after reserve movements and the capital expenditure, including one off funding was £1,127,000 against a revised projection at quarter 3 of £2,889,000. Capital expenditure for Property Services at final outturn was £3,235,000 against a revised projection at quarter 3 of £4,097,000.

In terms of reserves, the department's general reserve at final year end was £38,039 and the budgeted efficiency savings for the department were £376,000 which had all been achieved.

With regard to risk, the report advised that specific areas of financial risk related to loss of income due to the economic downturn and loss of grants.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **17. AGMA BUSINESS SUMMARY REPORT**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which set out the appointments made by the Council to the various joint authorities and also gave a summary of the business considered at the authority meetings.

Members were reminded that part of the remit of this Scrutiny Committee was to monitor and review and, where appropriate, make recommendations regarding the work of outside organisations. The report focused on one aspect of this, in terms of the added value by the AGMA bodies, including AGMA Executive Board, The Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority and Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **18. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

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

- (a) The Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio held on 15<sup>th</sup> August and 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2016;
- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Resources Portfolio held on 15<sup>th</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2016; and
- (c) The Cabinet held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

A question was raised in relation to minute 27 'Closed Circuit Cycle Track' of the Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Resources minutes on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 and in relation to minute 14 of the Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.

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

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 p.m. and ended at 6.10 p.m.)