

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, REGENERATION, HOUSING AND
SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

11th APRIL, 2012

Present – Councillor Critchley (Chairman), Mrs. Fairclough (vice-Chairman), Burrows, Chadwick, Francis, Harkin, Kellett, Morgan, Murray (as deputy for Councillor Lord), Pickup, Silvester, P. Wild, D. A. Wilkinson and Woodward.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Morris	- Deputy for the Executive Member for Housing, Regeneration and Skills
Councillor Zaman	- Executive Member, Environmental Services
Councillor Sherrington	- Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Mr. K. Davies	- Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr M Cox	- Director of Environmental Services
Mr T Hill	- Chief Planning Officer
Mr S Young	- Assistant Director, Highways and Business Development (Environmental Services and Development and Regeneration)
Mr. D. Singleton	- Chairman of Bolton Community Leisure Trust
Ms. M. Horrocks	- Housing Strategy and Performance Manager
Mr. D. Shepherd	- Senior Group Accountant
Mr. J. Gorton	- Partnership Manager Leisure Trust
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	- Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Lord and Ms. J. Horan from BATRA and Councillor Ibrahim as Executive Member for Housing, Regeneration and Skills.

Councillor Critchley in the Chair

54. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Environmental Services, Regeneration, Housing and Skills Scrutiny Committee (Community Safety Partnership focus), held on 21st March, 2012, were submitted.

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 1st February, 2012 were submitted for information.

Resolved – That subject to the inclusion of Councillor Kellett in the attendance list, the minutes of the proceedings of the Committee held on 21st March, 2012 be signed as a correct record.

55. DECISION MONITORING REPORT

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which provided details of the progress of decisions taken at previous meetings of this Committee.

Resolved – That the report be noted

56. THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report, which set out the Committee's Annual Work Programme for the 2011/2012 Municipal Year.

Further to the issue of the SCOOT Traffic Management System considered at a previous meeting of this Committee, the issue of the SCOOT System on Blackburn Road was referred to in that it did not seem to be working. The Committee was informed that this would be looked into.

Resolved – That the Work Programme be noted.

**57. CALL –IN OF HORWICH LOCO WORKS
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Committee was advised that in accordance with Article 5 of the Council's Constitution Councillors Allen, Hall, Morgan, Norris, A. S. Walsh, J. Walsh and Woodward had exercised their right to Call-In the decision made at the Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing and Skills held on 27th March, 2012 in relation to the Horwich Loco Works Supplementary Planning Document.

Members were provided with the details of the various actions available to them following consideration of this issue. They were also provided with a copy of the report and an extract of the Executive Member minute in this regard.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- matters around the process for informal Member discussion of the matter prior to the Executive Member decision;
- issues around possible excess traffic on busy local roads;
- matters concerning the possible need for a full transport study to be undertaken.

Resolved – That the decision of the Executive Member be noted.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Part 4 : The Council's Rules and Procedures :Section E Scrutiny Procedure Rules; Paragraph 17, Councillors Critchley, Morgan and P. Wild exercised their right to refer this issue to the next full meeting of Council with a motion in the name of Councillor Critchley as follows ;-

Council recognises the importance of the Horwich Loco Works as a key development site within the core strategy

for both commercial and residential uses. Equally it wants to ensure that local residents are not inconvenienced by excess traffic on already busy roads like Chorley New Road, Crown Lane and De Havilland Way and that accordingly an alternative access to the site may be needed.

Council therefore believes that whilst agreeing the principle of the core strategy and the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) the Executive Member should not approve the detail of the SPD until a full transport study has been undertaken and agreed by all parties to the development including this Council and, accordingly, the matter be referred back to the Executive Member.

58. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided details of the financial and performance position for the Environmental Services Department as at Quarter Three of the 2011/12 Financial Year.

The report highlighted the following issues:

- Revenue expenditure was projected to underspend against the budget by £82,000;
- the Department had budgeted to use reserves of £143,000;
- Capital expenditure for the quarter totalled £6.787m against a programme of £20.714m;
- the projected reserve position as at 31st March, 2011 was £1,226,000 – detailed repayment plans were outlined in the report; and
- efficiency targets were £3,705,000 which included demand led of £200,000 to repay the deficit reserve. The current projection was to achieve 100% of the planned efficiencies.

Specific areas of risk related to the loss of income due to the economic downturn, energy prices for street lighting and winter

services.

With regard to the Department's deficit reserves, details of the on-going repayment plans were provided in the report.

Resolved – That the financial position of the Department as at Quarter Three and the on-going repayment plan in respect of the Department's deficit reserves be noted.

59. BOLTON AT HOME PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which informed the Executive Member of the progress being made by Bolton at Home on the delivery of the Offer Document promises made by the Council.

Members in their deliberations referred to matters around slippage of works and Members knowledge of scheduled works.

Resolved-(i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That Bolton at Home be asked to include the detail of scheduled works in future reports to this Committee.

60. THE LEISURE TRUST

Mr. Keith Davies, Director of Development and Regeneration and Mr. David Singleton, Chairman of the Bolton Community Leisure Trust (BCLT) gave a joint presentation on matters relating to the operation of the Leisure Trust. This included details of –

- what led to the establishment of the Trust;
- the Governance arrangements;
- the Leisure Centres Partnership Framework;
- the location of the various facilities;
- the role of the BCLT and its achievements;
- matters around the 2009 Leisure Review which was a comprehensive audit of indoor sports facilities;
- the long, medium and short term goals; and

- matters around savings and efficiencies options going forward.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- who was responsible for the various areas of land and the buildings;
- rationalisation and investment matters;
- the past condition of the facilities;
- the good working arrangements with Sirco; and
- disabled access facilities at the swimming pools.

Resolved- That Messrs Davies and Singleton be thanked for their presentation and that the position be noted.

61. THE ECONOMIC POSITION OF BOLTON

The Director of Development and Regeneration gave a presentation which outlined to the Committee matters concerning the potential and existing plans for development and innovations in the town centre of Bolton.

By way of background information, the Committee was informed that recent HM Government initiatives specifically related to town centre areas. These were, the High Street Innovation Fund which allocated £100,000 in March of this year and the Portas Pilot and a focus on delivering the 28 recommendations of the official Portas Review.

The presentation went on to outline matters concerning –

- the Town Management Team had been in place in Bolton since 2008 and the formation in 2010 of the Central Bolton Partnership to look after operational needs;
- matters around parking charges and comparisons with other towns;

- establishment of a National Market Day;
- the making of high streets accessible, attractive and safe;
- issues concerning the easing of the use class system for shops;
- the more proactive use of Compulsory Purchase Powers to encourage the re-development of key high street retail space;
- issues around the imaginative use of empty properties;
- challenges facing town centres in the current climate;
- Bolton town Centre letting / freehold sales statistics;
- information concerning the available retail space in the town centre;
- matters around the plans for the Ashburner Street Market and the Transport Interchange;
- Bolton's 2012 and Olympic Torch Relay Programme of Sport Events; and
- statistics relating to employment and housing in Bolton.

In their discussions, Members referred to matters around access to Town Centre monies.

Resolved- That Mr. Keith Davies be thanked for his informative presentation and that the current position be noted.

62. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

A joint report of the Directors of Development and Regeneration and Corporate Resources was submitted which

provided information relating to the financial and performance position for Development and Regeneration for the 2011/2012 financial year as at the end of Quarter Three.

The Committee was advised that the revenue expenditure for both Development and Regeneration and Housing Services was projected to underspend against the budget by £441,000 which included a contribution of reserves of £874,000. In terms of the capital programme, this amounted to £16,206,000 and the actual capital spend at the end of quarter three totalled £9,476,000.

The report also indicated that the Department's projected surplus reserve position as at 31st March, 2012 was £3.9 million and the budgeted efficiency savings for the department were £1,093,000 with the current projection being to fully achieve the options.

Resolved- That the report be noted.

63. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

- (a) Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing and Skills held on 21st February, 27th March and 4th April, 2012;
- (b) Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener Safer held on 22nd February, 2012;
- (c) Executive Member for Environmental Services held on 20th February and 26th March, 2012;
- (d) Regeneration Policy Development Group held on 14th and 20th March, 2012; and
- (e) Environmental Services and Cleaner, Greener, Safer Policy Development Group held on 26th March, 2012.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.19pm)

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