

HEATON AND LOSTOCK AREA FORUM

MEETING – WEDNESDAY 19TH OCTOBER, 2016

Present – 7 members of the public attended the meeting

Councillor Robert Allen	- Heaton and Lostock Ward
Councillor Colin Shaw	- Heaton and Lostock Ward

Also in attendance

Idris Jeewa	- Area Co-ordinator
Jane Bickerstaffe	- Business Support Officer
Kevan Roberts	- Environmental Services
PC Andy McMath	- Greater Manchester Police

Councillor Shaw in the Chair

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Councillor Shaw welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Councillor Allen and the other Council and partner officers present.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Morgan and Chris Green MP.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 3rd February, 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

5. PRESENTATION – CHILDREN’S CENTRES

As Amanda Highland-Partington, Team Manager, Children and Families Support Service (West), could not attend the forum, Idris Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator, read out a briefing note from Amanda on the proposals for Children’s Centres in Bolton.

Early Years Childcare, Children’s Centre and Family Support Proposals

To establish a new integrated **Start Well Service** with the following functions:

- Early Years - Quality and Outcomes, Special Educational Needs and Disability Support Communication and Language Development , Strategy and Commercial Services
- Children’s Centres and Family Support Services (continuing to deliver all elements of the Children’s Centre core purpose)

Proposed Integrated Service and Offer:

- Children’s Centres and Family Support Service will become integrated into the Education and Learning Division with Early Years Services
- Service delivery and provision will be further aligned to the Greater Manchester Start Well: Early Years Delivery Model and will progress in line with this
- Early Years Education and Learning staff will work as part of multi-agency teams to focus on the most vulnerable and further develop a traded offer for early years providers, schools and academies
- A central team will provide robust assessment and contact for looked after children

Buildings Proposed to Remain:

- The buildings proposed to remain as Children’s Centres are Great Lever, Tonge, Oldhams, Oxford Grove, Alexandra. Family rooms will be remaining in all these buildings.
- Development of integrated service delivery at other sites- proposed to be King Street Youth Centre and Winifred Kettle

- Harvey Children's Centre – proposed to be retained as a central assessment and contact centre
- Local community and 5 -19 years venues to be used across Bolton
- Continued but reduced delivery at Horwich, Blackrod and Bromley Cross library sites

Consideration of Expressions of Interest for the following Buildings:

- Lord Street and Grosvenor Children's Centre
- The Orchards Centre
- Kearsley Centre
- Little Lever Centre
- Crompton Children's Centre
- Heaton and Lostock Neighbourhood Children's Centre
- Bright Meadows Centre
- Westhoughton Centre
- Hulton Centre

Next Steps:

- The consultation closed on 3rd October 2016
- The final proposals will be presented in a report to be considered for approval, taking account of any revisions as a result of consultation
- There will be further staff and partner agency briefings following approval of final proposals
- Further information will be available for families and communities about changes to individual sites as soon as possible following consideration of expressions of interest and approval
- Implementation of the new service planned to take place in phases and more detail would follow approval

Q1	A resident asked if it was known what the expressions of interest were and who they were from? He then expressed his concern that Heaton and Lostock Children's Centre was the only community building in the ward and if it was to close, this would be a great loss to all ages of people living in the area.
A	Idris Jeewa said this information was not currently available, but residents would be informed of updates as and when they were known.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

6. BUDGET UPDATE

Councillor Shaw introduced Idris Jeewa, Area Co-ordinator, who gave a brief overview on budgets available for 2015-17.

After the last meeting, the following amounts remained in the budgets:

- Deprivation Budget - £622
- Flat Rate Budget - £9,075
- Highways Budget - £19,200

Since then, Members have made the following allocations:

Flat Rate Budget:

- £3,725 was allocated to install double yellow lines on Chorley New Road.
- £178 was allocated to install a 'no through road' sign on Oakwood Drive.

Remaining budget - £5,172

No monies have been allocated from the Deprivation and Highways budgets, but as and when decisions are made on the remainder of all these funds, this will be reported back to future area forums.

Resolved – That the report, together with those projects approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation be noted.

7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Councillor Shaw introduced this item on the agenda. One written question was received prior to the forum. This question and a response from Highways were read out before the residents were invited to ask any questions or put forward any other comments they had regarding issues and concerns in the ward.

Q1	I have an electric wheelchair I took this out for the first time some months ago on Ladybridge. I was unable to go far as most of the footpaths did not have lowered edges for wheelchair access and egress. Therefore I had to return home using the road at one stage, for which these chairs and disability scooters are not suitable. What do the Council propose to do to make the whole of Ladybridge estate accessible to disabled wheelchair and scooter users, as is the most of Bolton? As it stands a disability scooter/chair could not get from the estate up to Wigan Road without going on to the road.
A	Highways provided the following answer: Since about the 1980's virtually all new roads constructed with footways have dropped kerbs installed at suitable crossing points to assist people with mobility issues and those pushing prams and trolleys etc. In addition where footways have been reconstructed as part of maintenance or improvement schemes, dropped kerbs have been incorporated into the works where necessary. There are however, areas where the footways pre-date this and dropped kerbs are not in place. Where maintenance or improvement works are taking place dropped kerbs are routinely installed which rectifies the situation. There is currently no budget for installing dropped kerbs in isolation where no other works are taking place. However, some Area Forums have funded the installation of dropped kerbs in these situations where a need has been identified and this could be a possible solution in this case.
Q2	A resident asked why it was that residents are asked to put their bins out at the front of their property between certain times, but when they have been emptied they are sometimes left yards away from where they were collected.
A	This would be referred to Highways.
Q3	A resident had received a letter regarding the further expansion of Rumworth School, saying that the works would commence in the New Year. The resident expressed concern that when prior expansion works had taken place at the school, the number of car parking spaces allocated were less than originally planned and the

	concern was – would this happen again and lead to even more cars being parked on the roads outside the school grounds, causing further problems for residents and other road users?
A	Councillor Allen, who is a member of the Planning Committee, explained that the plans included a significant increase in parking spaces and he said he would check the planning application and report back exactly how many.
Q4	Another resident said he had not received a copy of the Bolton Scene since 15th September and he wondered how many more people have not received theirs. A few more residents said they had not received a copy for a while or not at all.
A	Refer to Marketing and Communications for response.
Q6	A resident asked if it would be possible to have a list of the new Directors departmental responsibilities put on the Council Website.
A	This would be referred to the Borough Treasurer.

Resolved – That the questions be noted and that any unanswered questions would be forwarded to the appropriate department.

8. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor Shaw thanked everyone for attending. The date of the next Heaton and Lostock Area Forum was yet to be confirmed, but this will be publicised through the usual channels.

(The meeting started at 7.02pm and finished at 8.12pm)