

**EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT,
REGULATORY SERVICES AND SKILLS**

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills:-

MONDAY, 25th MARCH, 2013

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills
Councillor J. Byrne	Cabinet Member for Economy Housing and Skills
Councillor Chadwick	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Councillor Sherrington	Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling
Councillor Critchley	Major Opposition Spokesperson, Economy Housing and Skills
Councillor A. S. Walsh	Major Opposition Spokesperson, Waste and Recycling
Councillor Radlett	Minor Opposition Spokesperson

Officers

Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration

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Ms. S. Schofield	Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Finance and Business Development
Ms. M. Horrocks	Unit Manager Strategic Housing
Mr. J. Berry	Head of Development Management
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

79. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out details of the decisions made at previous meetings and the progress on each to date.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

80. SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS ACT,1975 – POLICY DOCUMENTS

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which sought approval from the Executive Cabinet Member of three Policy Documents relating to the, Safety at Sports Grounds Act, 1975.

By way of background information, the report explained that to ensure there was transparency and due process it was essential that the local authority documents policies and procedures to deliver the safety at sports ground function.

The policies set out what the Club could expect from the service. They commit the Local authority to good practices and procedures and they supplement the Council's Policy Document on Managing Safety at Designated Sports Grounds, previously approved.

Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing and Skills, the Executive Cabinet

Member APPROVED the policies as referred to in the report.

90. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY : INTERIM STATEMENT, 2013-2015

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which set out an interim statement on the Homelessness Strategy, 2013 to 2015.

By way of background information, the Executive Cabinet Member was informed that Bolton had sought to regularly update and improve its, Tackling Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan, a document the Council was required to produce under the Homelessness Act, 2002.

The original Homelessness Strategy 2008-11 set out to co-ordinate all work in the Borough aimed at helping those who were experiencing homelessness; as well as those living in temporary or insecure accommodation.

The report went on to explain that the interim statement was set within a context of unprecedented change in national and local Government and within Housing within Bolton. Whilst building on the original aims of the 2008 Strategy, this statement intended to ensure continued buy in from across the Council and its partners in the prevention of homelessness. It revisited the key themes and sets out the key activities that would take place during 2012 -2015.

Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing and Skills, the Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the Homelessness Strategy : Interim Statement, 2013 -2015 and the associated action plan.

91. DRAFT TENANCY STRATEGY

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which set out details of a draft Tenancy Strategy for Bolton.

By way of background information, the report explained that legislation enacted through the Localism Act, 2011 had placed a duty on all local authorities to produce a Tenancy Strategy.

The document attached to the report, as an appendix, aimed to provide guidance to Registered Providers on the type and length of tenancies to be used in Bolton.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that consultation with Registered providers had been undertaken to establish their intention to use fixed term tenancies in the Borough.

In conclusion, the report indicated that the tenancy Strategy covered a three year period and enough flexibility was required to allow Registered Providers to adapt to the changing housing market and wider policy development. However, the Council's preferred option was for Registered Providers to offer lifetime tenancies.

Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing and Skills, the Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the Tenancy Strategy.

92. DRAFT AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which set out details of the draft Affordable Warmth Strategy for Bolton, for the period 2013 to 2018.

The Strategy aimed to address the issue of fuel poverty in Bolton and methods of assisting fuel poor residents.

A copy of the draft Strategy was appended to the report.

Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing and Skills, the Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the contents of the report.

93. HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCES : REVIEW OF THE RESTRICTION OF NUMBERS AND UNMET DEMAND

SURVEY

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which set out details of the comments received into the report commissioned into unmet demand in relation to hackney carriage vehicles in Bolton.

By way of background information, the report explained that in July, 2012 the Executive Cabinet Member for Environment, Regulatory Services and Skills approved the commissioning of an unmet demand survey to determine whether the Council's decision to restrict the numbers of hackney carriage vehicle licences remained appropriate. The limit to the current number was set at 110 with two plates not issued.

The report went onto explain the main details of the findings which included –

- demand was being met at ranks within the Town;
- a public survey showed that 67% of respondents had used a licensed vehicle in Bolton in the last three months. The survey also showed that hackney carriage usage levels were low and knowledge of ranks was poor;
- over 400 members of the public were surveyed and the main issue identified was the need for a better service; and
- supermarkets and hotels said they mainly used private hire vehicles.

The report went onto explain that the Trade had also been consulted and 85% of the drivers considered retaining the limit was right for the area. There was though support for more ranks and better advertising of existing ranks.

In conclusion, it was highlighted that –

- there was no evidence of unmet demand with the fleet operating with 108 vehicles;
- demand for hackney carriages had fallen to 4,100 passengers in a typical week, compared to 9,000 in 2003;

- hackney carriage ranks and vehicles did not appear to be visible enough; and
- driver standards needed to be improved.

The report also set out details of the key recommendations from the commissioned report.

The Waste, Recycling, Highways and Transport Policy Development Group had previously considered the results of the unmet demand survey report and also that the report's recommendations would be considered in the context of other priorities.

The Executive Cabinet Member AGREED –

- (i) The retention of the restriction to the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences;**
- (ii) That the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences be reduced from 110 to 108;**
- (iii) To explore the provision of a rank at the Royal Bolton Hospital;**
- (iv) To consult on and develop any of the independent report's other recommendations; and**
- (v) That the cost of the survey will be recovered from the hackney carriage licence holders at £34 per year over a two year period, as previously approved.**

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved - That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 1 (staffing matters) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the

public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

94. PROPOSED SAVINGS AND STAFF RESTRUCTURING WITHIN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which set out detailed proposals to achieve the Strategic Development Service £480,000 savings options as part of the overall Development and Regeneration savings and efficiencies programme for 2013/15.

By way of background information, the report explained that the Council had to make savings of £43.4 million over the next two years and the target for Development and Regeneration was £2.02 M.

The report set out the specific details of the proposals which were now for the purposes of consultation.

The Executive Cabinet Member was also informed that it was anticipated that the final proposals would be considered in June, 2013 with a revised structure in place by September, 2013.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the report for consultation purposes with the trades unions, staff and stakeholders.