

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 13TH DECEMBER, 2010

Present – Councillors Zaman (Chairman), Critchley, Peel, A. Walsh and D. Wilkinson.

Also in Attendance

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| Mr M. Cox | - | Director of Environmental Services |
| Mr M. Veigas | - | Assistant Director, Community Services |
| Mr I. Taylor | - | Head of Parking Services |
| Mr A. Morris | - | Senior Lawyer |
| Mr A. Fisher | - | Group Manager, Licensing and Pest Control |
| Ms J. Casey | - | Acting Markets Manager |
| Ms E. Long | - | Head of Service – School Meals |
| Mrs S Bailey | - | Principal Democratic Services Officer |

An Apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Darvesh (Vice-Chairman).

Councillor Zaman in the Chair

33. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Group held on 8th November, 2010 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

34. PRIVATE MARKET LICENCE REVIEW

Further to Minute of the meeting of this Group held on 4th October, 2010, the Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which requested members to consider:

- (a) the implementation of a new policy for the management and licensing by the Council of commercial, charitable and private markets including car boot sales; and
- (b) the adoption of Section 37 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in respect of temporary markets for the Council.

The report reminded members that the Council had exclusive rights of franchise to operate and licence retail markets within its boundary. The Council could therefore control market type operations by granting licences or could

seek to operate all markets within the Borough to the exclusion of all others.

In this regard, the report sought to review the Council's approach to this right and also recommended that the Council should adopt Section 37 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in respect of requiring notice to hold temporary or permanent markets.

The report outlined the current policy and existing arrangements for the licensing of markets, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and put forward various revised proposals for the future licensing of markets, full details of which were provided.

In addition, proposals for licensing of occasional temporary markets or occasional car boot sales for charitable fundraising were also outlined.

The report went on to discuss the legal issues surrounding the Council's intention to introduce the new procedures and the enforcement position.

Following consideration of the report, members discussed the proposals. In relation to enforcement, members felt that the Authority's Legal Section should be involved to keep it a separate issue from the Environmental Services role of the licensing.

It was agreed that the Executive Member be requested to agree the proposals for the licensing of commercial markets and car boots sales, as detailed in the report now submitted and the adoption of Section 37 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 with respect to giving notice to hold temporary markets.

35. SCHOOL MEALS - KEY ISSUES

Ms E. Long, Head of Service, School Meals, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on various issues relating to school meals.

Members were advised that the service had recently received a number of notable awards namely:

- Best Improver for School Meals; and
- Business of the Year.

Bolton had achieved the reputation of providing a good quality meals service.

The presentation highlighted the following issues:

- the number and type of meals provided and to which schools;
- staffing numbers;
- the main support funding streams;

- income received; and
- highly regulated primary school meals environment.

The presentation then focused on the success of the £1 meal promotion which had been provided since 2008 and highlighted the main findings such as the uptake, benefits to local families, added health benefits and the national profile.

Members were then advised of the key issues and constraints facing service provision namely, Government funding withdrawal 2011, delegation of budgets, service level agreements, increasing food costs, regulation, inflation, restricted employment options and piloting the future strategy. In addition, there would be a funding gap and shortfall which would need to be addressed. A new tariff would have to be considered.

The presentation went on to identify proposed savings for school meals to meet the required target savings which included:

- menu choice and content;
- second phase management restructure;
- spend on cleaning materials;
- staffing review;
- joint administration;
- IT electronic data transfer.

Members were also advised of value for money options, potential shared savings and internal strategic options.

It was agreed that Ms Long be thanked for her informative presentation.

36. STREET PARKING PROVISION

Mr I. Taylor, Head of Parking Services, attended the meeting and gave a presentation and update on the Council's parking strategy.

Members were updated on the following issues:

- surface level car parks;
- the new multi – storey car parks on Topp Way and Deane Road;
- on street parking
- Blue Badge holders and associated issues;
- gradual removal of Town Centre car parks; and
- enforcement.

It was agreed that Mr Taylor be thanked for his informative presentation and that a fuller report on the parking issues identified be submitted to a future meeting of this PDG in due course.