

# **Bolton Council**

## **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

## **SUMMONS AND AGENDA**





## **BOLTON COUNCIL**

---

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held via Microsoft Teams Live Event on Wednesday next, 17 March, 2021 at 7.00 p.m. when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

### **1. Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

### **2. Constitution**

#### **(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Greenhalgh –**

That the quarterly report on Executive decisions made under the special urgency provisions, as circulated, be noted.

#### **(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Greenhalgh –**

That the amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation for 2020/2021, as circulated, be approved.

### **3. Recommendations to Council**

#### **(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Greenhalgh -**

- (1) Agree to the establishment of joint committees and to delegate to those committees the Authority's functions as set out in the report to the Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 regarding Clean Air ('the Report') at paragraph 8.5 and the terms of reference as set out in Appendix 6 to the report;**

- (2) Agree to appoint the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Service Delivery to sit on both committees for purposes as set out in the Report at paragraph 8.5 with specific terms of reference as set out in Appendix 6 to the report; and
- (3) Agree to appoint the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services as substitute for both committees for purposes as set out in the Report at paragraph 8.5 with specific terms of reference as set out in Appendix 6 to the Report.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Greenhalgh –

- (1) Approve a new joint committee under Part VI of the Local Government Act 1972 along with Bury Council, Manchester City Council, Oldham Council, Rochdale Borough Council, Salford Council, Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Trafford Borough Council and Wigan Council;
- (2) Delegate authority to the joint committee to prepare, adopt and implement a joint development plan document to cover strategic policies including housing and employment land requirements and, as appropriate, strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments and associated infrastructure across the nine districts insofar as such matters are executive functions;
- (3) Agree the district lead Member for the joint committee and a nominated deputy to attend and vote as necessary

**4. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies**

**5. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)**

**6. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)**

**7. Committee Proceedings**

To approve the proceedings of the following Committee:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

**8. Scrutiny Committees**

To receive and consider the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committees:-

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section C)

Joint meeting of Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee and Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

**9. Motions under Standing Order No.4**

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

Council notes that Bolton has suffered 10 years of swinging cuts, under the guise of austerity, that despite promises from successive Prime Ministers that austerity was “over”, that the cuts and subsequent damage to council services continued.

Council believes that the impact of the years of cuts has left this council exposed and vulnerable to an unforeseen crisis, and that our resilience to deal with such a crisis has been damaged. The “perfect storm” of the Covid Pandemic has now led to council finances being stretched to such an extent, that further heavy cuts will cause damage beyond repair for the foreseeable future.

Council notes that Covid related costs, both in year, and projected to future years are considerable, both in terms of loss in income, loss

of projected future income, and additional demands of services, and cannot be easily quantified in the proposed 2021/23 budget.

Council notes that at the start of the Covid crisis, the Government promised to do all that it can to assist local councils and said that no local council would be out of pocket. Council now concludes that the Government has fundamentally failed to keep its promises and has failed the people of Bolton.

Council believes that the actions of the Government, in turning a blind eye, to the financial crisis in local government across the country is a dereliction of duty, and that in forcing elected members to a position of making over £35 million pounds of cuts to staff and services in a single financial year is immoral and wrong.

Council believes that the £3 million of additional Government resources for our council services is nothing short of an insult.

Council notes that a motion calling for the Government to assist Bolton Council budget setting, by allowing deficit budgets to be passed for a period of time, thus spreading the pain over several years, whilst allowing for the economy and therefore income levels at the council to improve, was passed unanimously. However, council is extremely disappointed that despite lobbying on this 'part solution' to the crisis, the Government has failed to formally respond to this motion.

Council maintains its position that the stringent and pedantic controls that central Government has placed on local councils requiring them to always set a balanced budget, even in times of a national crisis, are no longer fit for purpose, and that the Government needs to take urgent action to reform these strict rules.

Council, therefore regards the financial parameters around the 2021/23 budget to be wholly false, misleading and short term in their nature, and that a long term financial settlement, that allows

(A) additional Government funding, and

(B) the ability to plan properly for the future, by allowing for deficit budgeting.

is the only viable solution to Bolton Councils financial problems.

(b) Motion in name of Councillor Sherrington –

This Council recognises and applauds the vital work that is being carried out by frontline care workers across Bolton, during the Covid 19 pandemic, looking after and protecting some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Council is resolute in its view that decent care work cannot be done on the cheap, and that the Government should challenge the culture of low paid staff who often feel undervalued, by leading a new national strategy in investment in pay, training and support.

Council therefore calls upon the Government to invest £1.4 billion into care workers pay, meaning that these staff who serve a vital function in society receive a 'real Living Wage' of £9.30 per hour, outside of London and £10.75 in London.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Murray -

This Council expresses its serious concern about the issue of speeding cars and reckless driving within our Borough, which is continually leading to needless loss of life resulting in devastating damage to families and communities.

Council accepts that cuts to police budgets has led to a reduction in the ability for the police to effectively enforce speed restrictions. In addition, since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic, police resources have been further stretched.

Council notes that one method by which the issue of speeding cars can be tackled is to tap into the willingness of community groups to organise Community Speedwatch Initiatives, and notes the successful, but informal, pilot that has been operating in Ainsworth Lane, Tonge with the Haulgh Ward. Whilst accepting that CSI's are not a panacea to the problem, Council is nevertheless disappointed that in reply to a question from a member, the GM Neighbourhood Roads Policing Manager did not offer any reassurance of a full roll out of these initiatives.

Council believes that the issues raised by GM police can be solved in partnership with Bolton Council.

Accordingly, Council asks that early talks be opened between Officers of the Council, the Police and the GM Mayors Office in order to resolve any obstructions that are preventing the roll out of Community Speedwatch Initiatives.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor McKeon –

That building on the decision of the Council to declare a Climate Emergency and the significant amount of work currently in train to make that declaration a reality, this Council expresses, in a vote, its support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill currently before the House of Commons. Furthermore, the Council agrees to contact the three MPs who represent the borough to urge them to support the bill.



Next year the UK is to co-host the 26th Climate Change Conference and thus has an opportunity to show leadership in combating what is possibly the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced. The evidence of the catastrophic effects of climate change is now too obvious to enumerate. The related ecological disaster is only too apparent with the decimation of species the most egregious example.

The objectives of the bill are to ensure that the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C and actively conserving the natural world by protecting and restoring the UK's ecosystems.

It also calls for a temporary Citizens Assembly to help the Government and Parliament to decide on the measures to include in the strategy necessary to achieve the objectives.

This Council, on behalf of the people of Bolton, who we represent, expresses its support for a bill which contains measures which are potentially lifesaving for ecosystems, species and humanity.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Hayes –

Council considers that the majority of members of Greater Manchester Police perform their duties with a high degree of dedication and professionalism and wishes to thank them for their work during such hard times.

Council recognises that Government cuts to the Greater Manchester Police budget of £215 million over 10 years, which resulted in cuts of 2,000 officers and 1,000 support staff, has inevitably led to a reduction in the standard of service provided to the residents of Greater Manchester and Bolton. However, the recent report by the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue

Services (HMICFRS) indicates that the performance of Greater Manchester Police is far worse than that of the majority of other forces. HMICFRS found that over 80,000 crimes had not been recorded in the year ending on 30th June and the force was placed in 'Special Measures'.

Council considers that the recent damning HMICFRS report indicates a serious lack of organisation and leadership in Greater Manchester police, for which senior officers must be held largely responsible.

Council notes however, that the role of Elected Mayor for Greater Manchester incorporates the responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner, with responsibility to ensure efficient and effective policing in the area. The existing Elected Mayor appointed a Deputy Mayor to carry out this role on his behalf. Council is concerned that despite warnings from HMICFRS in 2016, 2018 and earlier in 2020, no action appears to have been taken by either the Mayor or Deputy Mayor to deal with the very real concerns, and believes that they have seriously let down the residents of Bolton and Greater Manchester as a whole by their inactivity.

Council resolves to request that the Mayor prepares a detailed report to Bolton Council indicating the action plan to return policing in the Borough to an efficient and effective level.



TONY OAKMAN  
Chief Executive  
Town Hall, Bolton

10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 are included for information only in a separate volume together with the Constitutional Panel.

## NOTES

**BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**2020/2021**

---

**17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

Present - Councillors Mrs. Thomas (Mayor), Mrs. Fairclough (Deputy Mayor), Abdullah, Adia, Allen, Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth, McMulkin, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

**58. IN MEMORIUM – CAPTAIN SIR TOM MOORE**

Members observed a minutes silence in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore who had sadly passed away.

**59. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**60. 2020/2021 BUDGET, COUNCIL TAX AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL MATTERS**

It was moved by Councillor Greenhalgh and seconded by Councillor Cox -

- (i) That the following recommendations of the Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be approved:-

- (a) The Council be recommended to approve the Budget for 2021/22

## A2

- (b) That the council tax for 2021/22 be increased by 3.8% comprising
    - The Adult Social Care Precept at 2.5%
    - The general levy at 1.3%
  - (c) The Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme and Strategy for 2021/22
  - (d) The Council be recommended to approve the Investment and Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategies 2021/22 to 2023/24
- (ii) It be noted that on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the Cabinet calculated
- (a) the Council Tax Base 2021/22 for the whole Council area as 76,281 (item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”); and
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as:

### Parish Councils

The Parish of Blackrod	1,982	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Horwich	7,518	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Westhoughton	8,610	Band D Equivalents

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year 2021/22 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (iii) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2021/22 (excluding Parish precepts) is £120,050,560
- (iv) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act.

### A3

- |              |              |  |          |         |         |          |              |          |
|--------------|--------------|--|----------|---------|---------|----------|--------------|----------|
| (a)          | £237,319,396 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.  |          |         |         |          |              |          |
| (b)          | £116,842,835 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.   |          |         |         |          |              |          |
| (c)          | £120,476,561 | being the amount by which the aggregate at (iv)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iv)(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).  |          |         |         |          |              |          |
| (d)          | £1,579.37    | being the amount at (iv)(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T ((ii)(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).  |          |         |         |          |              |          |
| (e)          | £426,001.00  | <p>being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, each individual parish precept being:</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Blackrod</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£71,847</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Horwich</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£204,559</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Westhoughton</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£149,595</td> </tr> </table> | Blackrod | £71,847 | Horwich | £204,559 | Westhoughton | £149,595 |
| Blackrod     | £71,847      |  |          |         |         |          |              |          |
| Horwich      | £204,559     |  |          |         |         |          |              |          |
| Westhoughton | £149,595     |  |          |         |         |          |              |          |
| (f)          | £1,573.79    | being the amount at (iv)(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iv)(e) above by Item T (ii)(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council   |          |         |         |          |              |          |

## A4

Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

(g)	Part of the Council's Area	Parish of Blackrod	£1,610.04
		Parish of Horwich	£1,601.00
		Parish of Westhoughton	£1,591.16

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at (e) above divided in each case by the amount at (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

### (h) Part of the Council's Area

Valuation bands	Parish of Blackrod	Parish of Horwich	Parish of Westhoughton	All other parts of the Council's area
A	£1,073.36	£1,067.33	£1,060.77	£1,049.19
B	£1,252.26	£1,245.23	£1,237.58	£1,224.07
C	£1,431.14	£1,423.11	£1,414.36	£1,398.92
D	£1,610.04	£1,601.00	£1,591.16	£1,573.79
E	£1,967.82	£1,956.77	£1,944.74	£1,923.51
F	£2,325.62	£2,312.56	£2,298.35	£2,273.26
G	£2,683.40	£2,668.33	£2,651.93	£2,622.98
H	£3,220.08	£3,202.00	£3,182.32	£3,147.58

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (f) and (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands



## A5

(v) That it be noted that for the year 2021/22 the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and the Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

### Precepting Authority

Valuation Bands	Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)	Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept
A	£60.63	£145.53
B	£70.73	£169.78
C	£80.84	£194.04
D	£90.95	£218.30
E	£111.16	£266.81
F	£131.37	£315.32
G	£151.58	£363.83
H	£181.90	£436.60

(vi) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iv), (f), (i), and (v), the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

### (i) Part of the Council's Area

Valuation bands	Parish of Blackrod	Parish of Horwich	Parish of Westhoughton	All other parts of the Council's area
A	£1,279.52	£1,273.49	£1,266.93	£1,255.35
B	£1,492.77	£1,485.74	£1,478.09	£1,464.58
C	£1,706.02	£1,697.99	£1,689.24	£1,673.80
D	£1,919.29	£1,910.25	£1,900.41	£1,883.04
E	£2,345.79	£2,334.74	£2,322.71	£2,301.48
F	£2,772.31	£2,759.25	£2,745.04	£2,719.95
G	£3,198.81	£3,183.74	£3,167.34	£3,138.39
H	£3,838.58	£3,820.50	£3,800.82	£3,766.08

- (vii) That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 at an increase of 3.80% is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (viii) That the Deputy Chief Executive be delegated authority to collect revenues and disburse monies from the relevant accounts.
- (ix) That it be noted that the Government have set a National Non-Domestic Rate of 49.9p in the pound for small businesses and 51.2p in the pound for larger businesses for the financial year 2021/22.
- (x) That the Council's current policy in respect of discretionary relief for charitable organisations, as approved by the Cabinet on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021, be reaffirmed and that the Deputy Chief Executive be delegated authority to determine applications for such relief.
- (xi) That War Disablement Pensions and War Widows' Pensions be disregarded for the purposes of the Council Tax Support Scheme.
- (xii) That Council approves the following definition for the 'minimum occupancy period' for Council Tax Discount Class C properties, to apply from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021:

“For the purposes of Discount Class C, in considering whether a dwelling has been vacant for any period, any one period, not exceeding six weeks, during which it was not vacant shall be disregarded”.
- (xiii) That the minutes of the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committee regarding their consideration of the budgets be noted:-

Corporate Cultural and External Issues 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Heslop and seconded by Councillor Pattison -

That if an individual Member agrees to forego all or part of their Basic and/or Special Allowance and makes this wish known at the beginning of the Municipal year, that the amount is released after each quarter to the area forum budget. The awarding of grants in respect of the enhanced area forum budget will be subject to the existing criteria and same decision-making process.

The amendment was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Amendment, 35 viz:

Councillors Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ismail, McGeown, McMulkin, Morgan, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Radcliffe, Sanders, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Amendment, 21 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Allen, Ayub, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Haworth, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Khurram, McKeon, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the amendment was declared carried.

Whereupon as an amendment to the substantive motion, it was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor Newall -

In considering this budget, Council:

1. Condemns the Government for
  - a) once again starving local government of the resources needed to properly fund many essential services which again displays its contempt for local

- democracy;
- b) failing to honour its promise of reimbursing the Council in full for the costs incurred and income lost as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic; which together have been a major reason for the Council needing to make cuts this year amounting to nearly £32 million;

2. Notes that

- a) once again the Government has failed to keep its promise to develop a national scheme for social care with funding from national resources rather than expecting the Council Tax payers of Bolton to fund a considerable proportion of it;
- b) the Government has again failed to deliver on their promise made in 2016/17 of a Fair Funding review for local government, or on their promise of a business rates reset;

3. Recognises that whichever party or parties were in control of the administration, Bolton Council would be faced with a similar dilemma, but that it is preferable for decisions about our budget to be made by Bolton's elected representatives rather than by Government appointed commissioners;

4. Recognises that the additional capital made available for maintenance of residential roads was welcome, but that it made only a small impression on the estimated £100 million plus arrears backlog, and that the winter of 2020/21 will have caused further deterioration. Council accordingly strongly urges the Cabinet to find further sources of capital to continue with maintenance of residential roads.

5. Council wishes to record its thanks to all staff for their dedication during the period of the pandemic. In that context it wishes to also record its relief that the Cabinet has listened to strong pressure from the Liberal Democrat Group to remove the policy option which would have imposed a three day unpaid shutdown which would have been a pay cut for all employees.

6. Council puts on record that it considers that local government in general, and Bolton in particular has been treated despicably by the government in its lack of funding. We have been forced to cut services year on year for many years, and are now at the point where we believe that any further cuts will make it impossible for the Council to function in a way that we believe is acceptable, and the carrying out of even many statutory functions will be under threat.

Council resolves to convey this view in the strongest terms to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Local Government Association and the Borough's Members of Parliament.

The amendment was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Amendment, 35 viz:

Councillors Allen, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ismail, McGeown, Morgan, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Radcliffe, Sanders, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Amendment, 21 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Haworth, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the amendment was declared carried.

Whereupon as a second amendment to the substantive motion, it was moved by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Veevers -

In considering the budget Council regrets that an opportunity to cut costs by reducing the number of Councillors as consistently proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group was not taken. Had other Groups supported a reduction, it is likely that the Boundary Commission would have accepted those arguments.

Council notes that

- a) the Liberal Democrats recommended a reduction of 10 Councillors which with on costs and changed electoral arrangements would have brought an annual saving of around £150,000;
- b) the two conservative parties (the Conservatives and Labour) opted for no change;
- c) the 'hyper local' parties both recommended an increase of 3 – meaning extra expenditure of around £50,000 a year ;
- d) one independent member opted for an increase of 9 – meaning an approximately £125,000 extra would have to be funded by the Council Tax payers of the Borough

To keep the number of Councillors the same at a time when the Council has lost many functions, the number of employees has reduced by over 40% and the revenue budget has suffered considerable reductions will be seen by many as not being justifiable.

The second amendment was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

For the Amendment, 6 viz:

Councillors Allen, Hayes, McGeown, Newall, Veevers and Wilkinson.

Against the Amendment, 50 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Haworth, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wright and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the second amendment was declared lost.

Whereupon the original motion incorporating the amendments by Councillors Heslop and Hayes was then put to the meeting, when the voting for and against was as follows:-

For the Motion, 28 viz:

Councillors Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Radcliffe, Sanders, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby and Wright.

Against the Motion, 22 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Darvesh, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Haworth, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas and Zaman.

Abstained, 6 viz:

Councillors Allen, Hayes, McGeown, Newall, Veevers and Wilkinson.

Whereupon, the original motion, as amended, was then declared carried.

## **61. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

It was moved by Councillor Greenhalgh and seconded by Councillor Cox -

To approve the proposals as detailed in the report in relation to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.

The Motion was then put to the vote when the voting was as follows:-

### For the Motion, 27 viz:

Councillors Allen, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hewitt, Hornby, Morgan, Muslim, Parkinson, Pattison, Radcliffe, Sanders, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby and Wright.

### Against the Motion, 5 viz:

Councillors Adia, Darvesh, Heslop, Ismail and McMulkin.

### Abstained, 22 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Ayub, Cunliffe, Donaghy, Evans, Fletcher, Hayes, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Newall, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Wilkinson and Zaman.

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

## **62. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES**



It was moved by Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Khurram and approved –

1. That Councillor Abdullah replace Councillor Ibrahim on the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
2. That Councillor Ibrahim replace Councillor Abdullah on the Health Overview and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee
3. That the following members be appointed to the Constitutional Panel:-
  - Cllr Mrs. Fairclough
  - Cllr Morgan
  - Cllr Donaghy
  - Cllr Haworth
  - Cllr Murray
  - Cllr Brady
  - Cllr Pattison
  - Cllr Ismail
  - Cllr Allen
  - Cllr Newall
  - Cllr Hornby

### **63. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Ayub and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held 7<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be approved.

### **64. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

It was moved by Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Councillor Pattison and agreed –

That the minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be approved:-

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee –  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 1<sup>st</sup>  
February 2021

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
February 2021

At this point, the Mayor advised that as the meeting had gone past the time limit of 10.30 p.m., the following Motions under Standing Order 4 would be deferred to the meeting of the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, viz:-

- Council Finances;
- Care Workers Pay;
- Community Speed Watch Initiatives;
- Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill; and
- Action Plan for Greater Manchester Police.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 11.00 p.m.)

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Ayub (Vice-Chairman), Connor (as deputy for Councillor Radcliffe), Darvesh, Dean, Galloway (as deputy for Councillor Morgan), Haworth, Hayes, Hornby, Mistry, Newall (as deputy for Councillor Wilkinson), Peel, Sanders, Sherrington and Wright.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Morgan, Radcliffe and Wilkinson

### **35. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **36. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered certain applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

Councillor Allen, in his capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the meeting and spoke in respect of application numbered 10058/20

Members of the public addressed the Committee in relation to the following applications:

10058/20

06460/19

Resolved - That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place be dealt with, as follows:-

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
05250/19	Application for a lateral northerly extension to the existing quarry in order to facilitate the extraction of gritstone for the purpose of producing high grade stone and aggregates at Montcliffe Quarry, Georges Lane, Horwich	<b>The application had been withdrawn for consideration by the Committee and deferred to a future meeting.</b>
06464/19	Erection of 2 no. residential detached dwellings on land adjacent sub-station, Doris Avenue	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (15):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Connor, Galloway, Darvesh, Dean, Haworth, Hayes, Hornby, Mistry, Newall, Peel, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and Wright.</p>
10058/20	Extension and other alterations to golf driving range at Regent Park Golf Club, Links Road, Lostock	<p><b>Refused, for the following reasons:</b></p> <p><b>1.The construction phase of the proposed development, primarily</b></p>

		<p><b>the HGV movements along Links Road in association with the proposed importation of material, will result in a harmful increase in noise and disturbance to the detriment of the living conditions of nearby residents and is contrary to Policy CG4 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>2.The proposed number of HGV trips to and from the application site, required for the importation of material during the construction phase, would have an unacceptable impact on highway safety on Chorley New Road, contrary to Policy S1.2 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>3.The proposed remodelling/engineering works and the loss of a significant number of mature trees from the application site will have a harmful medium term impact on the landscape character of the area until the replacement tree planting has sufficiently matured, contrary to</b></p>
--	--	---

		<p><b>Policy CG3.7 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</b></p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for refusal of the application (9):</p> <p>Councillors Connor, Galloway, Darvesh, Dean, Hayes, Hornby, Newall, Walsh and Wright.</p> <p>Members voting against refusal of the application (6):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Haworth, Mistry, Peel, Sanders and Sherrington.</p>
--	--	---

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 3.00pm)

---

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Ayub (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Connor, Dean, Hayes, Hornby, McKeon (as deputy for Councillor Haworth), Mistry, Morgan, Newall (as deputy for Councillor Wilkinson), Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Wright.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Darvesh, Haworth and Wilkinson.

### **37. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **38. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered certain applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

Councillors Silvester and Brady, in their capacity as Ward Councillors, attended the meeting and spoke in respect of application numbered 05250/19.

Councillor Baines, in her capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the meeting and spoke in respect of application numbered 10231/21

Members of the public addressed the Committee in relation to the following applications:

05250/19                      09993/20                      09591/20    10231/21

Resolved - That the various planning applications submitted by the Director of Place be dealt with, as follows:-

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Proposal and Location</b>	<b>Decision</b>
09591/20	Change of use and conversion of office building to 88 no. self-contained flats with associated external	<b>That the decision be delegated to the Director of Place for approval, subject to a Section 106 Agreement.</b>

	alterations and landscaping at Lincoln House, Nelson Street	<p>A motion to delegate the decision to the Director of Place for approval, subject to a Section 106 Agreement, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application, subject to a Section 106 Agreement (15):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Connor, Hayes, Hornby, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and Wright.</p> <p>Councillors voting against approval of the application (1): Councillor Dean</p>
09993/20	Demolition of buildings and erection of a mixed use development comprising 158 dwellings, commercial floorspace, public square and improvement of the River Croal embankment together with highway works, parking, landscaping and other associated works on land to the east of Central Street	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>An amendment to defer the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>The amendment was put to the vote.</p>



		<p>Councillors voting for the amendment to defer the application (3):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Sherrington and Wright.</p> <p>Councillor voting against the amendment to defer the application (12):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Dean, Hayes, Hornby, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders and Walsh.</p> <p>The amendment was lost.</p> <p>The substantive motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was then put to the vote.</p> <p>Councillors voting for the substantive motion to approve the application, subject to conditions (15):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Dean, Hayes, Hornby, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and Wright.</p>
10231/21	Prior approval application for a 15m phase 8 monopole c/w wraparound	<b>Refused, as recommended in the report.</b>

	cabinet at base and associated ancillary works on Mansell Way, Middlebrook, Horwich	<p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Councillors voting for refusal of the application (15):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Connor, Dean, Hornby, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and Wright.</p>
05250/19	Application for a lateral northerly extension to the existing quarry in order to facilitate the extraction of gritstone for the purpose of producing high grade stone and aggregates at Montcliffe Quarry, Georges Lane, Horwich.	<p><b>Refused.</b></p> <p><b>1.The proposed development, both during the extraction phase and following restoration, would fail to maintain and respect the landscape character of the area, contrary to Policies CG3 and OA1.11 of Bolton’s Core Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>2.The proposed development would constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt in that it would not preserve the openness of the Green Belt, contrary to Policy CG7AP of Bolton’s Core Strategy.</b></p>

		<p><b>3. The proposed mineral extraction would result in a loss of and harm to biodiversity during the operational phase of the development, contrary to Policy CG1.1 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</b></p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for refusal of the application (16):</p> <p>Councillors Allen, Ayub, Connor, Dean, Hayes, Hornby, McKeon, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and Wright.</p>
--	--	---

### **39. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS**

The Director of Place submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 27<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 4.40pm)

B10

**NOTES**

**PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

Present – Councillors Weatherby (Vice-Chairman), Ayub, Brady, Connor, Dean, Evans, McKeon, Peel, Radcliffe, Walsh, Wilkinson and Zaman.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Cox	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Mrs Fairclough	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Regulatory Services
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning)
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place
Mr. J. Dyson	Deputy Director of Place
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Ms. M. Horrocks	Head of Economic Development
Ms. L. Boardman	Principal Project Officer
Mr. S. Manley	Head of Planning
Mr. D. Shepherd	Principal Group Accountant
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

(Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Bagnall and Gibbon.)

Councillor Weatherby in the Chair.

## **23. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 were submitted.

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

## **24. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received the updated work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

## **25. DEPARTMENT OF PLACE QUARTER TWO FINANCE MONITORING REPORT**

The Director of Place submitted a report which set out details of the financial quarter two projected outturn position of the Directorate of Place.

The report explained that revenue expenditure showed a projected overspend against the budget of £341,000 after planned reserve movements.

For capital expenditure this was £26.5m against a revised budget of £86.5m.

The Directorate of Place had fully used all general reserves in year and held a projected balance of £5.456m earmarked reserves.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **26. DEPARTMENT OF PLACE QUARTER THREE FINANCE MONITORING REPORT**

The Director of Place submitted a report which set out details of the financial quarter three projected outturn position of the Directorate of Place.

The report explained that revenue expenditure showed a projected overspend against the budget of £625,000 after planned reserve movements.

For capital expenditure this was £35.5m against a revised budget of £77.43m.

The Directorate of Place had fully used all general reserves in year and held a projected balance of £5.563m earmarked reserves.

Members in their discussions referred to the issue of the cost of planning appeals, the numbers involved and how many had been won.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That Members of this Committee be provided details of the cost of planning appeals, their number and how many had been won.

## **27. OVERVIEW OF COUNCIL PLANNING SERVICES**

Mr. Paul Whittingham, Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration gave a presentation which provided Members with an overview of the planning service.

Members were advised that the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) reviewed Bolton's planning decision making and application handling processes in September, 2016.

A further review of the service was currently being undertaken to –

- Review the progress of the transformational work identified by PAS;
- Identify and address new issues / concern that had arisen subsequently;
- Identify opportunities to introduce service efficiencies; and

## C4

- Consider the potential for additional revenue generation as part of the Place directorate's required 2021/22 budget savings.

Mr. Whittingham highlighted key areas of service transformation in terms of, staffing, IT, Local Validation List, Pre-app, Planning Performance and enforcement.

The meeting was also informed of matters concerning pre-application charges and the practicalities of introducing this. Also, in terms of Planning Enforcement Agreements, it was highlighted that current planning guidance and advice encouraged local planning authorities to provide this service.

The meeting was also informed of matters around planning workloads and applications received, determined and on-hand.

In conclusion, other proposed improvements to the service were highlighted and those included –

- Officer and member training;
- Improved communication and support for officers through more team meetings, mentoring, 1-2-1s etc;
- Proposed agents forum;
- Review of the scheme of delegation; and
- Changes to the Section 106 process and how they were managed.

It was also mentioned that the Pre-Application Process, Local Validation List and Enforcement Policy Changes would be brought forward for approval in March / April, 2021. The new IT system would also go live in August, 2021.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- The planning review of 2006 by the LGA and public participation;
- Review of how planning can be more efficient;
- Surveys of applicants and objectors;
- What defined a major application and fee issues / cost recovery;



- Proposed changes and where presented for scrutiny purposes;
- Free advice;
- Fees for pre-discussions; and
- Enforcement matters.

Resolved – That Mr. Whittingham be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **28. UPDATE ON TOWN CENTRE (AND DISTRICT CENTRES) REGENERATION**

Mr. Paul Whittingham, Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration gave a presentation which updated members on the position regarding Town and District centre regeneration.

The meeting was informed that town centres remained key to the UK economy but that regeneration had to align with challenges and those included –

- Consumer trends / online shopping;
- Increase housing and diversity uses;
- Designed around what people wanted; and
- Impact of Covid 19.

Members were reminded of matters around the funding strategy and the £100m Council's town centre investment and this included a £12m allocation to district centres.

Also, other funding streams were highlighted including the Future High Streets Funding for Farnworth of £13.28m, the Towns Fund of £25m and Brownfield Land Fund of £10.7m.

Mr. Whittingham reminded members of the five current intervention areas which would provide a platform for future investment to enhance the revitalisation of the town centre. Those were, Trinity Quarter, Church Wharf, Cheadle Square, Crompton Place and Croal Valley.

The meeting was provided with additional information with regard to the Towns Fund bid, Towns Fund projects involving

## C6

Bolton Market, Bolton Library and Museum, The Wellsprings and Public Realm improvements.

Members were advised that £16m (£12m from the Town Centres Development Fund budget and £4m from future, anticipated capital receipts) had been allocated to the four district centres of Farnworth, Horwich, Westhoughton and Little Lever and that development proposals had been agreed.

Mr. Whittingham also referred to the major developments at Hulton Park, Wingate's and Rivington Chase.

Members were also informed of matters concerning Bolton Heat Network which was a key strand of HM Government's Clean Growth Strategy.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Programming all the schemes and developer capacity issues;
- Rivington Chase development and infrastructure;
- Programmes tied to employment issues;
- Construction industry and training matters including apprenticeships and skilling;
- Future of Hulton Park;
- Transport links and employment issues;
- Where things were up to regarding Bolton Town Centre regeneration;
- Reprofiting zones in the town centre following Covid 19 and increased housing;
- The more housing that was in the town centre then new businesses follow;
- Town centre viability of schemes;
- Re-looking at the town centre schemes;
- Need a vibrant town centre;
- Farnworth Market Street;
- The benefits of schemes in Bolton Town Centre for all of the Borough; and
- The future need of office space.

Resolved – That Mr. Whittingham be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **29. MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**The minutes of various meetings relevant to the remit of this Committee were also submitted, viz –**

- Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 11<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 and 21<sup>st</sup> and January and 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021;
- Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2021;
- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery held on 18<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021;
- Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport held on 18<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021; and
- Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Regulatory Services held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, 26<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

Resolved – (i) That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 8.30pm)

C8

**NOTES**

**JOINT CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES AND PLACE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

MEETING, 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2021

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Adia, Ayub, Brady, Connor, Cunningham, Dean, Evans, Gibbon, Hayes, Hornby, McKeon, McMulkin, Murray, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Veevers, Walsh, Weatherby, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Greenhalgh	Executive Cabinet Member Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Cox	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Muslim	Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Service Delivery
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Regulatory Services
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place
Dr. H. Lowey	Director of Public Health
Ms. K. Hopkins	Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Mr. S. Manley	Interim Head of Planning
Ms. C. Owen	Acting Head of Legal Services
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Bagnall.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair.

## **1. RESPONSE TO THE FIRE AT THE CUBE**

Dr. H. Lowey, Director of Public Health, gave a presentation to members which outlined the Council's response to the fire at The Cube which occurred on the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

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

- The Civil Contingencies response, including, command and control; multi agency co-ordinating group; activation of AGMA Civil Contingencies Resilience Unit; and record keeping;
- The support provided by officers of the Council to the major incident;
- The recovery phase which was led by the Director of Public Health and the establishment of a Multi-Agency Recovery Group which met frequently dependent upon the stage of the response;
- The purpose of The Cube's Recovery Coordination Group (RCG);
- The remit and membership of the Humanitarian Assistance Group and the proposed response to the issues that arose;
- The remit and membership of the Finance Group and the funding which had been received, together with, the costs of recovery which had been recovered in full from the owners of The Cube building;
- The remit and membership of the Communications Group and the products which were produced;
- The remit and membership of the Environmental and Infrastructure Group and the response they provided;
- De-briefs from the Recovery Coordination Group; and
- Closure of the Recovery Coordination Group with the last meeting taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 when the Chair and all members were satisfied that all actions had been completed and no further actions were required.

Following the presentation, members made the following comments/observations, viz:-

- All members expressed their thanks and appreciation to all staff and partners involved for their dedication and commitment to the incident;
- The lessons learned as a result of the incident;
- A second report was still being awaited on the spread of the fire and once published it was felt that this should be reported back to a meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committees; and
- The operation which took place at The University to help those students affected.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and that Dr. H. Lowey be thanked for her very informative presentation.

## **2. BANK STREET DEMOLITION**

Ms. S. Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive, circulated a paper which outlined the current position with regards to the demolition of Bank Street.

Members were advised that unfortunately confidential legal discussions were still ongoing and, therefore, in the circumstances it was impossible for officers to answer any questions members might have in case these prejudiced discussions taking place. It was explained that a meeting was due to take place next week and officers would provide an update to the Chair and Vice-Chair following this meeting. It was also hoped that discussions would have concluded before the next Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 and if this was the case members of the Place Scrutiny Committee would be invited to that meeting for the Bank Street item.

Members in their deliberations made the following comments/observations, viz:-

- Concern was expressed regarding the time it was taking to get the information requested and the matter resolved; and

- Assurances were sought from both the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council that the information would be available to members by the meeting scheduled on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

### **3. USE OF GAS CANNISTERS AND KNIFE CRIME**

Ms. K. Hopkins, Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services gave a presentation to members which outlined issues associated with Nitrous Oxide (a.k.a Laughing Gas).

- What was Nitrous Oxide;
- The serious side effects of using Nitrous Oxide;
- The risks associated with Nitrous Oxide;
- The Psychoactive Substances Act;
- Combating the problem;
- Recent seizures by Trading Standards; and
- Under Age Sales.

Members were also shown a short YouTube Video of a young woman who had suffered long term side effects as a result of using Nitrous Oxide.

Following the presentation, members made the following comments/observations, viz:-

- All members expressed their thanks for the very informative presentation;
- The need to educate young people on the seriousness of using Nitrous Oxide;
- The use of cannisters was leading to an increase in anti-social behaviour;
- The need to be more proactive with partners to increase the publicity about the dangers of using Nitrous Oxide;
- The possible effects on a person's driving ability after using the substance;



- An update on any test purchases which had been carried out on businesses which were selling bladded items to underage children; and
- There was growing concern in Bolton about the use of cannisters and the need for greater publicity.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted and that Ms. K. Hopkins be thanked for her very informative presentation.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.45 p.m.)

D6

**NOTES**