

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 10th OCTOBER, 2016

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Pickup (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Critchley (as deputy for Councillor J. Walsh), Haslam, Hayes, Kirk-Robinson (as deputy for Councillor P. Wild), McKeon (as deputy for Councillor Harkin), Newall, Parkinson, Shaikh, Spencer and Whitehead.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Councillor Sherrington	Cabinet Member for Housing, Procurement and Highways
Councillor Watters	Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Voluntary Sector and Community Services
Councillor D. Burrows	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services Police and Community Safety
Councillor Chadwick	Cabinet Member for Special Projects, Transport and Skills
Councillor Zaman	Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration and Human Resources
Mr. S. Young	Director of Place
Ms. D. Ball	Assistant Director Place Services
Mr. J. Kelly	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Mr. G. Gallagher	Accommodation Services Group Manager
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Harkin, Hornby, J. Walsh and P. Wild.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair.

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th August, 2016 were submitted.

The Chairman explained that the resolutions from the last meeting had all been actioned.

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

15. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2016/2017

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which set out the updated work programme of the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

The Committee was specifically informed of invitations that had been issued to United Utilities and the Environment Agency to attend the next meeting in November when the Committee would consider an item concerning the impact and lessons learnt in respect of the recent flooding in Bolton.

Resolved – That the updated work programme be noted.

16. SLIM BIN ROLL OUT

The Assistant Director Place Services submitted a report which specifically updated the Committee on the progress of the slim bin roll out as at the end of September, 2016.

The report also provided details of –

- Performance monitoring information;
- Waste audits and requests for advice and support from residents;

- Orders for recycling bins; and
- Presentation of side waste and issuing of advisory legal notices.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Those allowed to keep the 240 litre grey bin;
- The achievements of officers;
- Requests for waste audits and the process;
- The amount of waste presented at Raikes Lane and the Hulton Waste Site by individuals; and
- Fly tipping matters including monitoring of this, collection and enforcement.

Resolved – (i) That the report and discussions thereon be noted.

(ii) That the Director of Place be asked to include in future reports monitoring information concerning the presentation of waste at Raikes Lane and at the Hulton Waste site.

17. INFORMATION REGARDING THE EMPTY PROPERTIES STRATEGY AND IN PARTICULAR THE HARDSHIP ALLOWANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND POSSIBLE USE OF SECTION 106 MONIES REGARDING EMPTY PROPERTIES.

(Councillor McKeon declared an interest in relation to the following item as the Vice-Chairman of the Bolton at Home Board)

Mr Ged Gallagher, Accommodation Services Group Manager gave a presentation which set out details of Bolton Council's approach to dealing with empty properties and also in terms of the securing and use of Section 106 monies.

The Meeting was advised that empty properties presented the Council and its communities with a number of problems and most were privately owned.

Members were advised of matters around the identification of empty properties and the initiatives that were used to bring them back in to use.

There were currently over 4,000 empty properties in Bolton in varying conditions.

Mr Gallagher also went on to explain matters concerning the Empty Property Programme 2016/17 which was approved in September, 2016.

In conclusion, the report explained matters around the use of Section 106 funding in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 and Bolton's Core Strategy Development Plan Document in that for new residential applications specific contributions would be sought for affordable housing.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- The definition of an empty property;
- Calculation of Section 106 monies and a review to be undertaken in this regard; and
- Social sector housing and turnaround times.

Resolved – (i) That Mr Gallagher be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation.

(ii) That the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services be asked to expound the matter of houses that are repossessed and not being included in the Council Tax scheme.

18. THE ENFORCEMENT OF 20MPH SPEED LIMITS

Mr John Kelly, Assistant Director of Highways and Engineering advised the Committee of matters concerning the continued roll out of 20mph speed limit areas in Bolton and also in terms of matters around enforcement.

The Committee was informed that the Police supported the introduction of 20mph speed limits and they would work with the Council on the issue of enforcement.

In terms of the continued roll out of 20 mph areas in Bolton, the Committee was provided with a map which showed the existing areas prior to the current programme, completed programme areas and the ongoing programme.

Mr Kelly highlighted that the Council were bidding for extra funding from Transport for Greater Manchester and it was envisaged that the Programme would be completed by the end of 2017.

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

19. AREAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GREATER MANCHESTER TRAFFIC UNIT IN TERMS OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND INFLUENCE

Resolved – That this item be deferred for consideration at the next meeting.

20. A REVIEW OF THE CONDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO THE ROADS WITHIN THE BOROUGH

Mr. John Kelly, Assistant Director Highways and Engineering gave a presentation which explained to members matters concerning the conditions and improvements to be made to the roads within the Borough.

By way of background information, members were reminded of the importance of the highway network and of the extent of the network of carriageways and footways in Bolton.

Mr. Kelly went onto refer to the general condition of the various categories of road within Bolton.

The meeting was further advised of matters concerning the costs of maintaining the roads and the budget position in the next few years.

Mr Kelly also explained the practicalities of –

- The condition assessment;
- The classified priority list;
- Data collection for unclassified streets;
- Asset management principles;
- Preventative maintenance which included surface dressing and micro-asphalt and structural maintenance which included re-surfacing and re-construction;
- Safety inspections and response times regarding urgent / reactive repairs;
- Management of pot holes; and
- Recent innovations in Bolton.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Matters concerning backstreets and their inclusion;
- Safety inspections and the practicalities of this;
- The incentive fund payment – how it operated;
- Utilities contractors and the impact of their repairs;
- The use of sub-contractors and the retention period; and
- Tribute to Mr John Kelly and his team for the work they did.

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

21. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services held on 19th September, 2016;
- Joint meeting of the Executive Cabinet Members Deputy Leader, Regeneration and Resources and Environmental Services held on 19th September, 2016.

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

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(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.25pm)