

Bolton Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

15th March 2023

SUMMONS AND AGENDA



BOLTON COUNCIL

Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, Town Hall on Wednesday next, 15th March, 2023 at 7.00 p.m. when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

1. Vote of Thanks to The Mayor and Mayoress

Motion to be moved by Councillor Cox -

2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 15th February, 2023 (Section A).

3. Policy Framework

Motion in the name of Councillor Cox –

That the Bolton Council Pay Policy Statement 2022/2023, as circulated, be approved.

4. Constitution

Motion in the name of Councillor Cox -

That the recommendations of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the remuneration of the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as circulated, be approved.

5. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies

6. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)

7. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)

8. Committee Proceedings

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee (See Section C)

9. Scrutiny Committees

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

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section D)

Place Scrutiny Committee (See Section E)

10. Motions under Standing Order No.4

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Veevers -

Council congratulates the Labour Party on finally coming to the realisation that Britain needs a system of fair votes for UK General elections.

Council looks forward to seeing this measure included in the Labour Party manifesto for the next General Election.

(b) Motion in the name of Councillor T. Wilkinson -

Bolton Council recently received funding as part of the government's Mental Health Recovery Action Plan to tackle the mental health impacts on businesses.

The Council acknowledges the need to challenge the taboos of mental health and the importance of being aware of the signs and symptoms, understanding the questions to ask someone and sharing knowledge of what help is available.

In December 2021, Bolton Council announced free mental health training to anyone who worked or volunteered within the borough. Due to the demand and limited capacity these courses book up extremely quickly.

Mental health can impact anyone at any time. The council makes a firm commitment to ensure that elected members and council employees who are in public-facing roles, are provided with courses and strongly encouraged to attend Mental Health First Aider training, so they are sufficiently equipped to be able to support our residents.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Mort –

Council believes that football, the national game in the UK, is currently in crisis.

COVID-19 has devastated the revenue of many lower-league clubs, with the loss of some notables, and dozens more clubs teetering on the brink of survival. Frequently bad management has gone unnoticed or ignored and clubs are run unsustainably, putting at risk all the history, heritage, and economic benefit they bring to an area – often in pursuit of short-term gain.

Council believes that football clubs are not ordinary businesses; they are historic sporting institutions that are both a civic and community asset, and a source of pride and unity, in their hometown or city.

Council therefore supports Fair Game, a national campaign that seeks radical reform of the way football is managed and run, specifically its call for:

- An independent regulator for the sport.
- A refocus on 'values' rather than profit.
- The establishment of a Sustainability Index, which will reallocate the payments made to clubs to reward those which are run well, respect equality standards and properly engage with their fans and their community.
- Fans to be given the final say on any proposed change to a club's 'crown jewels', including the club's name,

nickname, colours, badge and the geographical location from where the club plays.

- Council also notes that former Sports Minister Tracey Crouch MP has published a Government-commissioned fan-led review into football governance and that a vast majority of its findings mirror Fair Game's aspirations.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Declare its support for the Fair Game manifesto, 'Solutions for our National Game', and calls on other councils to join us in our support.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Sport, our local Members of Parliament, and the Chair of the Local Government Association Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, asking them to support and work towards implementing Fair Game's manifesto and the findings of the fan-led review led by Tracey Crouch MP.
- Ask the Council's representatives to encourage other like-minded councils to support Fair Game.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Hayes –

Council supports the ambition of the Government to make gigabit broadband available nationwide.

However, Council deplores the weakening of planning controls introduced by the Government generally and specifically to facilitate the development of the various networks. These have led in many cases to totally inappropriate structures being erected.

Council particularly deplores the activities of one operator in this area - IX Wireless. This Company has sought to reduce its costs (and increase its profits) by erecting hundreds of telegraph poles to carry over ground fibre, and many large masts, claiming that they constitute 'permitted development'. Misleadingly, the Company also leads potential customers to believe that they provide a 6G service.

These poles and masts are an undesirable addition to street clutter and in many cases cause considerable inconvenience to nearby householders and pedestrians who are visually impaired. Some are positioned against gable ends restricting residents' ability to maintain their property or erected in clusters near the same property.

The Company appears to have conducted minimal or no contacts with the local authority re the siting or erection of the poles and masts. They have failed to answer many complaints made by residents. When a group of residents recently met their Member of Parliament (Chris Green MP) about the problems, he claimed to have no knowledge of the Company until they pointed out to him that he had recently received a political donation of £5000 from IX Wireless. He has failed to answer any questions as to what his relationship is with the Company or why he received and accepted the donation. It is noted that similar donations have been made to a number of other Conservative MPs in the north west of England.

It is alleged that IX Wireless received public funding from Project Gigabit. If this is the case, it seems inappropriate for the Company to be making political donations.

Council resolves:

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to prepare an urgent report to all Members of the Council to include information on:
 - a) What powers the Council has to control the activities of IX Wireless and similar Companies;
 - b) What action will be taken to minimise the street clutter and inconvenience to the public;
 - c) Whether or not IX Wireless has received public funding, and if so, how much.
2. To ask Chris Green MP to clarify what relationship he has with IX Wireless and why he received and accepted a political donation from the Company.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Silvester –

This Council believes that a green recovery from the pandemic is not only possible but imperative if we are to meet our carbon reduction targets as a local authority. However, up to now much of the proposed actions are little more than rhetoric. We need to turn rhetoric into action.

We note that melting ice caps and forest fires can often seem like someone else's crisis when many are occurring so far from our homes. But we also note that crises closer to home affecting thousands of local families cannot be separated from those further afield. Here in the Bolton Borough it is estimated that there are around 18,250 households or 14.7% of population living in fuel poverty and around 11% of homes in the private rented sector, 4% of homes in the social-rented sector and 2% of owner-occupied homes affected by damp. Across the UK there are more than 24 million homes leaking heat.

There is no route to decarbonising the economy without retrofitting more than 24 million homes across the UK. Doing so would not only help to protect our planet, but can improve housing, lead to cheaper energy bills and create hundreds of thousands of good quality jobs. Here in the Bolton Borough there are estimated to be 62% of properties that require retrofitting because they don't meet basic energy efficiency standards (i.e. they are D or below) and this could create hundreds of good quality jobs across our Borough leading to much cheaper bills for our residents.

The Royal Institute of British Architects in September 2022 called the mini-budget at that time a 'missed opportunity' to improve the energy efficiency of the built environment. Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council therefore calls upon the Prime Minister to call for a Great Homes Upgrade and a commitment to retrofit 19 million homes by 2030. We also call on the Chancellor to commit to spending £11.7 billion over the next three years to begin a Great Homes Upgrade, and that the Government will commit to working with housing associations, private rental properties and owner occupiers to upgrade properties for net zero and commits to setting up

a retrofitting taskforce to target resources now to achieving net zero through upgrading properties. We also commit to writing to the Council Leaders of our neighbouring local authorities throughout Greater Manchester and also Chorley and Blackburn to ask them to join us in this campaign.

S. Johnson

SUE JOHNSON

Chief Executive

Town Hall, Bolton

8th March, 2023

The proceedings of the Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 6th February to 20th February, 2023, together with the Audit Committee, are included for information only in a separate volume.

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2022/2023

15TH FEBRUARY 2023

Present - Councillors Zaman (Mayor), Mrs. Thomas (Deputy Mayor), Abdullah, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Fletcher, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, A. Patel, S. Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

89. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 18th January 2023 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

90. BUDGET 2023/2024: COUNCIL TAX 2023/2024: AND OTHER ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was moved by Councillor Cox and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough -

- (i) That the following recommendations of the Cabinet on 6th February 2023 be approved:-
 - (a) The Council be recommended to approve the Budget for 2023/24
 - (b) That the council tax for 2023/24 be increased by 3.99% comprising
 - The Adult Social Care Precept at 2.00%
 - The general levy at 1.99%

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- (c) The Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme and Strategy for 2023/24
 - (d) The Council be recommended to approve the Investment and Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategies 2023/24 to 2025/26
 - (e) That in respect to the additional £1m one-off funds received for 2023/24 Cabinet recommends:
 - £500,000 be allocated for environmental improvement and public safety schemes
 - This leaves £500,000 unallocated
- (ii) It be noted that on 12th December 2022 the Cabinet calculated
- (a) the Council Tax Base 2023/24 for the whole Council area as 78,820 (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	1,986	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Horwich	7,634	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Westhoughton	8,799	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 2023/24 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 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts) is £133,020,494
- (iv) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act.

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(a)	£278,485,300	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)	£145,012,740	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£133,472,560	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)	£1,693.38	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)	£452,066	being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, each individual parish precept being: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; margin-right: 20px;"> <div> Blackrod £73,810 Horwich £225,402 Westhoughton £152,854 </div> </div>
(f)	£1,687.64	being the amount at (iv)(d) above less the result given by dividing

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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 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	£1,724.81
		Parish of Horwich	£1,717.17
		Parish of Westhoughton	£1,705.01

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.

(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	£1,149.86	£1,144.77	£1,136.66	£1,125.08
B	£1,341.53	£1,335.59	£1,326.13	£1,312.62
C	£1,533.15	£1,526.36	£1,515.55	£1,500.11
D	£1,724.81	£1,717.17	£1,705.01	£1,687.64
E	£2,108.09	£2,098.75	£2,083.89	£2,062.66
F	£2,491.40	£2,480.36	£2,462.80	£2,437.71
G	£2,874.67	£2,861.94	£2,841.67	£2,812.72
H	£3,449.62	£3,434.34	£3,410.02	£3,375.28

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

- (v) That it be noted that for the year 2023/24 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	£71.96	£162.20
B	£83.96	£189.23
C	£95.95	£216.26
D	£107.95	£243.30
E	£131.93	£297.36
F	£155.92	£351.43
G	£179.91	£405.50
H	£215.90	£486.60

- (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 2023/24 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
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				area
A	£1,384.02	£1,378.93	£1,370.82	£1,359.24
B	£1,614.72	£1,608.78	£1,599.32	£1,585.81
C	£1,845.36	£1,838.57	£1,827.76	£1,812.32
D	£2,076.06	£2,068.42	£2,056.26	£2,038.89
E	£2,537.38	£2,528.04	£2,513.18	£2,491.95
F	£2,998.75	£2,987.71	£2,970.15	£2,945.06
G	£3,460.08	£3,447.35	£3,427.08	£3,398.13
H	£4,152.12	£4,136.84	£4,112.52	£4,077.78

(vii) That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 at an increase of 3.99% is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(viii) That the Borough Treasurer 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 2023/24.

(x) That the Council's current policy in respect of discretionary relief for charitable organisations, as approved by the Cabinet on the 6th February 2023, be reaffirmed and that the Borough Treasurer 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 1st April 2023:

"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 on the budget be noted:-

Corporate and External Issues
Scrutiny Committee

9th February 2023

Whereupon as an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas -

Council Revenue and Capital Budget

This council recognises that since the start of austerity, council tax has increased year by year, whilst services have been cut, consequently people have not seen better services for higher payments.

The additional cash that would be raised in the proposed Council Tax rise of 3.99%, as in the Conservative motion, again leads to no improvement to services.

Council therefore resolves that this situation of declining services for higher payments is unsustainable, and that the General Levy of Council Tax be increased by 2.99% in order to specifically build back priority council services for the first time in 12 years. This would lead to additional income of £1.3 million.

Council resolves that a major priority for our borough is the epidemic of fly tips, dirty streets and lack of enforcement. Council further notes that since charges for rodent control were introduced, the number of services requests has reduced from nearly 5,000 to just 1,200, and that this has led to an out-of-control rat population.

Therefore:

£800,000 be allocated to environmental services for cleaner streets and fly tip enforcement. This new investment has been fully costed by officers and includes:

- The restoration of the Behaviour Change Teams, with enforcement powers
- The provision of new CCTV cameras to help tackle fly tips
- The restoration of the removal of fly tips from unadopted back streets
- Additional capacity into waste and neighbourhood services
- Additional focus of street sweeping and fly tip enforcement and removal in higher footfall areas, and areas of high demand
- The restoration of the street sweeping service between December and March
- The reemployment of at least 13 new officers to undertake these additional duties.

£50,000 to restore the free rodent control service. Council resolves that only by bringing back the popular free service, can we begin to resolve the rat epidemic in Bolton. Furthermore, a PDG will be established to look at resolving the issues of 'no show' appointments, education and repeat visits.

In addition.

The Cost of Living Crisis is causing real suffering for many families across our borough, therefore to provide further help:

An additional £200,000 be added to the councils Local Welfare Provision Scheme for help with household energy bills and the provision of essential household items.

£100,00 be invested in the Care and Repair Service to support older residents and those with a disability, with boiler repairs, servicing and replacements, as well as other gas and electrics works.

In addition.

That the overall cuts to Children's Services be reduced by £150,000, specifically under the 'vacancy management' option. This will allow essential posts to be retained, which will allow the service to better plan ahead for future years.

That in respect to the additional £1m one-off funds received for 2023/24:

That the Cabinet recommendation of £500,000 be allocated for environmental improvement and public safety schemes be not approved, and together with reference to the unallocated £500,000, Council instead resolves to allocate the full £1 Million as follows:

1. £200,000 in order to: a) establish a new community hub base at Heaton Fold for all of the environmental based voluntary groups in the borough, b) to establish a fund to properly equip those voluntary groups c) the provision of skips for community clean up days. Council notes that this project has already been long campaigned for by our volunteers and has been fully costed by officers and would be known as Bolton Green Umbrella Centre.
2. £200,000 to be allocated towards a borough wide clean up operation, working with the voluntary sector, and other partners, in order to tackle the worse fly tip hot spots in all parts of the borough. Officers will devise a programme of projects, based upon existing enforcement data.
3. £400,000 to be allocated to a new borough wide Community Safety fund for capital schemes that will assist in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour. Schemes would include, but are not exclusive to, new CCTV cameras, ginnel

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gating, new street lighting in poorly lit residential areas, and 'target hardening' grants to households, for new locks, security lights etc. Officers will devise a programme of projects, based upon police data and ward members' support.

4. £200,000 for additional investment and maintenance into parks, recreational land and play areas across the borough. Officers will devise a programme of projects, based upon condition surveys of existing facilities.

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

For the Amendment, 19 viz:

Councillors Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Challender, Donaghy, Fletcher, Haworth, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas and Zaman.

Against the Amendment, 35 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hayes, Hewitt, Hornby, McGeown, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, A. Patel, S. Patel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Abstained, 3 viz:

Councillors Heslop, McMulkin and Newall.

Whereupon, the amendment was declared lost.

Whereupon as a second amendment, it was moved by Councillor Donaghy and seconded by Councillor Silvester -

Council Capital Budget

That in respect to the additional £1m one-off funds received for 2023/24:

That the Cabinet recommendation of £500,000 be allocated for environmental improvement and public safety schemes be not approved, and together with reference to the unallocated £500,000, Council instead resolves to allocate the full £1 Million as follows:

1. £200,000 in order to: a) establish a new community hub base at Heaton Fold for all of the environmental based voluntary groups in the borough, b) to establish a fund to properly equip those voluntary groups c) the provision of skips for community clean up days. Council notes that this project has already been long campaigned for by our volunteers and has been fully costed by officers and would be known as Bolton Green Umbrella Centre.
2. £200,000 to be allocated towards a borough wide clean up operation, working with the voluntary sector, and other partners, in order to tackle the worse fly tip hot spots in all parts of the borough. Officers will devise a programme of projects, based upon existing enforcement data.
3. £400,000 to be allocated to a new borough wide Community Safety fund for capital schemes that will assist in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour. Schemes would include, but are not exclusive to, new CCTV cameras, ginnel gating, new street lighting in poorly lit residential areas, and 'target hardening' grants to households, for new locks, security lights etc. Officers will devise a programme of projects, based upon police data and ward members' support.
4. £200,000 for additional investment and maintenance into parks, recreational land and play areas across

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the borough. Officers will devise a programme of projects, based upon condition surveys of existing facilities.

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

For the Amendment, 20 viz:

Councillors Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Challender, Donaghy, Fletcher, Haworth, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Peel, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas and Zaman.

Against the Amendment, 35 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hayes, Hewitt, Hornby, McGeown, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, A. Patel, S. Patel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, D. Wilkinson, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Abstained, 2 viz:

Councillors Heslop and Newall.

Whereupon, the second amendment was declared lost.

Whereupon as a third amendment, it was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor Sanders -

The attached is a joint amendment in the name of Horwich & Blackrod First Independents, Farnworth & Kearsley First and Little Lever & Darcy Lever First.

1. Council rejects the Cabinet recommendation which seeks to allocate £500k from the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority rebate for environmental improvement and public safety schemes.

2. The council agrees that this £500k along with the further unallocated £500k from GMWDA, totalling £1million, should be split equitably and £50k be allocated to all wards for environmental improvements, community and public safety schemes. For example:
 - . Alley gating schemes
 - . Refurbishment of parks and community open spaces
 - . Planting of trees and other environmentally beneficial schemes
 - . Highways improvements and road safety schemes
- Ward Members are encouraged to use their creativity for the benefit of their communities.
3. Ward councillors will determine how their ward's £50k will be spent, and in consultation with town councils, where one exists.
4. The one-off funds must be separate to the new Community Alliance funding; however, ward members can determine a level of contribution.
5. Where a town council identifies a project for improvement, ward members can decide to contribute from these one-off monies, however town councils would be expected to match fund any agreed project.

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

For the Amendment, 30 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hornby, Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, A. Patel, S. Patel, Radcliffe,

Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren,
T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Amendment, 27 viz:

Councillors Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Challender, Donaghy,
Fletcher, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram,
McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Mort, Murray,
Newall, Peel, Priest, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas,
Veevers, D. Wilkinson, and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the third amendment was declared carried.

Whereupon the original motion incorporating the amendment by
Councillor Grant was then put to the meeting, when the voting
was as follows:-

For the Amendment, 30 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor,
Cowen, Cox, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Mrs. Fairclough,
Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Hewitt, Hornby,
Meehan, Morgan, Muslim, A. Patel, S. Patel, Radcliffe,
Rimmer, Sanders, Taylor-Burke, Walsh, Warren, T.
Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Amendment, 27 viz:

Councillors Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Challender, Donaghy,
Fletcher, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram,
McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Mort, Murray,
Newall, Peel, Priest, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas,
Veevers, D. Wilkinson and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

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

At this point The Mayor advised members that the amendments which had been moved and seconded by Councillors Heslop and Newall, Hayes and Veevers and D. Wilkinson and Priest would not be considered as the original motion (as amended) had been carried.

91. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough and seconded by Councillor Khurram –

That Councillor Allen be removed as a member of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee

92. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor M. Ayub -

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2nd February 2023 be approved.

93. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Donaghy, seconded by Councillor Grant and approved –

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee –
9th February 2023

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny
Committees – 1st February 2023

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 30th January
2023

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.35 p.m.)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING, 23rd FEBRUARY, 2023

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Ayub (Vice-Chairman), Brady, Connor, Grant, Finney, Iqbal (as deputy for Councillor Peel), Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Priest (as deputy for Councillor D. Wilkinson), Radcliffe, Sherrington and T. Wilkinson.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Peel and D. Wilkinson

27. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 2nd February, 2023 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

28. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered various planning 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.

The following Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business:-

Member of Council	Application Number	Nature of Interest
Councillor S. Patel	14572/22	He knows the applicant. He withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application.

B2

Councillor Mort	15049/22	She is a Governor at the School
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Councillor Bullock, in his capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the Committee and spoke in respect of application numbered 13127/22.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in respect of the following applications:

14930/22	14572/22	13961/22
13127/22		

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

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
13127/22	Erection of dormer to form loft conversion, external staircase and amendments to previously approved two storey rear extension and car parking on application 79313/08 at Masjid-E-Noor 327-329 St Helen's Road	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, and additional condition regarding the appearance of the staircase.</p> <p>Members considered that the rear dormer and external staircase would be compatible with the character and appearance of the area, compliant with Core Strategy policy CG3, but requested a condition be imposed for further details of the external staircase to be submitted and approved by the LPA prior to its installation.</p>

		<p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions and additional condition regarding appearance of staircase was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (16): Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Finney, Grant, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson</p> <p>The motion to approve the application was carried.</p>
13961/22	Change of use from dwelling house (Class C3) to children's care home (Class C2) for up to two children with 24-hour care by not more than two carers at 3 Threxton Place, Cressingham Road	<p>Deferred for further information.</p> <p>A motion to defer the application for further information was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for deferral of the application (16): Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Finney, Grant, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p>

		The motion to defer the application was carried.
14572/22	Erection of single storey extension to sides and rear at 509 St Helens Road	<p>Refused, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to refuse application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for refusal of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Finney, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Members voting against refusal of the application (1):</p> <p>Councillor Grant</p> <p>The motion to refuse the application was carried.</p>
14678/22	Change of use from residential dwelling to residential children's home at 372 Chorley Old Road	<p>Refused</p> <p>Members considered they had safeguarding and corporate parenting responsibilities for the proposed children who would stay at the premises, and they could not support the</p>

		<p>use in light of objections raised by Children's Services and the use would be detrimental to highway safety.</p> <p>A motion to refuse the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for refusal of the application (12):</p> <p>Councillors Brady, Connor, Finney, Grant, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Priest, Radcliffe, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Members voting against refusal of the application (4):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Iqbal, Mistry and Sherrington.</p> <p>The motion to refuse the application was carried.</p>
14930/22	Outline planning permission for the erection of a 3-storey purpose built multi-faith primary school with all matters reserved (except for means of access and scale) at the Jubilee Day Centre, Darley Street	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (15):</p>

		<p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Finney, Grant, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Priest, Radcliffe, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Members voting against approval of the application (1):</p> <p>Councillor Sherrington</p> <p>The motion to approve the application was carried.</p>
15049/22	Retention of a modular classroom building at Rumworth School, Armadale Road	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (16):</p> <p>Councillor M. Ayub, Brady, Connor, Finney, Grant, Iqbal, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson</p> <p>The motion to approve the application was carried.</p>

29. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS

The Director of Place submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 24th January and 14th February, 2023.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

30. PLANNING DECISIONS UPDATE

The Director of Place submitted a report which provided information on why the recent appeal at Grizedale Close had been dismissed and why costs were awarded against the Council.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 4.00pm)

B8

NOTES

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION
COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 7TH FEBRUARY, 2023

Present – Councillors Khurram (Chairman), Taylor- Burke (Vice-Chairman), Cowen, Dean, Hornby, McMulkin, Mistry and Newall.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen, Haworth, Hill, Jiva and Meehan.

Councillor Khurram, Chairman

22. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of meeting held on 22nd November, 2022 be submitted and signed as a correct record.

23. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved – That, under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 (financial and business affairs) 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 its exemption outweighs the public interest in its disclosure.

**24. APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE TO DRIVE A PRIVATE
HIRE VEHICLE LER/01/23**

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application for a licence to drive a private hire vehicles.

The applicant attended the meeting.

C2

The report set out details of the application and included details of alleged misconduct.

It was moved by Councillor Cowen and Seconded by Councillor Newall that the application for a licence to drive a Private Hire Vehicle be refused.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, Cowen, Dean, Hornby, Khurram, McMulkin, Mistry, Newall and Taylor-Burke

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved –

That the application for a licence to drive a private hire vehicle be refused on the basis that the Committee are not satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

The Committee also took account of the following –

- The applicant failed to declare any convictions on his application form and ticked the box stating ‘I have never been arrested or received a conviction, caution, been subject to restorative justice, other disposal, fixed penalty (motoring or otherwise), non-conviction or have any pending convictions.’ The Committee found the applicant to be dishonest. They found he could not provide a reasonable explanation for not declaring the convictions, as required by his licence, and that he was dismissive of his previous convictions and unable to see the importance of disclosing these to Licensing;

C3

- The Committee had concerns about the applicant's poor attitude and volatile personality which was demonstrated during the meeting and also the history of his behaviour towards licensing staff;
- That Committee felt that they would be uncomfortable with a family member being a passenger in the applicant's vehicle; and
- The contravening of Health and Safety regulation convictions from 2011 and the need to protect passengers.

Members of the public, the elderly, infirm and children or vulnerable adults entrust their personal safety and wellbeing to private hire drivers whenever they take a journey. Passengers often travel alone and are vulnerable to inappropriate behaviour.

The Committee's primary duty is of concern for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

There is therefore reasonable cause to refuse to grant the private hire drivers licence.

25. APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE TO DRIVE A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LER/02/23

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application for a licence to drive a private hire vehicles.

The applicant attended the meeting.

The report set out details of the application and included details of alleged misconduct.

It was moved by Councillor McMulkin and Seconded by Councillor Hornby that the application for a licence to drive a Private Hire Vehicle be granted, subject to the standard conditions.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, Cowen, Dean, Hornby, Khurram, McMulkin, Mistry, Newall and Taylor-Burke

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

**26. MISCONDUCT BY LICENSED PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER
LER/03/23**

(Councillors Dean and Khurram declared an interest in the following items and left the meeting taking no part hereon)

(Councillor Taylor Burke, the Vice-Chairman here took the Chair)

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of alleged misconduct by a licensed private hire driver.

The applicant and his daughter attended the meeting.

The report set out details of the application and included details of alleged misconduct.

It was moved by Councillor Newall and Seconded by Councillor Hornby that the application for a licence to drive a Private Hire Vehicle be revoked.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, Cowen, Hornby, McMulkin, Mistry, Newall and Taylor-Burke

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved –

That the application for a licence to drive a private hire vehicle be revoked on the basis that the Committee are not satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

The Committee also took account of the following –

- The applicant's failure to declare the conviction from 1st January 2022 of using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks in accordance with the conditions of his licence; and
- The applicant was convicted of the above offence and was not insured in his private hire vehicle for months. The Committee felt this showed a complete disregard for the safety of members of the public. Under the Council's Statement of Fitness and Suitability this is a major traffic offence. A conviction of less than three years will generally mean that a person applying for a licence, renewing a licence or an existing licence holder whose licence is being reviewed would normally have the application refused or the licence revoked. This conviction falls within the three year period. The Committee were concerned about the seriousness of this offence and the repercussions there could have been for passengers, had the applicant been in an accident; and
- An additional complaint which was still under investigation which related to alleged poor driving and abusive behaviour towards another driver.

Members of the public, the elderly, infirm and children or vulnerable adults entrust their personal safety and wellbeing to private hire drivers whenever they take a journey. Passengers often travel alone and are vulnerable to inappropriate behaviour.

The Committee's primary duty is of concern for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

There is therefore reasonable cause to revoke the private hire drivers licence.

27. APPLICATION FOR A STREET TRADING CONSENT LER/03/23

The Director of Place Services submitted a report which set out details of an application for a Street Trading Consent.

The applicant and his daughter attended the meeting.

The report set out details of the application and included details of alleged misconduct.

It was moved by Councillor Hornby and Seconded by Councillor McMulkin that the application for a Street Trading Consent be refused.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, Cowen, Hornby, McMulkin, Mistry, Newall and Taylor-Burke

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

C7

Whereupon the motion was declared carried and it was specifically resolved –

That the application for a Street Trading Consent be refused on the basis that the Committee are not satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person.

The Committee also took account of the following –

- The applicant was convicted of the offence of using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks on 1st January, 2022 and had not declared this in accordance with the conditions of his private hire drivers licence and was not insured in his private hire vehicle for months. The Committee felt this was a serious offence which showed a complete disregard for the safety of members of the public; and
- An additional complaint which was still under investigation which related to his alleged poor driving and abusive behaviour towards another driver, whilst operating as a private hire driver.

The Committee's primary duty is of concern for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

There is therefore reasonable cause to refuse to grant the Street Trading Consent.

(The meeting started at 2 pm and finished at 4.10 pm)

C8

NOTES

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 21ST FEBRUARY, 2023

Present – Councillors Haworth (Chairman), Bullock, N. Ayub, Fletcher, Meehan, Sanders (as deputy for Councillor T. Wilkinson), Sherrington (as deputy for Councillor Challenger), Mrs. Thomas and Wright.

Lay Member

Ms. A. Schenk - Health Watch Bolton

Also in attendance

Councillor Morgan	- Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Baines	- Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing
Ms. R. Tanner	- DASS, Director of Adults
Ms. F. Noden	- Chief Executive, Bolton NHS FT
Ms. N. Ledwith	- Delivery Director Bolton Locality GMIC
Ms. S. White	- Director of Strategy, Transformation & Digital, Bolton NHSFT
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	- Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Challenger, Hartigan, Radcliffe, McGeown and T. Wilkinson and Bernie Gallagher (Bolton and District Pensioners Association)

Councillor Haworth in the Chair.

35. FARNWORTH HEALTH CENTRE PETITION

The Committee was informed that a petition of over 3,000 names had been submitted from the residents of Farnworth and Kearsley regarding *“the need for a super health centre to serve the local community”*. Also highlighted was *“the need for good health provision in the area and that the people of Farnworth desperately needed what the rest of the Borough had”*. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked them for this submission.

Ms. Fiona Noden, Chief Executive, Bolton NHS FT, Ms. Naomi Ledwith, Delivery Director Bolton Locality Board GMIC and Ms. Sharon Martin, Director of Strategy, Transformation & Digital Bolton NHSFT gave a joint presentation in response to the proposal for Farnworth.

It was explained that part of the Farnworth Regeneration project included plans to develop a community hub and the Council was looking for expressions of interest in order to determine priorities for occupying the space. Outline plans had been developed in a similar vein to the Little Lever build. Also, the developer was wanting a better understanding, to mitigate their risks, of interested services so the detailed design could progress. However, it was felt that key to the proposals was the proximity of health and community care with the leisure centre to maximise social prescribing opportunities.

The Committee was also informed of key aspects of the development proposals including that the space available was 10,000 sq. ft and would be leased to the Council.

There was also additional space available for commercial use, however indications were that there might be the possibility of utilising some of this space if there was interest from health and community services beyond the 10,000 sq. ft offer.

The date from completion was August, 2024.

Members were also reminded that there were four GP practices within the Farnworth and Kearsley Primary Care Network area

D3

serving a population of just over 36,000. Also provided were details of the services provided from the Farnworth Health Centre which was a similar size to the planned new facility. Both practices based there needed more space and one option for consideration was around relocating community services to the new development, however there are consequences to this option.

Members were also apprised of matters around the Primary Care Network estates review in terms of the development of clinical strategies. Farnworth and Kearsley PCN was in the first phase and this would be completed in mid 2023.

In terms of next steps, it was highlighted that a sub-group of the locality estates group would be established to pull together the outcomes of the estates review, look at an options appraisal regarding the benefits of moving community service from its current space and the cost implications.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Demand for a health centre – consultations with the public;
- Where was the core information coming from – clinically led;
- How the Well-Being Centre fitted in;
- A dialogue regarding the services people needed;
- Matters around the testimony of some people using a number of buses to get to provision;
- Mapping of other health centres;
- The building construction then looking at the make up;
- Access to GP's
- Public health featured in every part of the Council;
- The locality boards;
- Any other building options;
- The process going forward;
- Public engagement on the community hub;
- The answer looking for a question;
- What GP services might offer in the future;
- The shape and size of the building;

D4

- The feeling of some inequality and whether Farnworth had lost out;
- The underpinning JSNA;
- Health inequalities in the Borough;
- Money previously spent in the west of the Borough as opposed to the south;
- Covers all Directorships of the Council; and
- Wrap around of services.

It was moved by Councillor Haworth and Seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas, viz-

- (i) Where health or social care commitments are made at Council ward level by statutory services, that local ward councillors are recommended to regularly follow these matters up with the statutory service managers and also with Executive Cabinet Members.
- (ii) The Bolton Locality Board be recommended to commit to a body like Healthwatch or Bolton CVS undertaking a project to get more testimony from residents of difficulties they encounter getting to health services.
- (iii) That the concept of Community Hub, being used for Farnworth and also for Little Lever, that this concept be better described and explained in narrative by the Department of Place at the Council. In addition, that in future public engagement and communication about health and care in Kearsley and Farnworth and other areas where a community hub is a concept, that good and timely public engagement and communication takes place.
- (iv) Where health and care matters are part of development and regeneration plans, that ward councillors are encouraged to regularly raise questions at meetings of the Council, in order to ensure that all items of interest and enquiry get raised and in a timely manner.

- (v) That the Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year, 2023 - 2024 considers including on its work programme matters of community health services provision in Kearsley and in Farnworth.
- (vi) In addition, that the Health Overview and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, 2023- 2024 revisit the above recommendations and receive an update on the matters pertaining to the petition for a health centre for Farnworth.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, N. Ayub, Bullock, Fletcher, Haworth, Meehan, Mrs. Thomas, Wright, Sanders and Sherrington.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

D6

NOTES

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 8th FEBRUARY, 2023

Present – Councillors Veevers (Chairman), Atcha, M. Ayub, Brady, Donaghy, Grant, Hartigan, Haworth, Heslop, Iqbal, Meehan, A. Patel, S. Patel, Walsh,

Also in Attendance

Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning
Councillor Muslim	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration
Mr. J. Dyson	Director of Place
Mr. L. Fallows	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Development and Regeneration
Mr. D. Lowe	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Mr. A. Williamson	Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Property
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Finance
Mr. J. Cooper	Head of Asset Management
Mr. K. Questel-Lewis	Corporate Resources
Mr. K. Edwards	Clear Futures
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Eckersley-Fallon

Councillor Veevers in the Chair.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 7th December, 2022 were submitted.

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

25. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report which set out details of the updated Committee work programme.

Resolved – That the updated work programme position, as outlined be agreed.

26. PLANNING PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Committee received statistical information on the planning service in relation to the following, viz:-

- Key Performance Indicators;
- Outstanding applications; and
- The oldest applications;

Resolved – That the update be noted.

27. DIRECTORATE OF PLACE FINANCE REPORT, QUARTER TWO

The Chief Executive Submitted a report which provided Members with information relating to the financial quarter two projected outturn position of the Directorate of Place, 2022/23.

The Committee was advised that revenue expenditure, as at quarter two, for the Directorate of Place showed a projected overspend against budget of £692k after planned reserve movements.

There were two significant variances within the Directorate of Place as described in the report.

Capital expenditure for the Directorate of Place, as at quarter two, was £10.226m against a revised quarter two budget of £95.086m.

The Directorate of Place had fully used all general reserves in year and held a projected balance of £4,486m earmarked reserves.

The budgeted efficiency savings for 2021/23 for the Directorate of Place were £6.161m.

Members discussed matters around energy costs and street lighting.

Resolved – That the report and its contents be noted.

28. ACTIVE TRAVEL- ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Dwayne Lowe, Assistant Director Highways and Engineering gave a presentation on the EV Charging Infrastructure.

Members were advised of matters around the national EV Policy – Decarbonising Transport: A Better Greener Britain.

The Committee was informed of the city regional EV Policy including the aim for carbon neutrality by 2038, the roll out of technology and innovation and the shift to EV being an important part of the transport mix. In Greater Manchester there were 360 charging points and by 2025 the aim was to have 3,000.

In terms of local EV Policy, members were advised of matters relating to synergy with Bolton's Climate Change Strategy and more sustainable transport options and that the Council would work with TfGM to reduce carbon emissions from transport and travel to achieve the right mix target of one million more

sustainable journeys per day by 2040 with zero net growth in motor vehicle traffic.

In conclusion, details of the charging infrastructure in Bolton were shared with members of the Committee.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Talking to Bolton at Home and housing providers regarding infrastructure;
- The capacity of Electricity NW to do this;
- How things operate in China and pull out batteries;
- The UK being behind other nations; and
- The price of vehicles;
- Taxi locations and EV charging options.

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

29. THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (SAMP)

Mr. Andrew Williamson, Assistant Director Transformation and Corporate Property, Mr. Keith Questel-Lewis, Corporate Resources and Mr. Keith Edwards, Clear Futures gave a joint Presentation on the Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan.

Members were advised that the SAMP was approved in October, 2020 with the key aims to manage the corporate land portfolio and generate outcomes including: inward investment, attract funding, operate in a more economic, sustainable and environmental way and offer value for money.

The five strategic anchors were, corporate landlord, estate optimisation, economic growth and regeneration, partnerships and housing.

Members were advised of some achievements since the last update and these included the disposal of 27 assets to the value of £3.9m and debt reduction of £0.5m.

The presentation went onto provide information in relation to-

- Corporate Property Robertson FM contract deliverables ;
- Key performance indicators;
- Supporting the local economy;
- SAMP action plan priorities;
- SAMP overview including asset data, lease and debt reduction, vacant properties, asset challenge, occupancy, energy plan, asset disposal, CIPFA compliance, condition surveys, community asset transfers, SAMP portfolio challenges and risks, the property model update, economic growth and regeneration including Bolton Market, library upgrades, The Wellsprings, public realm and green spaces and schools projects.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Income generation and commercialisation were covered but nothing about the social benefits or social value;
- Community asset transfers;
- There being no mention of partner Parish or Town Councils;
- It being a comprehensive and detailed report;
- Issues around a scoping maintenance exercise on the Town Hall;
- Matters concerning the issue of the feasibility of solar panels on the Town Hall;
- The proportion of income from land / buildings;
- Breaking assets up;
- The Wellsprings and the target dates;
- Consultation with Councillors regarding SAMP items and timescales;
- Reports that included Councillors views;
- Regeneration matters;
- £15.41m funding and how much was kept for other things;
- The value in some buildings other than financial;
- The occupancy in the Town Hall and across other Council buildings;

- The worth of the 429 property portfolio; and
- A review of the whole portfolio.

Resolved – That Messrs Williamson, Questel- Lewis and Edwards be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the update be noted.

30. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- (i) Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 16th January, 2023;
- (ii) Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 12th December, 2022;
- (iii) Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 12th December, 2022; and
- (iv) Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery held on 18th January, 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.15 p.m.)

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 2ND MARCH, 2023

Present – Councillors Veevers (Chairman), M. Ayub, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Finney (as deputy for Councillor A. Patel), Grant, Hartigan, Haworth, Heslop, Iqbal, Meehan, S. Patel, Peel (as deputy for Councillor Atcha), Radcliffe (as deputy for Councillor Brady), Sanders (as deputy for Councillor Weatherby) and Councillor Walsh

Also in attendance

Councillor Mrs Fairclough	- Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Haslam	- Executive Cabinet Member – Highways and Transport
Councillor Hewitt	- Executive Cabinet Member – Strategic Housing and Planning
Councillor Warren	- Executive Cabinet Member - Regeneration
Mr J. Dyson	- Director of Place
Mr P. Whittingham	- Assistant Director – Economic Development and Regeneration
Ms H. Gorman	- Borough Solicitor
Mr I. D. Mulholland	- Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Members of the Public

Ms M. O’Riorden and Ms G. Ratcliffe	- Representatives from the Westhoughton Town Centre Focus Group
Mr C. Higson and Ms C. Kirkman	- Local Residents

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Atcha, Brady, A. Patel and Weatherby

Councillor Veevers in the Chair

**31. CALL IN – WESTHOUGHTON TOWN HALL
REFURBISHMENT AND CAPITAL ALLOCATION**

The Committee was advised that the decision in relation to the report regarding Westhoughton Town Hall Refurbishment and Capital Allocation had been called in by Councillor Hayes at the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration

held on 13th February, 2023, in accordance with Article 5 of the Council's Constitution.

The Committee had previously been circulated with a copy of the report considered at the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member held on 13th February, 2023 together with the minutes of the meeting and the procedural options available to the Committee following consideration of the matter.

At the start of the meeting, the Chairman gave a brief overview of why the decision had been called in for scrutiny by this Committee and advised that he had received requests from representatives of the Westhoughton Town Centre Focus Group and two local Westhoughton residents/volunteers to address the Committee on the matter.

In this regard, members voted on the request for members of the public to address the Committee, as follows:

Members voting in favour of the request (16):

Councillors M. Ayub, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Finney, Grant, Hartigan, Haworth, Heslop, Iqbal, Meehan, S. Patel, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Veevers and Walsh.

The request was agreed.

The Chairman then invited the speakers to address the meeting and answer questions.

Ms O'Riorden from the Westhoughton Town Centre Focus Group expressed concern that the refurbishment proposals would not provide enough community space and that there was too much emphasis on the commercial aspect. She felt that a 60/40 split (commercial/community) would be an ideal ratio and that the proposals should be reviewed. She was also concerned that the consultation had been lacking at times and that information had not always been accessible. She felt that there should be improved partnership working between the Council and residents going forward which would provide better outcomes for all.

Mr C. Higson, a local resident, stated that he was in favour of the proposals as the main purpose of the refurbishment was to retain the listed building for future use. He was concerned that the building could be lost if the refurbishment did not go ahead as planned and that works should start as soon as possible. He stated that the proposals had been in discussion for five years and that all interested parties had been given the opportunity to express their views.

Councillor Warren, the Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration, also addressed the Committee and answered questions on her decision to approve the refurbishment proposals.

The Chairman then opened the matter for debate by the Committee where the following issues were raised:

- the need for transparent and open consultation;
- a disconnect between the Steering Group, residents and the Council;
- better partnership working with groups and residents;
- the potential for a greater mix of community and commercial use of the space;
- funding issues;
- the implications of a delay in starting the works; and
- other buildings within Westhoughton that were already being used by community groups.

Following the discussions, it was moved by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Hartigan –

“That the decision of the Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration taken on 13th November, 2023, be noted.”

Whereupon, an amendment was moved by Councillor Veevers and seconded by Councillor Peel, as follows –

“That the decision be referred back to the Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration for reconsideration and to look again at the possibility of addressing the concerns of the

Westhoughton Town Centre Focus Group and including a greater element of community in the refurbishment plan.”

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

For the amendment (8):

Councillors M. Ayub, Donaghy, Haworth, Heslop, Iqbal, Peel, Sanders and Veevers

Against the amendment (8):

Councillors Eckersley-Fallon, Finney, Grant, Hartigan, Meehan, S. Patel, Radcliffe and Walsh

Abstained (0):

None

In view of there being equal votes cast both for and against the amendment, the Chairman used his second vote in favour of the amendment.

Accordingly, the amendment was declared carried.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote where the voting was as follows:-

For the substantive motion (16):

Councillors M. Ayub, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Finney, Grant, Hartigan, Haworth, Heslop, Iqbal, Meehan, S. Patel, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Veevers and Walsh.

Against the substantive motion (0):

None

E11

Abstained (0)

None

The substantive motion was declared carried.

Resolved – That the item be referred back for reconsideration to the Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration, on the basis now detailed.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 8.05pm)

E12

NOTES

(This meeting is for information only, it was approved by Council on 15th February 2023.)

CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 9th FEBRUARY, 2023

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Heslop, Brady, Connor, Cowen, Jiva, Mistry, S. Patel, Peel, Rimmer, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh and Wright.

Augmented by members of the Place Scrutiny Committee for minutes 31, 32 and 33: Councillors Atcha, M. Ayub, Donaghy, Iqbal and A. Patel.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Cox	Leader of the Council
Councillor Dean	Executive Cabinet for Stronger Communities
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Ms. S. Johnson	Chief Executive
Chief Superintendent Parker	Greater Manchester Police
Mr. L. Fallows	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. J. Dyson	Director of Place
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Mr. P. Rimmer	Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. T. Glennon	Borough Treasurer

Ms. J. King	Assistant Director HR/OD
Ms. N. Littlewood	Head of Communications and Engagement
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eckersley-Fallon, Grant, Hartigan and Hornby and the Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning and the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair

29. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th December, 2022 were submitted.

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

30. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022/2023

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the proposed work programme for 2022/2023.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2022/2023 be noted.

31. POLICING THE ROADS

Chief Superintendent Parker, Greater Manchester Police, gave a presentation which updated members on the current work being undertaken in relation to the policing of the roads within the Borough.

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

- The force departments – specialist operations;
- Statistical information regarding specialist operations incident attendance;

- Force operations which involved Operation Considerate; Operation Wolverine; and Operation Dynamo;
- Local operations which involved Operation Portman and Operation Camenca;
- Community Speedwatch which was currently being operated within Farnworth but would like it to be extended to other areas within the Borough but was dependent on volunteers coming forward;
- The types and numbers of speed cameras in the Borough; and
- The speed camera site data.

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

- The use of ANPR cameras, in particular in places like Horwich, and how this data was accessed;
- How did community speedwatch work and how were people prosecuted;
- The promotion of the community speedwatch initiative at PACT meetings;
- Concern that some speed cameras were working and some were not and was this a deliberate policy;
- The action taken in relation to abandon vehicles on the highway and vehicles that don't have car tax;
- Speeding was a real issue on arterial roads and, in particular, 20 mph roads and how could this be addressed collectively;
- A query was raised regarding Eskdale Grove, which was a very small cul-de-sac, being part of the community speedwatch scheme; and
- Progress made in the recruitment process for road policing officers.

Resolved – That Chief Superintendent Parker be thanked for her informative presentation and the position be noted.

32. APPRENTICESHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES AT BOLTON COUNCIL

Ms. J. King, Assistant Director of HR/OD gave a presentation which updated members on the current position with regards to apprenticeships and employment initiatives at Bolton Council.

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

- The background to the Council's Apprenticeship Strategy;
- The current approach being undertaken;
- The process for existing staff;
- The number of apprenticeships by Directorate;
- The Levy and Expenditure;
- Opportunities for workforce planning;
- Future possibilities to develop moving forward; and
- The recruitment strategy for young people.

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

- Concern was expressed regarding the age profile of the workforce and the need for succession planning to be in place within the leadership training initiative ;
- Flexible working arrangements i.e.: job share with apprentices, for those employees between 66-75;
- How long did an apprenticeship last;
- Concern was expressed regarding the levy for apprenticeships and the issue of giving the unused money back to the Treasury;
- A comparison be undertaken with other Greater Manchester Authorities on the age profile of the workforce; and
- The reviewing of job titles/job descriptions/person specifications.

Resolved – That Ms. J. King be thanked for her informative presentation and the position be noted and that benchmarking information with other Greater Manchester authorities in relation to the age profile of the workforce be circulated to members of this Scrutiny Committee.

33. UPDATES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

Mr. P. Whittingham, Assistant Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, gave a presentation which provided an update in relation to the Levelling Up Fund Bids and the recent announcement of the closure of Marks and Spencer within the Town Centre and the next steps.

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

- The amount of money, in terms of value of funding bids, which had been 'lost' on the unsuccessful Levelling Up Fund bids and the lack of confidence shown by the Government in the Conservative administration;
- Was there any opportunity to resubmit the De Havilland Way bid or alternative options to improve this corridor;
- Disappointment was expressed regarding the criteria for evaluating bids and the fact that this had changed without anyone being aware of this and a request was made that the Leader of the Council provides this feedback to the Secretary of State;
- The need to understand the criteria for Round 3 bids prior to making any submissions;
- To undertake a comparison with other authorities to understand their successful/unsuccessful bids;
- The need to work with Marks and Spencer to ensure that when they vacate the building it does not become a dilapidated boarded up building;
- A request for an informal briefing to held for all members to provide an update on regeneration – the Leader of the Council agreed to hold an informal briefing for group leaders;
- The current working relationship with Marks and Spencer;
- The timeline when Marks and Spencer informed the Council they were vacating the building and the current lease agreement;
- The maintenance of the building once it has been vacated;

- The need to be upfront with the public about the regeneration of the Town Centre; and
- Negotiations ongoing with town centre food store operators.

Resolved – That officers be thanked for the presentation and the position be noted.

34. THE ALBERT HALLS - UPDATE

Ms. N. Littlewood, Head of Marketing and Engagement gave a presentation which updated members on the progress being made with the Albert Halls.

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

- The history of the Albert Halls and the recent transition from the Department of Place to Chief Executive's in July, 2022;
- The vision for the Albert Halls going forward;
- The key priorities during Winter 2022/2023; and
- Timelines from October, 2022 until March, 2023.

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

- How had the offer of light food been promoted;
- The need for a financial profile of the Albert Halls was vital as it had been losing money for a long time;
- The future of the Albert Halls and the need to radically improve it as a sustainable business;
- The need to establish the reasons for the lack of interest in the venue;
- The maintenance of the building;
- Issues associated with the previous contractor and the contract for the Albert Halls;
- Utilisation of the building for more civic/community events;
- The need to ensure charging prices were reasonable in particular for community groups;

- The potential to reintroduce 'Heritage Week' to promote the building; and
- Marketing of the Albert Halls was vital.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

35. BUDGET REPORT 2023-2024

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report which provided members with the following:-

- The consolidation of service budgets to provide the Council's overall 2023/2024 budget;
- Options to inform Council Tax setting for 2023/2024; and
- The Financial Arrangements account for 2023/2024.

Members were informed that the Local Government Settlement for 2023/2024 was a one-year settlement with broad guidance on government intentions for 2024/2025 but no confirmation of actual local government funding from 2024/2025 onwards. The key points to note for the 2023/2024 settlement were detailed in the report.

In terms of the savings programme for 2023-2024, members were advised that given the considerable financial uncertainty, both nationally and locally, it was proposed that a one-year budget be presented to Council for approval in February, 2023 and this would comprise of the use of £10 million reserves to balance the budget which would mean that unachieved savings would be rolled forward into the 2024/2025 budget cycle.

In addition, to achieve a balanced budget it was proposed to include savings targets of £5.2 million, however, there was scope to reduce this requirement as a result of agreement with the Council's NHS partners. Due to the strength of partnership and commitment to valuing social care, the Locality partnership had agreed to make a contribution of £937,000 towards Health and Social Care activities for 2023/2024. As a result, the following changes to the savings targets were proposed as follows:-

Directorate	Original Allocation	Less NHS Contribution	Revised Allocation
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adults and Housing	1,840	(260)	1,580
Children's	1,188	(200)	988
Public Health	477	(477)	0
Place	924		924
Corporate	771		771
Total	5,200	(937)	4,263

The report also outlined a number of pressures which impacted on the current financial year and 2023/2024.

Members were also reminded that the Council has had to find significant savings over the last ten years which totalled around almost £220 million by the end of 2022/2023 with a further £4.3 million to be found in 2023/2024. It was also stated that beyond 2022/2023 there were some key funding issues yet to be confirmed which could impact further on the Council which were as follows:-

- Fair Funding Review (FFR) – as part of the 2016/2017 finance settlement it was announced that there would be an FFR of authorities' funding needs, initially to be implemented in 2019/2020. This was subsequently deferred by one year to 2020/2021 and the Brexit debate pushed this further back to 2021/2022. However, the Covid-19 pandemic had pushed this back further to 2023/2024 and the expectation was that 2025/2026 was now the earliest date of implementation; and
- Business Rates – the government had announced that from 2023 business rates retention would be 49%, 1% of this being passed to the Fire Authority and 50% to central government. However, this had also now been deferred to 2024/2025 at the earliest. Furthermore, the business rates reset initially intended to be implemented in 2021/2022 had also been deferred until at least 2025/2026. As a result this made forecasting business rates beyond 2023/2024 extremely difficult to do. In addition, it was not possible to project what the council

could receive in some form of re-distributed grant from any potentially available funds.

The report also provided an updated expenditure forecast for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. This forecast was based on the assumption that Council Tax would increase by 2.00% for Adult Social Care and 1.99% for the general levy for 2023/2024. It was explained that the level of Council Tax would be determined by the Council at its meeting on 15th February, 2023 following a recommendation from the Cabinet.

In terms of reserves, the council estimated its reserves balance to be £158 million at the end of 2022/2023 excluding the DSG and Collection Fund balances and details of this were provided in the report. Appendix E to the report also provided some information of the implications of not holding these reserves.

Currently it was estimated that available balances as at 31st March, 2023 would be £10.66 million and the Borough Treasurer's recommended, as a minimum, balances of £10 million or higher should be maintained based upon his understanding of the risks and financial issues facing the Council over the next three years and the proposals around the budget, as identified in the report.

The individual parish precepts were also detailed in the report and as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1982 these needed to be added to Bolton's budget requirement.

With regard to the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services), it was explained that this was set by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The proposed increases in the Mayoral Precepts, which were still to be confirmed, were as follows:-

- For the Mayoral General (including Fire Services) a £5/4.86% increase; and
- £15/6.57% increase for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept.

It was stated that should the final decisions of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority be different, this would be reported to members at the meeting.

With regard to Business Rates, whilst the Council was part of the Greater Manchester 100% pilot, it should be noted that the Government determined the rates to be collected and had set these at 49.9p in the pound for small businesses and 51.2p in the pound for larger businesses.

In terms of setting the Council Tax, it was explained that based upon the Adult Social Care precept being set at 2.00% for 2023/2024 plus a 1.99% general levy increase for Council Tax for Bolton Council for 2023/2024 (i.e. excluding Parish and Mayoral precepts) this was the equivalent to an additional 83p per week for Band A properties which were more than 40% of the overall tax base. A Draft Substantive Council Tax Resolution was set out in Appendix H to the report.

In conclusion, the report advised that at the meeting of the Cabinet on 6th February, 2023 the Leader of the Council advised members that, since consultation on the budget proposals had commenced, the Authority had received an additional £1 million one-off funds for 2023/2024 from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Consequently, it was agreed that £500,000 of this be allocated for environmental improvements and public safety schemes. This left £500,000 unallocated and it was agreed that members of the opposition groups could put forward proposals as to how they would like this to be spent which would be considered by Council at its meeting on 15th February, 2023.

The relevant Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken and was detailed in Appendix I to the report.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

36. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND AND COST OF LIVING RESPONSE 1ST OCTOBER, 2022 TO 31ST JANUARY, 2023

Mr. P. Rimmer, Assistant Director Revenue and Benefits and Customer Services gave presentation which updated members on the progress being made with regards to the Household Support Fund and Cost of Living Response during 1st October, 2022 to 31st January, 2023.

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

- Key themes/workstreams;
- Cost of Living Strategic Group;
- Cost of Living Operational Group;
- Cost of Living Micro Site;
- The publicity campaign;
- The events which had and were taking place;
- The Free School Meals Vouchers;
- The Local Welfare Provision;
- Warm Spaces;
- Bolton's Fund;
- Additional expenditure; and
- Next steps.

A request was made for a breakdown, on a ward basis, to be provided to members on the footfall and age groups in relation to Warm Spaces.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

37. MEMBERS BUSINESS

The Committee received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

- (a) The Cabinet held on 12th December, 2022 and 6th February, 2023; and

- (b) The Executive Cabinet Member Leaders Portfolio held on 6th and 21st December, 2022 and 10th January, 2023.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.55 p.m.)

(This meeting is for information only, it was approved by Council on 15th February 2023.)

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 1ST FEBRUARY, 2023

Present – Councillors Haworth (Chairman), T. Wilkinson (Vice-Chairman), N. Ayub, Brady (as deputy for Councillor Eckersley-Fallon), Challender, Fletcher, Hartigan, Khurram, McGeown, Meehan, Radcliffe, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Walsh (as deputy for Councillor Rimmer) and Wright.

Also in attendance

Councillor Morgan	- Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Baines	- Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing
Ms. R. Tanner	- DASS, Director of Adults
Ms. F. Noden	- Chief Executive, Bolton NHS FT
	- Bolton Place Based Lead, GMIC
Ms. T. Minshull	- Assistant Director Commissioning
Mr. B. Squires	- Head of Primary Care – GM Integrated Care Partnership
Ms. N. Ledwith	- Delivery Director Bolton Locality GMIC
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	- Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bullock, Rimmer, Eckersley- Fallon, Ann Schenk (Health Watch Bolton) and Bernie Gallagher (Bolton and District Pensioners Association)

Councillor Haworth in the Chair.

29. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th December, 2022 were submitted.

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

30. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2022/23

The Committee received a report which set out the work programme items for consideration during the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the updated work programme for 2022/2023 be approved.

31. WIDER PRIMARY CARE INC PHARMACY, DENTAL, OPTOMETRY

Mr. Ben Squires, Head of Primary Care – GM Integrated Care Partnership gave a presentation on the provision and access to NHS dentistry.

It was explained that questions would be taken regarding the issues of wider primary care including pharmacy and optometry but the presentation would not cover those matters specifically.

Members were updated in terms of the various dental facilities in Bolton in terms of general dental care, specialist dental services and secondary dental services.

The pandemic had had a huge impact and dental services were trying to recover to pre-pandemic levels.

The Committee was informed that the main issue of patient feedback had centred around patients being unable to get an appointment and health watch officers would be engaged with in terms of all feedback.

All NHS dental practices continued to prioritise patients in pain, children, patients who were deemed at risk. Access was slowly increasing.

The meeting was informed of access to urgent dental care. There were 40 hubs in Greater Manchester and 4 within Bolton.

Further information was provided in terms of the post pandemic recovery of secondary care dental services.

In terms of the way forward for planning and recovery it was highlighted that –

- To ensure capacity was in place for on-going activity;
- Return critical services to agreed standards;
- Address back log of services; and
- Retain changes and innovations from the pandemic that we wished to keep.

Mr. Squires also addressed the issue of the prioritisation of opening up access to dental services and what Greater Manchester was doing in this regard including the GM access Plus Scheme, the child friendly dental scheme, the healthy living dental project, a dental home for looked after children, evacuee and asylum seeker pathway, oral health improvement and the GM Transformation programme.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Capacity on dependent adults;
- Whether it was now easier to become an NHS dental patient since the pandemic;
- One dentist per 1,000 people in Bolton and the challenges around this;
- Whether dental practices were private businesses; and
- Missed appointments and getting struck off.

Resolved – (i) That Mr Squires be thanked for his detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

(ii) That the Committee be provided with a note regarding children who need a general anaesthetic and also information on patients who can complain regarding Greater Manchester and reasonableness.

32. HEALTH AND INTEGRATED CARE – GM ICS AND LOCALITY BOARD

Ms. Fiona Noden, Chief Executive of Bolton NHS Foundation Trust and Bolton Place Based Lead, Ms. Rachel Tanner, Director of Adults and Ms. Naomi Ledwith, Delivery Director Bolton Locality GMIC gave a joint presentation on health and care integration.

Members were reminded of the previously published Bolton Locality Plan, 2020-2024 which was the blue print for the transformation and integration of health and social care.

The key priorities included –

- Prevention and Early Intervention;
- Mental Wellbeing;
- Keep People Living Well in their Community;
- Develop our workforce and culture as a locality; and
- Digital First approach.

The Committee was informed of the membership of the Bolton Locality Board, its key purpose and how working together was undertaken.

The Committee was also informed of the move towards six health and care neighbourhoods with integrated teams aligned to Primary Care Networks and connected to place.

Information regarding the diverse nature of Bolton was given including life expectancy and deprivation matters.

In conclusion, the members were informed of the next steps in the Bolton Locality Plan.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- the public health team – inequality in Bolton;
- Responsibility and accountability matters;
- Innovative ways from hearing from patients and users;
and
- Ward councillors input going forward.

Resolved – That Fiona Noden, Rachel Tanner and Naomi Ledwith be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

33. CARERS STRATEGY

Ms. Tracy Minshull, Assistant Director Social Care and Public Health Commissioning gave a presentation on the Carers Strategy. A copy of the strategy had also been previously circulated to the Committee.

The carers strategy was formed following discussions with carers across Bolton, partners and Bolton Council. The strategy was based on outcomes that made a difference to people's lives.

The presentation went on to address –

- Matters around inequality;
- What carers had said;
- Bolton's Partnership commitment;
- The five priorities and objectives;
- Bolton young carers pledge; and
- How it would be know that a difference was made.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- How unknown carers were reached;
- 40% of carers felt isolated and how this number could be brought down;
- Respite and various options; and
- The work of Bolton CVS.

Resolved – That Tracy Minshull be thanked for her detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

34. MEMBERS BUSINESS

- (a) The committee considered the following members questions, viz -

The following question was submitted by Bernie Gallagher, Lay Member in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the response was prepared by NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care.

Q.

The Parliamentary Select Committee on the future of GP Services reported that:

"the decline of continuity of care in general practice was one of the most concerning impacts of the pressure on general practice. Since 2004 the majority of GPs had not had individual lists of patients even though there was clear international and UK research showing that seeing the same GP over a long period of time lead to fewer hospital visits, lower mortality and less cost for the NHS....."

Furthermore, "We recommend abolishing the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) and Impact and Investment Framework (IIF) which had become tools of micromanagement and risked turning patients into numbers. GPs should be treated like professionals and incentivised to provide relationship-based care for all patients by restoring individual patient lists"

Given the clear benefits to the patient, job satisfaction for GPs and savings for the NHS was this something which could be introduced in Bolton ?

A.

The QOF was a national framework, therefore it would require national change.

Patients could request to see their GP of choice to ensure continuity of care – the BQC asked that all GPs provide 10 sessions per week and also provide pre-bookable appointments a month in advance.

Obviously if urgent on the day care was required, the ‘usual’ GP might not be available but for long standing issues, where continuity of care would be beneficial patients should be able to pre-plan those appointments to see their preferred GP .

QOF and IIF were national schemes and would require national changes - Bolton practices could / would continue to participate.

The following questions were submitted by Councillor Haworth in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the responses were set out below.

Q.

Question for the Chief Executive of Bolton NHS FT

In the third quarter of 2022 2023 what percentage of patients waiting in A&E services had been waiting longer than the target time of four hours.

Also in the third quarter, what percentage of patients had been waiting longer than the target time of 18 weeks for routine treatments.

Question for the Chief Executive of NWS

Did NWS or Bolton NHS FT monitor the handover wait times of Ambulance services.

In the third quarter of 2022 2023 what percentage of ambulances arriving at the Bolton NHS FT A&E were queuing outside with handover rates exceeding the target time.

Also in the third quarter, what percentage of blue light 999 ambulance service response was delayed past the target time in the Bolton Borough.

Question for the Chief Executive of GMMHFT

In the third quarter of 2022 2023 for Bolton Borough patients;

What percentage of service users were waiting for outpatient mental health appointments were waiting longer than the target time.

What percentage of service users were waiting for alcohol and drug services including inpatients services that exceeded the target time.

What percentage of young people were waiting for CAMHS appointments that exceeded the target time.

Question – Performance reports

There had been significantly more questions at the Council in 2022 and 2023 about delayed access to GP and primary care appointments, delayed access to Bolton NHS Foundation Trust community services and long queues for acute care at Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. Members of the Health and Adult Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee were seeking update performance reports on GP and primary care in the Borough and on secondary care and community services at Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. Health and Adult Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee had no real history of quarterly performance reports on health services to the scrutiny

committee. There were years when the committee received minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board which referenced Bolton CCG health service performance reports. At other scrutiny committees, such as environment, performance reports had been quarterly. It was not the right time to ask for bespoke performance reports for this committee, as the NHS was in crisis. were there regular performance reports that could be provided to members of the Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee?

A.

Question for the Chief Executive of Bolton NHS FT

In Q3 of 2022/23 we had 34,036 people attend Bolton NHS Foundations Trusts Emergency Department. Of those people, 16,691 were not treated within the 4 hour standard. This equated to 50.96% of people who attended our emergency department in this quarter.

At the end of Q3 of 2022/23, there were 15,499 people waiting longer than 18 weeks for their treatment with Bolton NHS Foundation Trust (for treatment types to which the 18 week referral to treatment standard applies). This equated to 58.9% of all people waiting for this type of treatment.

Question for the Chief Executive of NWAS

In the period 1.10.22 to 31.12.22 there were 5,605 ambulance arrivals at Bolton FT. Of these 4,838 went to the Emergency Department.

The time standards for Bolton FT and for comparison, the GM average were:

	Standard	Bolton FT	GM Area
Arrival to Handover (mins)	15:00	52:31	45:14
Handover achieved in 15 minutes	100%	37.7%	42.1%
Handover to Clear (mins)	15:00	09:57	10:57
Total Turnaround (mins)	30:00	54:52	50:45

Emergency ambulance responses were categorised into 5 priority categories.

Category 1 was the highest clinical acuity category, including cardiac arrest, electrocution, drowning etc. Those calls were comparatively few (12% of all our incidents) but obviously carried the greatest need for patients. The response standard for this category was a mean response of 7 minutes and to be on scene in 90% of cases in 15 minutes. (Referred to as the 90th centile response).

Category 2 included serious but not immediately life-threatening patients, including heart attack, stroke, breathing problems. Those make up between 55% and 60% of our activity. The response standard for this category was a mean response of 18 minutes and to be on scene in 90% of cases in 40 minutes.

Category 3 included patients who were not serious or life threatening but did have a clinical need that required ambulance attendance, including falls, mental health problems, sporting injuries. Those made up around 21% of our incidents. The response standard for this category was a mean response of 60 minutes and to be on scene in 90% of cases in 120 minutes.

Category 4 included patients with a transport need but not a significant medical need. These were very few (<1% of our incidents).

Category 5 included patients who did not have an ambulance requirement and were generally managed with signposting advice or referral to another service at the time of call. Those were circa 8% of our incidents. Those incidents did not have a response time standard.

Question for the Chief Executive of GMMHFT

NHS Mental Health services did not operate an outpatient model of care but did provide community based support. GMMH provided community based mental health support for

Bolton people, alongside VCSE partners. There was not a universal NHS national waiting time target for mental health, but specific service areas did have NHS targets for access. For Early Intervention in Psychosis services, the national target was that 60% of people should start treatment within 2 weeks of referral. In Q3 2022/23, Early Intervention in Psychosis services in Bolton met this target as 65% of treatment starts were within 2 weeks of referral.

Additionally, there was a local target in Greater Manchester for Memory Assessment Services (MATS). This target was that 80% of individuals should be diagnosed within 12 weeks of referral. GMMH MATS services in Bolton did not meet this target during Q3 2022/23. Performance was 33% (October), 48% (November) and 68% (December). Demand for MATS had increased 20% in the last year - in December 2022, Bolton services were managing 703 open cases.

For community drug and alcohol services, the national target was that the time from triage to modality start should be within 21 days. During Q3 2022/23, all patients in the Bolton service were seen by the GMMH-led Achieve partnership within this time, i.e. no one had a wait exceeding the target.

For inpatient drug and alcohol services, the local performance management framework sets a 6 week maximum target for waits. In Q3 2022/23, there were 5 Bolton patients admitted to inpatient services who had waited longer than 6 weeks and 4 who were admitted within 6 weeks of referral. It should be noted that the arrangements for commissioning inpatient services were through a variety of commissioners with GM contracting for three inpatient beds in total to serve the Greater Manchester footprint.

The national NHS target for CAMHS access was 18 weeks for referral treatment start. Of the people open to the Bolton service at the end of December 2022, 97.3% were seen within the target time. 2.7% had waited more than 18 weeks for their treatment start.

Question – Performance reports

We would be publishing the Bolton Locality Performance report on the ICB website on a monthly basis. The Performance reporting process had been established. We were just working through with GMICB how to publish locality information.

Performance reporting was available of the Bolton NHS FT website [26-January-2023-Board-of-Directors-Final-Set.pdf](#) (boltonft.nhs.uk)

(b) The Committee also received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

(i) Executive Cabinet Member Adult Social Care held on 9th January, 2023.

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

(ii) That the members questions and the responses be noted.

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