

CORPORATE RESOURCES, STRATEGY AND BUDGET POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 27TH AUGUST, 2013

Present – Councillors Iqbal (Chairman), Morris (Vice-Chairman), Kay (as deputy for Councillor Adia), Peel, Greenhalgh, Hayes, Morgan, Spencer and Mrs. Thomas.

Also in Attendance

Mr. S. Harriss	-	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	-	Deputy Chief Executive
Ms. S. Schofield	-	Assistant Director of Environmental Services
Mr. J. Livesey	-	Assistant Director Adults and Children's Services
Ms. H. Gorman	-	Borough Solicitor

Mr. A. Jennings	-	Democratic Services Manager
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Councillor Iqbal in the Chair

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 20th May, 2013 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

6. 2015/2016 SPENDING REVIEW

The Deputy Chief Executive reminded members that the Council had received a Technical Consultation Document regarding the 2015/16 spending review and that the Cabinet had considered an initial evaluation of the impact of the proposals at its meeting on 19th August, 2013 and had agreed that an immediate all party response to the consultation be prepared, prior to the Council's response on the individual questions posed in the consultation document to be submitted by the end of September, 2013.

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted the letter to be sent to the Secretary of State.

The PDG agreed the content of the letter to be sent by the three group leaders to the Secretary of State.

7. VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING REVIEW – CORPORATE AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES – RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

Members were reminded that it had previously been agreed to undertake consultations with various groups as to the Council's proposals regarding savings in the corporate, voluntary, community and faith sectors.

The key issues raised in the consultation were explained, as were the guiding principles and , overall, the Council's position and proposals had been understood and accepted by those affected.

Proposed changes arising from the consultation were set out in the report and related to Relate Greater Manchester North and the Bolton Interfaith Council.

The proposals for those groups funded via Children's and Adults services remained unchanged.

The PDG agreed the report for submission to the Cabinet and that the original proposal to cease funding for Relate at the end of March, 2015 be supported ,together with the reduced funding for the Interfaith Council coming into effect on 1st April, 2015.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY, NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AND AREA WORKING SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY REPORT 2013/2014 – 2014/2015 – CONSULTATION REPORT

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report that set out the results of consultation on the Community Safety, Area Working and Neighbourhood Management savings proposals for 2013/14 and 2014/15 and sought members views on the proposed meetings protocol.

Members were reminded that it was proposed to retain the current model of 18 area forums but reduce the frequency of meetings from three times to twice per year in view of the need to make savings and reduced capacity within the service.

Meetings would take place as follows:-

Round One: June to July
Round Two: January to March

There would not be any 'themed' meetings in between the Forums. However, if an issue arose where Ward Members felt that a public meeting should be convened then this would be organised between Ward Members and the relevant Chief Officer who would be dealing with the issue.

A draft protocol for area forums and partnership board meetings had been developed to clarify the level of service which could be provided with the reduced staff numbers and was attached at Appendix 2.

Members asked for the arrangements for Member only Meetings to be clarified in the protocol.

The PDG agreed the report for submission to the Cabinet and that the Director make suitable arrangements for the round two meetings.

9. PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report that provided members with an updated public service reform plan.

The principles behind Public Service Reform were to integrate services across public sector organisations in order to both reduce demand for services and make them more efficient. Across Greater Manchester all boroughs had been working together in drawing together an overall programme to deliver Public Service Reform.

The programme now submitted was Bolton's initial plan to deliver integrated services in the Borough across five key areas:-

- Early Years
- Health and Social Care Integration
- Transforming Justice
- Families First (Troubled Families)
- Work and Skills

The AGMA work had the support of Central Government and the aim of the first phase was to provide sufficient evidence of the potential of the approach and to demonstrate AGMA's commitment to the changes in order to convince Central Government to make the necessary changes in legislation and financial provisions to support successful delivery.

In the recent Spending Review the Government had demonstrated their support and encouragement to the approach by the inclusion of several funding packages. These included extending the current "Troubled Families" programme for a further year and providing pooled resources between Local Authorities and Health to start the process of integrating Social Care and Health services. The Council had engaged Government, at a high level, to discuss the principles behind extending the current Work Programme principles to those who had been unemployed for more than 2 years. It was now for AGMA Councils to demonstrate more clearly the potential success of these programmes by delivering at scale and within a reasonably short period of time to secure the Government's support to the changes necessary.

The attached initial programme was Bolton's contribution to the programme and included support of all local agencies. The programme would be constantly updated as models of operating and financial information were further developed. Progress on and development of the programme would be periodically reported to the Cabinet.

The PDG agreed the report for submission to the Cabinet.

(The meeting started at 10.00 a.m and finished at 11.15 a.m)