ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 18th AUGUST, 2015

Present – Councillors Spencer (Chairman), Silvester (Vice-Chairman), Allen, L. Byrne, Evans, Harkin, Haslam, Hayes, Kellett, Kirk-Robinson (as deputy for Councillor J. Walsh), Richardson, Shaikh and A. S. Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services
Councillor Chadwick	Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Community Services
Councillor D. Burrows	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services Police and Community Safety
Ms. S. Johnson	Borough Treasurer and Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Ms. J. Pollard	Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy and Deputy Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr. J. Kelly	Head of Service Highways and Engineering
Mr G. Langley	Principal Engineer (Network Planning and Safety)
Ms. L. Swann	Assistant Head of Waste and Fleet Strategy

Mr. S. Warburton	Transport for Greater Manchester
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Pickup, J. Walsh and Watters.

Councillor Spencer, Chairman.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9th June, 2015 were submitted.

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

6. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Borough Solicitor submitted the draft work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year following the suggestions which were made by members at the last meeting.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

7. UNITED UTILITIES WATER – SERVICE ISSUES

This item was withdrawn.

8. THE GM TRANSPORT STRATEGY AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOLTON INCLUDING BIDS

Mr. Simon Warburton from Transport for Greater Manchester gave a presentation on the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy which set out the vision for the period up to 2040.

By way of background information members were reminded of the joint working between the ten local authorities and that the

economic potential for the region exceeded all other UK city regions.

Mr Warburton also highlighted matters around commuting flows in Greater Manchester and beyond.

In terms of the 2040 vision, the Committee was advised that this identified what success looked like, highlighted likely drivers of future demand and included a delivery timeline. The aim was for world class connections that supported long term sustainable economic growth and access to opportunity for all. Also highlighted was the need for the transport system to be well integrated, safe, secure, healthy, low-emission, accessible and resilient.

Mr Warburton went on to explain matters around –

- Spatial themes;
- A globally connected city region;
- Delivering better city to city links;
- Getting into and around the regional centre;
- Travelling across the wider city region; and
- Connected neighbourhoods.

In conclusion, members were apprised of details of matters around new investment, service delivery and maintenance and renewal issues.

Members were also provided with a copy of the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040, Our Vision.

Members in their deliberations referred to –

- Matters concerning the powers recently promised for the region from HM Government and the impact of those;
- The possible introduction of London style ticketing, for example, the Oyster Card;
- Demand led transport systems;
- Funding and the balance between fares and subsidies;
- Access to railway stations;
- The future role of canals;

- Connections to the regional centre and connections to other sub regional areas not through the regional centre;
- Development of tourism involving the whole of the regional area; and
- Journey to work arrangements.

Resolved – That Mr Warburton be thanked for his informative Presentation and that the position be noted.

9. WASTE SAVINGS UPDATE

Ms Laura Swann, Assistant Head of Waste and Fleet Strategy gave a presentation updating members on matters concerning waste and recycling.

By way of background information the Committee was reminded of the changes that had taken place in the service in recent years and the agreement to move to slimmer grey bins between June and November, 2016.

Ms Swann, highlighted that comparing 2014/15 with 2013/14 1081 less tonnes of grey bin waste was collected, 813 tonnes more food and garden waste, 556 tonnes more co-mingled and 138 tonnes more pulpables.

Members were also apprised of statistical information concerning kg of household waste collected, the recycling rate, levels of missed collections and the key achievements in 2014/15.

Ms Swann also informed the Committee of the campaigns undertaken in 2014/15, viz –

- Door to door engagement;
- The securing of £30,000 of Waste Resources Action Programme funding;
- The right Stuff Right Bin campaign in partnership with Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority;
- The Up and Forward Recycling campaign;
- Matters around slim your bin;
- Bulky waste collections;

- Additional grey bins, recycling bin deliveries and assisted collections;
- Road shows and events;
- Grey bin stickers; and
- Recycling over Ramadan and Christmas.

In conclusion, members were informed of the new waste audit policy and the new and replacement bin policies that were now in place.

An outline was also provided in relation to the engagement work that would take place during 2015/16 to prepare residents for the introduction of slimmer grey bins.

Members in their deliberations referred to -

- Disposal of kitchen waste and the permitted use of more than one bag a week for this;
- The reduction in grey bin waste and reduction in missed collections which was good news;
- Fly tipping and bins being brought in late and action around those;
- The positive cultural change in terms of the bin crews; and
- The bulky item removal service.

Resolved – That Ms Swann be thanked for her informative and detailed update and that the position be noted.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – FINANCE REPORT, 2014/15 FINAL OUTTURN

The Direct of Environmental Services submitted a report which set out details of the financial final outturn position for the Environmental Services portfolio for the 2014/15 financial year.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

11. DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE, QUARTER 4, 2014/15

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided the Committee with an update on the quarter 4 performance of 2014/15 for the Environmental Services Department.

The report summarised delivery against both qualitative and quantitative indicators, recognising the balance between hard and soft outputs taking into account the current financial pressures facing the organisation.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

12. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

The following question was submitted by Councillor Hayes in accordance with Standing Order 36 and the answer provided by the Director Of Environmental Services in consultation with the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, viz –

Q 1.

What was the Council's general policy about giving sports clubs leases on Council owned playing fields ?
Can we be assured that before any lease was concluded for Church Road Playing Fields, there would be full consultation with ward councillors and there would be an opportunity for any proposed agreement to be considered by the Executive Member and by this Scrutiny Committee.

A.

Environmental Services had a number of lease and self-management arrangements with local groups and organisations. Given the on-going financial challenges the Authority faced, it was important to consider further potential for self-management of assets in order to mitigate the impact of budget reductions.

We were entering into discussions with Moss Bank Sports Club in relation to the use of the asset at Church Road / Captains Clough, this would enable the Club to attract grant monies and improve the facilities. The formal lease would be led by Corporate property and the political decision (as a property issue) came under the Leaders portfolio, overseen by the Corporate and External issues Scrutiny Committee.
Officers would ensure that the terms of all management agreements and leases were tailored appropriately and the appropriate level of consultation takes place.
The Director of Environmental Services also explained that his Department would not agree to a lease which led to any restriction of public access to Church Road / Captains Clough Playing Fields.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Public access issues;
- Parking at Moss Bank Park; and
- Matters around consultation with ward members.

The Committee also received the minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee, viz :-

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environment Services held on 15th June, 13th July and 17th August 2015;
- Environment and Waste Policy Development Group held on 25th and 30th June and 29th July, 2015;
- Neighbourhood and Community Services Policy Development Group held on 30th June, 2015; and
- An extract of the Cabinet held on 6th July, 2015.

Resolved –(i) That the Members Question and the answer provided be noted.
(ii) That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.38pm)

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