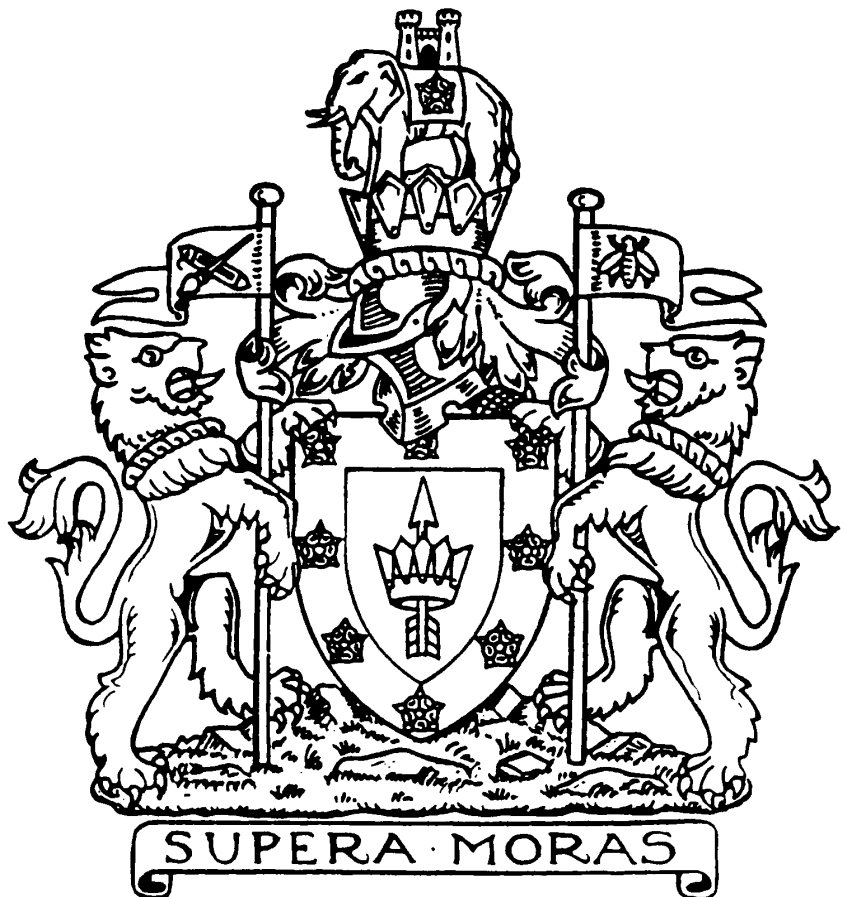


Bolton Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

15th February 2023

SUMMONS AND AGENDA



BOLTON COUNCIL

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

1. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 18th January 2023 (Section A).

2. Recommendations to Council

Motion to be moved by Councillor Cox:-

To approve or otherwise the recommendations of the Cabinet made at its meeting on 6th February, 2023, (see Section C) relating to the fixing of the budget, the setting of the Council Tax and the determination of associated financial matters (see Section B for copy of the motion to be moved at the Council).

3. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies

4. Committee Proceedings

To approve the proceedings of the following Committee:-

Planning Committee (See Section D)

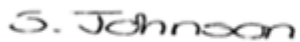
5. Scrutiny Committees

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee (See Section E) (to follow)

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (See Section F) (to follow)

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a rectangular box.

SUE JOHNSON
Chief Executive
Town Hall, Bolton

8th February, 2023

The proceedings the Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 9th January to 2nd February, 2023 are included for information only in a separate volume.

BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

2022/2023

18TH JANUARY 2023

Present - Councillors Zaman (Mayor), Mrs. Thomas (Deputy Mayor), Abdullah, Allen, 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, Hill, 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, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

73. IN MEMORIUM – HONORARY ALDERMAN ERIC JOHNSON

Members observed a minutes silence in memory of Honorary Alderman Eric Johnson who had sadly passed away.

74. IN MEMORIUM – FORMER COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WALSH

Members observed a minutes silence in memory of former Councillor Michael Walsh who had sadly passed away.

75. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 30th November 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

76. CONSTITUTION– SCHEME OF DELEGATION

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

That the amendments to the Council's Scheme of Delegation for 2022/2023, as circulated, be approved.

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

For the Motion, 58 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Allen, 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, Hill, 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, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

77. RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL – PLANNING VALIDATION CHECKLIST

It was moved by Councillor Hewitt, seconded by Councillor Walsh –

That the updated Planning Validation Checklist, as circulated, be approved and that the Checklist be brought into effect for use on 19th January, 2023.

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

For the Motion, 58 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Allen, 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, Hill, 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, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**78. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS UNDER STANDING
ORDER 9(a)**

The following questions were asked under Standing Order 9(a) –

- (i) by Councillor Taylor-Burke relating to grit bins

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor Taylor-Burke relating to community bins

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor Cowen relating to arrangements in place to mark 150th Anniversary of the Town Hall

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor Haworth relating to information and communications about street cleaning

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Haworth relating to homelessness in the Borough

The Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor N. Ayub relating to small independent retailers in Farnworth

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor Rimmer relating to the Health Centre in Horwich

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (viii) by Councillor Donaghy relating to charges for communal heating

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

- (ix) by Councillor Atcha relating to alley gating schemes

The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities replied to this question.

- (x) by Councillor Atcha relating to street cleaning in Rumworth Ward

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

- (xi) by Councillor A. Patel relating to alley gating schemes

The Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Bullock relating to Council Tax rises

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xiii) by Councillor Mort relating to missed bin collections

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

- (xiv) by Councillor Finney relating to HGVs in Westhoughton

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (xv) by Councillor Walsh relating to housing developments in Astley Bridge

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

- (xvi) by Councillor Walsh relating to the junction of Victoria Road/Chorley New Road/Beaumont Road

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

A6

- (xvii) by Councillor Walsh relating to LS Lowry Painting "Going to the Match"

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xviii) by Councillor Abdullah relating to recreational use of Nitrous Oxide and Gas Cannisters

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xix) by Councillor Abdullah relating to an update on proposed works at Central Street

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xx) by Councillor Mrs. Thomas relating to funding to purchase beds in social care homes

The Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care replied to this question.

- (xxi) by Councillor Priest relating to maths vacancies in Bolton

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied to this question.

- (xxii) by Councillor Priest relating to enforcement issues

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

- (xxiii) by Councillor Hayes relating to Minimum Space Standards

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

A7

- (xxiv) by Councillor Priest relating to the development off Grizedale Close

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

- (xxv) by Councillor Hayes relating to Atlas No 7 Mill

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

- (xxvi) by Councillor Veevers relating to pedestrian crossings over Chorley Old Road, Moorside Avenue and New Hall Lane

The Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied to this question.

- (xxvii) by Councillor Hayes relating to extra costs for Voter ID

The Chief Executive replied to this question.

- (xxviii) by Councillor Hartigan relating to extra £9 million funding to help level up parks

The Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services Delivery replied to this question.

- (xxix) by Councillor Hayes relating to the tragic death of Awaab Ishak

The Executive Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Planning replied to this question.

- (xxx) by Councillor McGeown relating to Bolton NHS Trust

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (xxxi) by Councillor McGeown relating to critical incident for Bolton NHS Trust

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (xxxii) by Councillor Hornby relating to the library facility in Little Lever

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

79. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor M. Ayub and approved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 17th November, 8th December 2022 and 5th January 2023 be approved.

80. LICENSING AND ENVIROMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Khurram, seconded by Councillor Taylor-Burke and approved –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 22nd November 2022 be approved.

81. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Veevers, seconded by Councillor Weatherby and approved –

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee – 8th December 2022

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees – 13th December 2022

Place Scrutiny Committee – 16th November and 7th December 2022

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 5th December 2022

82. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – COUNCILS FOR FAIR TAX DECLARATIONS

It was moved by Councillor Atcha and seconded by Councillor McKeon -

Research commissioned by the Fair Tax Foundation has revealed that between 2014-2019, a huge 17.5% of UK public procurement contracts were won by businesses with connections to a tax haven. Those contracts were worth a combined value of £37.5bn.

Furthermore, the UK loses an estimated £17bn in corporation tax revenues as a result of profit shifting alone.

Profit shifting is a tax avoidance strategy whereby multinational firms exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift income and profits to low or no-tax locations.

Councils should do what they can to encourage fair tax practices amongst supplier companies when buying goods and services, and be given more powers to tackle tax dodging.

Tax plays a positive role in our society and Councils can be a key part of ensuring high tax standards are applied to businesses.

Bolton Council does have an Ethical Procurement Policy agreed in March 2021 which does include Criminal and non-Criminal conduct regarding tax abuse and compliance.

Many other councils have signed up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration including Oldham and Trafford in Greater Manchester.

Bolton Council therefore resolves to also sign up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration so that we may highlight that we are standing by our own Ethical Procurement Policy.

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

For the Motion, 58 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Allen, 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, Hill, 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, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

83. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – FRACKING

It was moved by Councillor Silvester and seconded by Councillor Haworth -

Council notes that in 2016 the Labour council stated that it would not allow exploratory drilling or infrastructure associated with fracking on land it controls or owns. It further stated that it will “rigorously scrutinise” any planning applications for fracking.

Council notes that the Government temporarily banned fracking in 2019, but then changed its mind recently, and fully supported the practice, which clearly breached its manifesto promises.

Council further notes that this U Turn was firmly supported by the Conservative Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, during the meeting of the Council on September 7th 2022, and therefore expresses its concern that the current Council policy on fracking is in danger of being abandoned by the Conservative led Council.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Reiterate its policy of not allowing any activity associated with fracking to take place on land it controls or owns.
2. To write to the Secretary of State to outline our opposition to fracking and to disagree with his statement that “fracking is in the national interest”.
3. To seek clarification from the Secretary of State as to how local support for fracking (which he says will be needed before the practice can go ahead) will be measured.

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

For the Motion, 58 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Allen, 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, Hill, 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, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

84. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – FAIR GAME MANIFESTO

Councillor Mort withdrew this motion and advised that she would resubmit it to a future meeting of the Council.

85. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

Councillor T. Wilkinson withdrew this motion and advised that she would resubmit it to a future meeting of the Council.

86. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – TOWN CENTRES STRATEGY

It was moved by Councillor Sanders and seconded by Councillor T. Wilkinson -

In the 2019 Budget, the Council committed to £4million of new capital receipts to be “principally” invested into Farnworth - of which, since 2021, can be redirected by the Farnworth Town Centre Steering Group into viable schemes in Kearsley. An example being the £200,000 improvements to the public space and free carpark at Kearsley Precinct.

During the upcoming introduction period for the new leadership within the Place Department, and considering the impact that global and economic events have had on our high streets since the current town centres strategy was introduced in 2018, Council sees this as an opportune time to set-up a Policy Development Group to review:

- 1) The Council’s 2018 strategy in light of current challenges and potential opportunities facing high streets and town centres.
- 2) The inclusivity and fairness of the current town centres strategy and funding.
- 3) Placing Kearsley and Blackrod firmly within town centres policy.

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

For the Motion, 58 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Allen, 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, Hill, 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, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

87. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – SYSTEM OF FAIR VOTES FOR UK GENERAL ELECTIONS

Councillor Veevers withdrew this motion and advised that he would resubmit it to a future meeting of the Council.

88. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – NO CONFIDENCE IN THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Heslop and seconded by Councillor Newall -

This Council has no confidence in the Leader of this Council and resolves to remove the Leader from this position.

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

For the Motion, 4 viz:

Councillors Allen, Heslop, McMulkin and Newall.

Against the Motion, 27 viz:

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

Abstained, 27 viz:

Councillors Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Challenger, Donaghy, Fletcher, Haworth, Hayes, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Peel, Priest,

A15

Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers,
Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Whereupon, the motion was declared lost.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.15 p.m.)

A16

NOTES

B1

DRAFT SUBSTANTIVE COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

- (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%
 - (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 £133,021,282
- (iv) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act.
- (a) £278,486,088 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.

B2

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---|
| (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) | £133,473,348 | 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) | £1,693.39 | 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:
Blackrod £73,810
Horwich £225,402
Westhoughton £152,854 |
| (f) | £1,687.65 | being the amount at (iv)(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iv)(e) above by Item T ((ii)(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council 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 £1,724.82
Parish of Horwich £1,717.18
Parish of Westhoughton £1,705.02 |

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	£1,149.87	£1,144.78	£1,136.67	£1,125.09

B3

B	£1,341.54	£1,335.60	£1,326.14	£1,312.63
C	£1,533.16	£1,526.37	£1,515.56	£1,500.12
D	£1,724.82	£1,717.18	£1,705.02	£1,687.65
E	£2,108.10	£2,098.76	£2,083.90	£2,062.67
F	£2,491.42	£2,480.38	£2,462.82	£2,437.73
G	£2,874.69	£2,861.96	£2,841.69	£2,812.74
H	£3,449.64	£3,434.36	£3,410.04	£3,375.30

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:-

<u>Precepting Authority</u>		
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
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B4

				Council's area
A	£1,384.03	£1,378.94	£1,370.83	£1,359.25
B	£1,614.73	£1,608.79	£1,599.33	£1,585.82
C	£1,845.37	£1,838.58	£1,827.77	£1,812.33
D	£2,076.07	£2,068.43	£2,056.27	£2,038.90
E	£2,537.39	£2,528.05	£2,513.19	£2,491.96
F	£2,998.77	£2,987.73	£2,970.17	£2,945.08
G	£3,460.10	£3,447.37	£3,427.10	£3,398.15
H	£4,152.14	£4,136.86	£4,112.54	£4,077.80

(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

EXTRACT

THE CABINET

MEETING, 6TH FEBRUARY, 2023

Councillor Cox	Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	Deputy Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Haslam	Highways and Transport
Councillor Dean	Stronger Communities
Councillor Muslim	Environmental Service Delivery
Councillor Baines	Wellbeing
Councillor Galloway	Children's Services
Councillor Hewitt	Strategic Housing and Planning
Councillor Warren	Regeneration

Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Walsh
Councillor Peel
Councillor Mrs. Thomas
Councillor Donaghy
Councillor Haworth
Councillor Hayes
Councillor Sanders
Councillor Grant
Councillor Heslop

Officers

Ms. S. Johnson	Chief Executive
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. J. Dyson	Director of Place
Mr. L. Fallows	Director of Corporate Resources

Mr. P. Rimmer	Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services
Mr. T. Glennon	Borough Treasurer
Mr. M. Kane	Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eckersley-Fallon and Morgan.

Councillor Cox in the Chair.

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12th December, 2022 were circulated and signed as a correct record.

18. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

The minutes of the meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held on 16th December, 2022 were submitted for information.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

20. 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

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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.

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

The Leader of the Council also 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 proposed that £500,000 of this be allocated for environmental improvements and public safety schemes. This left £500,000 unallocated and it was proposed 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.

Resolved – That the Cabinet recommend to Council:-

- (i) The budget for 2023/2024 as set out in the Budget Report.**
- (ii) That £500,000 be allocated for environmental improvements and public safety schemes and that the allocation of the remaining £500,000 be considered at Council following the submission of proposals by the opposition groups.**
- (iii) That the Council Tax for 2023/2024 be increased by 3.99% represented by a 2.00% increase for Adult Social Care and a 1.99% general increase.**
- (iv) That the Council Tax figures included in the report for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) are the recommended provisional amounts pending their formal approval.**

**21. CORPORATE CAPITAL AND ONE-OFF FUNDING
2023-2026**

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report that proposed a Capital Strategy, Corporate Capital and Revenue Programme, a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy and Capital Prudential Indicators for the next three years.

Members were advised that from 2019/2020 CIPFA's Prudential Code required local authorities to produce a capital strategy to demonstrate that capital expenditure and investment decisions were taken in line with service objectives and took account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability.

The Capital Strategy was a key document for the Council and formed part of the authority's integrated revenue, capital and balance sheet planning. It provided a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contributed to the provision of services and provided an overview of how associated risk was managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. It also included an overview of the governance processes for approval and monitoring of capital expenditure. Appendix 1 to the report detailed the Capital Strategy for 2023-2026.

Members were advised that the significant reductions in the Council's revenue budget had meant that the maximisation of capital funding had become a vital part of ensuring the Council could continue to pursue its key objectives. In recent years, capital monies had been allocated to support the strategic road network across the Borough and to enable the developments in the town centre. The current funding position for 2022-2023 onwards was as follows:-

	Current Capital Programme 2022-2026
	£m
Corporate Supported Borrowing	47.0
Corporate Revenue	4.7
Corporate Capital Receipts	8.0
Service Supported Borrowing	0
Service Revenue	18.3
Government Grants	149.0
Other Contributions	4.8
Total	231.8

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As part of the appraisal of the capital programme the proposals had been assessed for their anticipated impact on the Council's VAT recovery position.

Full VAT recovery was only permitted where less than 5% of VAT recovered related to activities which were exempt from VAT (largely land transactions, paid for education, markets and cremation). Where the 5% limit was exceeded no VAT recovery on VAT exempt activity was permitted unless the 7 year average was below 5%.

Members were advised that if the proposed programme was approved the exempt input tax proportion was estimated as follows:-

	%
2022/2023	3.86
2023/2024	4.61
2024/2025	3.32
2025/2026	2.85

The detailed calculations were set out in Appendix 3 to the report. The 7 year average was 3.59% and was therefore within the HMRC limits.

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2008 required the basis on which the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) was calculated for future years to be approved by Council. This was the amount Councils were required to set aside for debt repayment each year.

The report also provided details in relation to Capital Prudential Indicators.

Resolved – That, subject to Council's approval:-

- (i) The Capital Strategy for 2023/2026 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.**
- (ii) The Corporate Capital and Revenue Programme for 2023-2026, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.**

- (iii) **The Minimum Revenue Provision policy as set out in section 5 of the report be approved.**
- (iv) **The Capital Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 6 of the report be approved.**

22. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES FOR 2023/2024 TO 2026/2027

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report that outlined the Council's prudential indicators for 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 and set out the expected treasury operations for this period.

The report fulfilled two key legislative requirements:-

- a) The treasury management strategy statement which set out how the Council's treasury service would support the capital programme, the day to day treasury management and the limitations on activity through treasury prudential indicators; and
- b) The investment strategy which set out the Council's criteria for choosing investment counterparties and limiting exposure to the risk of loss. This strategy was in accordance with the CLG Investment Guidance.

Resolved – That, subject to the approval of Council, the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/2024 to 2026/2027 and the treasury limits on activity contained within this report; the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator and the Investment Strategy 2023/2024 contained in the treasury management strategy be approved.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING, 2nd FEBRUARY, 2023

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Ayub (Vice-Chairman), Brady, Finney, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington and T. Wilkinson

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Connor, Grant and D. Wilkinson

23. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 5th January, 2023 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

24. 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
Councillors Morgan and Sherrington	14763/22	They are members of Bolton Cares Steering Committee

Councillor Haworth, in her capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the Committee and spoke in respect of application numbered 14144/22.

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

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
14098/22	Reserved matters application pursuant to approval 07046/19 for the erection of 1 residential detached dwelling (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale details) on land north of 13 Boardman Street, Blackrod	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Finney, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson</p>
14144/22	Erection of a part single storey/part two storey side and rear extension at 16 Leyton Close, Farnworth	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (11):</p> <p>Councillor M. Ayub, Brady, Finney, Mistry, Morgan,</p>

		<p>Mort, S. Patel, Peel, Radcliffe, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Members voting against approval of the application (2):</p> <p>Councillors Newall and Sherrington</p>
14572/22	Erection of single storey extension to sides and rear at 509 St Helens Road	<p>Deferred</p> <p>Deferred for consideration at a future meeting of this Committee at the request of the applicant.</p> <p>A motion to defer the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for deferral of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Finney, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson</p>
14763/22	Installation of a 2.4M high security fence at side at Bolton Cares, Thicketford House, Thicketford Road,	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved</p>

		<p>and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Finney, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson</p>
15203/22	<p>Erection of a single storey hall of remembrance, together with associated external works (amended orientation and position compared with previous application number 05111/18) at Overdale/Heaton Cemetery</p>	<p>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (13):</p> <p>Councillors M. Ayub, Brady, Finney, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson</p>

25. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS

The Director of Place (Development) submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 21st December, 2022 and 23rd January, 2023.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

26. PLANNING DECISIONS UPDATE

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which outlined the urgent action taken in relation to the planning application in relation to 529 Darwen Road, Bromley Cross.

Urgent action was taken to revoke an incorrectly issued planning permission.

The applicant had since opposed the Revocation Order and the decision to confirm was currently with the Secretary of State.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 2.30pm)

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 30TH JANUARY, 2023

Present – Councillors Donaghy (Chairman), Grant (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah, Connor, Finney, McKeon, Murray, Mort, A. Patel (as deputy for Councillor Radcliffe), Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington and Taylor-Burke.

Co-opted Members

None in Attendance

Also in attendance

Councillor Galloway	- Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services
Ms B. Brown	- Director of Children's Services
Mr I. Walker	- Assistant Director of Children's Services - Social Care and Early Help
Mr J. Cooke	- Head of Complex Safeguarding and Youth Justice Team
Ms L. Buckingham	- Operational Manager Complex Safeguarding Team
Mrs. V. Ridge	- Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hill, McGeown, Priest and Radcliffe and from Reverend Canon Dr Bracegirdle (Co-opted Member)

Councillor Donaghy in the Chair

17. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved - The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 5th December, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

18. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

The Borough Solicitor submitted the Committee Work Programme for 2022/23 which had been formulated following the informal meeting of this Committee held on 29th June, 2022 and which would guide the work of the Committee over the course of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the 2022/23 Committee Work Programme, as now submitted, be noted.

19. YOUTH JUSTICE AND COMPLEX SAFEGUARDING IN BOLTON

Mr Cooke and Ms Buckingham gave a presentation on Youth Justice and Complex Safeguarding in Bolton.

The presentation provided details in relation to the Inspection Process which was carried out by Her Majesty's Inspection of Probate – Youth Justice (HMIP) and was similar to inspections carried out by Ofsted.

The latest inspection in Bolton had been an on-site visit held on 22nd April, 2022.

There had been three broad areas of inspection:

- Organisational Delivery of the Service;
- Quality of work with Children sentenced by the Courts;
- and
- Quality of out-of-court disposal work.

The HMI Probation had also carried out a separate inspection of the quality of resettlement.

The presentation summarised the outcome of the inspection with Bolton Youth Justice Service being rated overall as 'Good' and Resettlement being separately rated as 'Outstanding'.

Comments included – “a committed staff team undertook high-quality and timely assessments, leading to appropriate planning to increase desistance, keep children safe and protect victims” and “we were impressed by the staff we interviewed – they know the children very well, work well with partnership workers and are all very good advocates for the children”

Other highlights from the inspection referred to a shared culture across the service of putting children at the heart of the service and mature and respectful relationships, strength in partnership working and identifying and responding to individual diverse needs.

With regard to the Resettlement Inspection, the following comments were made:

- good use of a range of multi - agency meetings to begin early planning for the sentence and release;
- effective information-sharing and collaborative work with partners to understand and meet children’s needs;
- excellent scrutiny and oversight of children who were in custody;
- Youth Justice Service was providing good and timely support for children who were preparing to be released from custody
 - effective links with two local custodial establishments;
- partner agencies visit children in custody and begin work in preparation for release as per policy and noted as good practice; and
 - management oversight of resettlement was effective.

Recommendations arising from the Inspections were as follows:

- Bolton Youth Justice Service:
 - review and monitor the outcomes and experiences of children from black, Asian and minority ethnic

- communities, to make sure that any disadvantage is identified and mitigated; and
- train staff on holding discussions with children about discrimination and what that means for the individual children.
- Greater Manchester Police:
 - continue to reduce unnecessary delays in all cases being referred to the Youth Justice System

Members were also informed of the ongoing Partnership work with education providers and its advantages.

The presentation went on to discuss the Bolton Complex Safeguarding Team (CST) arrangements and its current structure and function, as follows:

Engagement:

- each Child open to Child Exploitation Action Meeting (CEAM) was allocated to an officer from Child Protection Investigation Unit Child Protection Investigation Unit (CPIU);
- CPIU officer to engage with EXIT worker and child to deliver safeguards and develop trusted relationships;
- feedback information to Child Exploitation Action Meeting; and
- criminal Investigation where appropriate

Disruption

- new disruption meeting – Child Exploitation Disruption Action Meeting (CEDAM);
- disruption activity based on places and persons; and
- disruption delivered by neighbourhoods/partners as directed by CEDAM/Neighbourhood crime meetings.

Child Exploitation Disruption Action Meeting – intention and purpose:

- to identify for Bolton risks relating to:
- places
- persons

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- where the potential victim is a child
- and actions can reasonably be taken to generate information or disruptive activity that may reduce or remove the risk

Disruption activities included:

- joint visits
- seizure of counterfeit or illegal goods
- environmental health inspections
- fire safety inspections
- housing enforcement
- civil orders such as Child Abduction Warnings
- Department for Work and Pensions investigations
- immigration enforcement visits
- taxi licensing
- landlord licencing

What the CST had delivered:

- implementation of Working Together to Increase Safety in Exploitation (WISE) Assessment – shift from a focus of risk to one of safety;
- re-Introduction of multi-agency disruption meeting – CEDAM – focus on places / spaces of concern; and
- November 2022 – CST Assurance and Assurance Audit Completed.

Over the last six months the CST had replaced the original assessment tool with the Working to Increase Safety in Exploitation in a shift from a focus of risk to one of safety. This was a recommendation and action following the Peer Review in 2021.

In the last few months there had also been the re-Introduction of Disruption Meetings with Neighbourhood policing teams now linking in with CST police and getting involved in wider disruption activity. The meeting is utilising the Home Office Disruption Toolkit and is attended by relevant agencies focussing on the Bolton's top 3 risks relating to places and persons of concern. Identification of concerns then leads to

individual problem-solving meetings where a bespoke panel will address the risks.

Members were also given a statistical breakdown of demand for the services.

The presentation also provided details of the National Referral Mechanism which was a Framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery, human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. Benefits of this included:

- support for children within the criminal justice system - Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Section 45 Defence
- can lead to more appropriate service provision
- supports effective safeguarding
- ensures children are recognised as victims rather than willing participants
- can support asylum claims
- supports understanding of the national picture.

There had been 33 Referrals made by Complex Safeguarding Team between October and December, 2022

There was a Duty to Notify by all public authorities under Section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Following the presentation, members made the undermentioned comments/observations:

- the age groups, numbers and types of offences referred to;
- the specialities of the multi-Agency Team and associated training and recruitment;
- the factors that led to young people offending;
- the responsibilities of all Elected Members as corporate parents and the need to be kept updated on safeguarding matters;
- the benefits of community based projects;
- the prevalence of familial factors in behavioural issues;
- the need for intervention in the very early years;

- increased awareness of modern slavery;
- on-line abuse;
- the use of disruptive methods; and
- the benefits of the review tracker.

Resolved – That Mr Cooke and Ms Buckingham be thanked for their informative presentation.

20. OVERVIEW OF GREATER MANCHESTER WORK

Ms B. Brown gave an overview of the work that was taking place throughout Greater Manchester towards supporting children and young people.

Ms Brown advised that the launch of the Greater Manchester Children and Young People's Plan 2019-22 represented an important milestone in the approach to supporting children and young people in the region.

Members were given an overview of the significant progress that had been made over the course of the Plan though its key activities in respect of six of its main theme priority areas, as follows:

- school readiness;
- children in care;
- care leavers;
- mental health of children and young people;
- complex safeguarding; and
- Children's Social Care Innovation Programme.

The presentation outlined the background to how the Plan had been funded and developed and highlighted the impact of Covid on its development and outcomes.

Other issues highlighted included:

- the development of a GM brand for fostering;
- the ageing profile of foster carers;
- school readiness and early years – the first thousand days;

- Care Leaders pledge- to secure better housing across GM;
- mental health – Salford lead;
- complex safeguarding – working differently;
- Social Care Innovation – DfE funding and access to pots of money; and
- analysing progress and refining processes.

Following the presentation, members made various comments and observations, as follows:

- Bolton's involvement with the GM;
- the significant resources that would be required including procurement, planning, finance, staffing and workforce;
- outcome of investments would only be known over time; and
- the challenges of identifying suitable property for children's residential homes.

Resolved – That Ms Brown be thanked for her informative presentation.

21. MEMBERS BUSINESS

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

- the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 9th January, 2023.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.30pm)