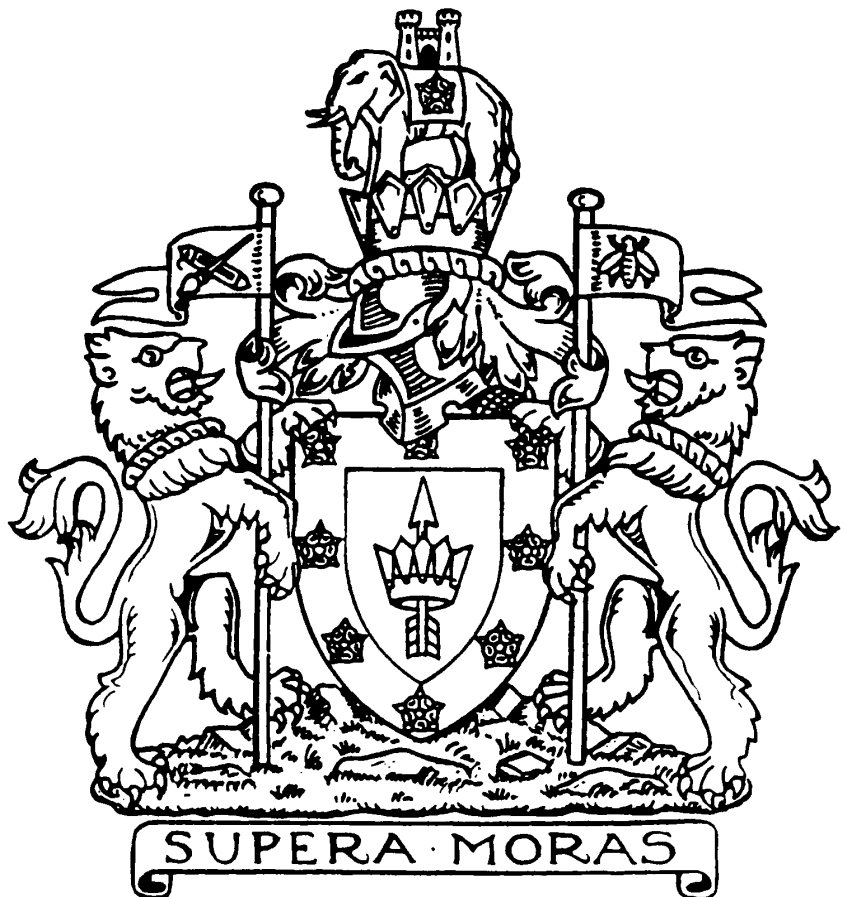


# **Bolton Council**

## **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

## **SUMMONS AND AGENDA**





## **BOLTON COUNCIL**

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Members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall on Wednesday next, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 at 7.00p.m. when the following business is proposed to be transacted: -

**1. Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 (Section A).

**2. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies**

**3. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(a)**

**4. Questions under Standing Order No. 9(c)**

**5. Committee Proceedings**

To approve the proceedings of the following Committee:-

Planning Committee (See Section B)

**6. Scrutiny Committees**

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

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

## **7. Motions under Standing Order No.4**

### **(a) Motion in the name of Councillor McKeon –**

In April 2022 the Elections Act 2022 was passed by Parliament. The Act will require voters in Great Britain to show photo ID before being issued with a ballot paper at UK elections and local elections in England. This council believes that this legislation is unnecessary; it addresses a problem that doesn't exist. The need to present photo ID will be a deterrent to the many voters who don't possess valid photo ID at a time when our focus ought to be on encouraging greater participation in elections. If implemented, this policy will have a detrimental effect on the democratic process in Bolton. It will also present a further burden on already overstretched Council officers as they will need to train polling clerks and presumably create a system for voters who don't have accepted forms of photo ID. The Council instructs its Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge him not to implement this policy for the local elections in May 2023. In the event that the Minister refuses to respond positively to the request of this Council, the Chief Executive is urged to initiate a public information campaign to alert voters to the proposed changed arrangements at polling stations and to suggest that postal voting may be an option from which voters may benefit.

### **(b) Motion in the name of Councillor Bullock -**

In 2025 Stockton & Darlington are to celebrate their George Stephenson designed railway bi-centenaries-by progressing a HAZ-Heritage Action Zone-with the support of both the UK Government and Historic England, along with the support from local landowners, interested local companies and importantly residents-with much happening including a full archaeological survey of the route.

With the recent listing of this area by Historic England as a 'Scheduled Monument', the historic and probably unique 'CHEQUERBENT EMBANKMENT', now is the perfect time to bring a similar initiative to our area for the benefit of local people?

Starting at the original 'Daubhill ' station site on Adelaide St., crossing over St. Helens Rd., running alongside Hulton Playing Field, through Winterfield Dr./Beaumont Chase green path system and linking up with and extending the Bolton Public Right of Way WES121 on the Bolton & Leigh Railway route and on to 'Chequerbent Embankment' Scheduled Monument section, across the A6 down the Chequerbent Incline (one of the world's steepest adhesion worked routes) down to the Atherton rail line on the border of Bolton with Wigan.

Not only would this provide an opportunity to preserve and enhance an important piece of our history, it would provide a new Active Travel Route through mainly open spaces and countryside, protecting some of Bolton's most historic railway heritage-whilest connecting some of its highest levels of deprivation and most built-up areas in Rumworth, Daubhill and Deane with our countryside and green spaces, creating health and wellbeing benefits and opportunities for those who most need it.

'I ask....

That this Council sets up a PDG to:-

- Target applying for a HAZ-Heritage Action Zone along the remaining sections of the historic 'Bolton & Leigh Railway' route within Bolton between Daubhill and the Atherton boundary.
- Looks at ways that Bolton might participate in and permanently benefit from a programme to celebrate in 2025, the bi-centenary and beyond of our early railway history of the 'B&L', including but not limited to Bolton Museum (with a new upgraded display),

Westhoughton Library and Horwich Loco. Works.  
With enhanced station platform signs at both Bolton  
and Horwich Parkway.

-Enhanced route markings and Public Rights of  
Way access, establishing this route as a new Active  
Travel & Walking Route, so that people who live in  
some of the most built-up areas of our town can  
easily access our countryside and leisure areas.

(c) Motion in the name of Councillor Newall –

This Council recognises that many residents look forward to the wonder of fireworks during traditional events that are enjoyed by many of the cultures and faiths of the Bolton family. Whether it is Bonfire night, Diwali, Chinese New Year or the traditional western New Year, many people – especially younger people – love the spectacle of pyrotechnic displays lighting up the sky in all parts of the borough.

This Council commends the supermarket ‘Sainsbury’s’ for the outright ban on the sale of fireworks and also welcomes the introduction of a low noise range of fireworks by ‘Asda’, along with the previous removal of BANGERS from ‘Tesco’s’ range, but this action is not uniform and does not address the problem empirically.

This Council acknowledges the progress made in Scotland on 29th June 2022 when the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Bill was passed by MSP’s without a single vote against. The legislation not only brings in new restrictions on the sale and use of fireworks, it will also allow Councils to ban their use in certain areas other than in a firework display or for “essential purposes”. Councils in Scotland will be able to establish Firework Control Zones, where it will be an offence for pyrotechnics to be used.

The Bill will also mean that fireworks can only be bought and used by members of the public at certain times of the year, including Bonfire Night, Hogmanay, Chinese New Year, Diwali etc.

It also creates a new licensing system which will mean that people will need a license to buy and use fireworks and that businesses and shops will have to check if those buying pyrotechnics have a license.

This provides a balance between a legitimate right to use fireworks with the need to protect public safety and animal welfare. Without this type of protection, many people and animals will continue to be deeply affected by the use and deliberate misuse of fireworks.

There was a petition to Parliament with over 300K signatures, that called for the limit of sale and use of fireworks to organisations for Licensed Displays only – the narrative of the petition stated that there is a lot of strong feeling among the public, from many diverse areas, that legislation must restrict the use of fireworks and pyrotechnics to that of a safe and acceptable level. The petition, which ran in 2019 argued that current legislations allows for public use of fireworks for 16 hours a day, every day, make it virtually impossible for vulnerable groups to take the necessary precautions against the harm and distress they can cause and that the enforcement of existing laws, even to a higher standard, is not enough, and that limiting the sale of fireworks and the licensing of displays only, was necessary.

At present, it is the Fire Service that issues licenses to retailers to store and sell fireworks following a premises inspection.

This Council agrees that:

1. elected members and officers shall meet with Fire Officers and representatives of all the big retailers in Bolton to see if there is a way forward to creating a voluntary “Bolton Code” for the regulation of the sale of fireworks and pyrotechnics in the Borough. This will be supported by a proactive local advertising campaign to schools, clubs and other organisations to ensure that the message is heard in all quarters of our borough.
2. Council writes to the Government, urging them to consider entering the equivalent The Firework and Pyrotechnic Articles Bill (Scotland) into English statute at their earliest opportunity, thereby ensuring a safer environment for our most vulnerable members of society and to those animals who look to us to protect them from harm.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor Hayes –

Council notes and reaffirms the decisions related to the possibility of extraction of shale gas by hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in the area.

In particular Council recognises that

- i) there are considerable public concerns about the possible effects of earth tremors, contamination of ground water, air pollution and the possible impact on human health as a result of fracking;
- ii) a draft DEFRA report in 2014 forecast that house prices are likely to fall by up to 7% within a mile of fracking wells, and that the price of house insurance will rise within 5 miles of fracking wells.



Council reaffirms its decision taken in 2015 that:

- a) the Council in its role as landowner will not allow any exploratory drilling or fracking on land it owns or controls;
- b) the Council will strongly oppose any attempt to weaken or override its powers as a planning authority when considering any applications for fracking

Council recognises the need to ensure secure supplies of power, and regrets the decision of government to reduce incentives to switch to renewable sources such as solar and wind power. Council urges Government to reverse this decision and also to commence a programme to ensure that all homes are properly insulated.

Council resolves to acquaint the Borough's MPs with this view and ask for their support.

- (e) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

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 has now changed its mind, and now fully supports the practice, which is a clear breach of its manifesto promises.

Council further notes that this U Turn was firmly supported by the Conservative 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.

(f) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

This Council has no confidence in the ability of the current Prime Minister, Liz Truss, nor her Government to deal with the serious economic issues and the cost of living crisis that is badly affecting the people of this Borough.

(g) 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.

(h) Motion in the name of Councillor Hayes –

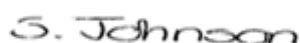
Council condemns the ineptitude and lack of compassion shown by the Government in drafting and announcing its recent ‘mini budget’. To even consider proposing a massive tax cut for the better off and removing the cap on bankers’ bonus when a large number of Bolton residents are struggling to cope with increasing costs of heating their homes and buying essential items is mind-blowingly insensitive.

Council resolves to make these views clear to the Borough’s Members of Parliament and ask them to vote and campaign against any such proposals.

(i) 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.



SUE JOHNSON  
Chief Executive  
Town Hall, Bolton

5<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

The proceedings of the Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 12<sup>th</sup> September to 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, together with the Audit Committee, Active Connected and Prosperous Board and Chief Officers Appointments Panel, are included for information only in a separate volume.

**BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**2022/2023**

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**7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

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

**25. PETITION**

A petition was received requesting that the new Thomasson Memorial School be built now and was referred to the Director of Children's Services.

**26. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**27. POLICY FRAMEWORK – DRAFT GAMBLING ACT 2005  
'STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES'**

It was moved by Councillor Khurram, seconded by Councillor Dean -

That the draft Gambling Act 2005 'Statement of Principles', as now circulated, be approved and replace the current 'Statement of Principles' which were approved in 2019.

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

For the Motion, 50 viz:

Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Challenger, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**28. CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES**

It was moved by Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Khurram and agreed –

That the following appointments and changes in membership be approved:-

1. That Councillor McGeown replace Councillor Priest on the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
2. That Councillor Patel be nominated to replace Councillor Eckersley-Fallon on the Bolton at Home Board

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

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

- (i) by Councillor Newall relating to the Disabled Facilities Grant

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

- (ii) by Councillor McKeon relating to SATs, GCSEs, Btecs and A Level Results

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

- (iii) by Councillor Peel relating to Voter ID

The Chief Executive replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor Mort relating to fly tipping

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Murray relating to the former Great Lever Library

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Donaghy relating to the future use of Westhoughton Town Hall

The Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration replied to this question.

- (vii) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to the Hulton Park planning application

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (viii) A comment by Councillor Hayes relating to the Council's Standing Orders

The Chief Executive replied to this comment.

- (ix) by Councillor McGeown relating to the collection of excess recycle waste

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

- (x) by Councillor Mrs. Thomas relating to accrued debt in Adult Social Care

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

- (xi) by Councillor Hornby relating to Little Lever Health Centre

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Hornby relating to the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xiii) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to litter bins

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

- (xiv) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to nature reserves

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



- (xv) by Councillor D. Wilkinson relating to historical sex abuse issues

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

### **30. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Walsh, seconded by Councillor Peel and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> July and 18 August 2022 be approved.

### **31. LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Khurram, seconded by Councillor Cowen and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 be approved.

### **32. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

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

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee –  
25<sup>th</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny  
Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Place Scrutiny Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> July and 23<sup>rd</sup> August  
2022

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> July and  
24<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### **33. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – LEASEHOLD REFORMS**

It was moved by Councillor Grant and seconded by Councillor  
Wright -

I ask this council to request that a letter is sent to our 3  
elected MPs and the government requesting:

1. That the Government
  - a. Delivers the leasehold reforms that were promised (but continually delayed) and that they include the online calculator for lease extensions and enfranchisement as soon as possible.,
  - b. Prevents the sector from fixing capitalisation rates at a low rate in the calculation as this will push up the cost for the leaseholder
  - c. speeds up progress on other reforms that the Law Commission worked on - such as Right to Manage and commonhold as this will address the abuses that we see today with service charges and insurance commissions, and,
  - d. implements planning policy changes to ensure councils adopt the estates residents live on in full, to stop developers creating what we call "fleecehold" where fees are typically secured by a rent charge which means if residents fall into default on those fees the property can be converted from freehold to leasehold again and so the cycle begins again.
2. Furthermore, this council resolves that it will no longer sell its reversionary freehold or leasehold interests to 3rd parties without offering the first refusal to the existing leaseholder at fair value.

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

For the Motion, 49 viz:

Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Challenger, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**34. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 –  
PROPOSED RISES IN ENERGY CAPS**

It was moved by Councillor Veevers and seconded by Councillor Priest -

Council notes that if the proposed rises in energy caps take place many more Bolton residents will be forced into extreme fuel poverty and choosing between turning their heating off and doing without food and other essentials.

Council condemns the potential rises as a major risk to the health and wellbeing of those who are vulnerable and suffer from ill health.

Council urges the Borough's MPs to support calls for the recall of Parliament to vote for

- a) Cancellation of the rises in the fuel cap; and

- b) Introduction of windfall taxes on the excessive profits of energy and fuel companies.

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

For the Motion, 50 viz:

Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

### **35. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – CURRENT ENERGY BILLS CRISIS**

It was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Jiva -

This Council believes that the current energy bills crisis is causing serious financial hardship for the people of the Bolton Borough, and all future projections point to an even bleaker future. This is not only adding to the severe cost of living crisis, but is also a major cause of the sharp rise in inflation. This is a national emergency.

Council believes that the help offered so far by the Government is inadequate and pitiful, and that they are clearly putting the profits of oil and gas giants before the wellbeing of the public.

Oil and gas company giants are making eye watering profits, directly from the pockets of struggling households, despite their previous dire warnings of a sharp drop in profits. This council believes that they are not playing their fair and affordable part in ensuring that energy bills remain as low as possible. Therefore Council fundamentally supports the policy of additional tax on these companies to be used to cancel the Energy Price Cap rise. Council notes that this targeted tax can raise £29 billion pounds in order to save the average family £1000 this winter.

Council notes that cancelling the Price Cap would bring inflation down by an estimated 4%, thus making future interest rates rises less likely, as well as boosting consumer spending power

In addition, Council believes that the Government needs to urgently address the longer term problems through a Warm Homes Plan that would see the insulation of 19 million homes over the next decade, which again would lead to a reduction in energy costs as well as making a significant contribution to achieving our carbon emissions target. Further, we believe that a planned and sustained policy of securing our countries energy needs should be pursued as a matter of priority, through investment in British sustainable energy sources, that will bring stability to the energy sector in the long term.

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

For the Motion, 49 viz:

Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Challenger, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe,

Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Warren, Weatherby, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

### **36. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME**

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

The national Council Tax Benefit Scheme was abolished on 1st April 2013 to be replaced by the local Council Tax Support Scheme. For some of the least well-off in this borough including low-paid workers, carers and the disabled, the former paid all of the Council Tax due. The current scheme which was devised by this Council now requires that all liable non-pensionable-age Council Tax payers contribute at least 17.5% towards the Council Tax - the minimum currently being £170.99 per year for a single person in a Band A property. Entitlement to help under the Council Tax Support Scheme is withdrawn for non-pensionable-age residents if the householders' savings exceed £3,000 which means that many older people who are under age 66 could be excluded for simply having a small financial safety-net in their old age.

This Council acknowledges that the reduction in help with Council Tax for residents has in large part been due to central government limiting the amount that it sends to Councils to administer the scheme.

In Greater Manchester, the savings limit that triggers no entitlement to help varies from: Bolton £3,000, Stockport £8,000, Wigan £12,000 and the remaining seven Councils £16,000.

One Council in Greater Manchester looks at limiting the level of support based on only Band A levels of Council Tax but does not insist that householders pay a minimum amount to the Council Tax. Another Council gives extra help for those with children under five.

Trafford Council has looked at the percentage of available income that the resident should contribute towards their Council Tax. Trafford expects householders to pay 30% of their excess income compared to 20% by the other authorities. On the face of it, Trafford may appear to provide less help but it should be noted that many of their least well-off do not pay – the financial support that they receive only reduces with increased income over and above a minimum income level.

This Council accepts that within Greater Manchester, this borough's scheme is one of the simplest. However, it also accepts that it may also be the most unfair – particularly for the least well-off.

This Council agrees to

1. ask officers to consider alternatives to the current Council Tax Support Scheme by reference to other schemes in Greater Manchester with emphasis on helping the least well-off, and,
2. call an urgent PDG to consider the alternatives identified by officers referred to above.

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

For the Motion, 46 viz:

Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub, Baines, Challender, Connor, Cowen, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Morgan, Mort, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders,

A12

Sherrington, Silvester, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, D. Wilkinson and Wright.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 9.45 p.m.)

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## **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**2022/2023**

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**26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

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

### **37. MINUTES SILENCE**

Members stood and observed a minutes silence following the sad death of the Queen Elizabeth II.

### **38. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

It was moved by the Leader of the Council and seconded by Councillor Khurram -



That Miss Sue Johnson be appointed as the Chief Executive with effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022 to replace Mr Tony Oakman.

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

For the Motion, 48 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challenger, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean, Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Muslim, A. Patel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**39. APPOINTMENT OF THE ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER, THE RETURNING OFFICER, THE ACTING RETURNING OFFICER AND THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

It was moved by the Leader of the Council and seconded by Councillor Hayes -

That Miss Sue Johnson be appointed as the Electoral Registration Officer, the Returning Officer, the Acting Returning Officer and the Head of Paid Service with effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2022 to replace Mr Tony Oakman.

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

For the Motion, 49 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Atcha, M. Ayub, N. Ayub, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Challenger, Connor, Cowen, Cox, Dean,

Donaghy, Mrs. Fairclough, Finney, Galloway, Grant, Hartigan, Haslam, Haworth, Hayes, Heslop, Hewitt, Hill, Hornby, Iqbal, Jiva, Khurram, McKeon, McMulkin, Meehan, Mistry, Mort, Murray, Muslim, A. Patel, S. Patel, Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Warren, Weatherby, T. Wilkinson and Wright.

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 6.25 p.m.)

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022

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

### **11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **12. 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 (Development), 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:-

<b>Member of Council</b>	<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Councillors Abdullah, Brady, Finney, S. Patel, Radcliffe and Walsh	13967/22	The applicant is a member of the Bolton Conservative Party.

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

13681/22

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

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
13681/22	Reserved matters application pursuant to outline application 07245/19 for the erection of up to 276 no. dwellings together with associated works (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale details only) at Horwich Golf Club, Victoria Road, Horwich	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report, and additional condition regarding public art.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, as recommended in the report, and additional condition regarding public art, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application, subject to conditions and additional condition regarding public art:</p> <p>Councillors Abdullah, M. Ayub, Brady, Finney, Grant, Mistry, Newall, S. Patel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson.</p> <p>Members abstaining:</p> <p>Councillors Iqbal and Peel</p>

13877/22	Erection of single storey extension to rear together with single storey extension over existing garage with further room in roof space at 10 Longridge, Bromley Cross	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application, subject to conditions:</p> <p>Councillors Abdullah, M. Ayub, Brady, Finney, Grant, Iqbal, Mistry, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson</p>
13967/22	Alteration of existing roof to remove hips, increase the ridge height together with the erection of a rear dormer extension at 34 Corner Brook, Lostock	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application, subject to conditions, was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application, subject to conditions:</p> <p>Councillors Abdullah, M. Ayub, Brady, Finney, Grant, Iqbal, Mistry, Newall, S. Patel, Peel, Priest, Radcliffe,</p>

		Sherrington, Walsh and T. Wilkinson
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### **13. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS**

The Director of Place (Development) submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 9<sup>th</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2022

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 2.40pm)

## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 31ST AUGUST, 2022

Present – Councillors Howarth (Chairman), T. Wilkinson (Vice-Chairman), Ayub, Bullock, Challender, Hartigan, Khurram, Meehan, Murray, Radcliffe, Taylor-Burke, Mrs. Thomas and Wright

### Lay Members

- |                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| Ms. B. Gallagher | - | Bolton and District Pensioners Association |
| Ms. S. Hilton    | - | Age UK, Bolton                             |

### Also in attendance

- |                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Councillor Morgan | - | Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care                        |
| Councillor Baines | - | Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing                                |
| Ms. R. Tanner     | - | Managing Director, Bolton Integrated Care Partnership DASS            |
| Dr. H. Lowey      | - | Director of Public Health   |
| Ms. F. Noden      | - | Chief Executive, Bolton NHS FT  |
| Dr. S. Liversedge | - | Clinical Director Primary Care, Greater Manchester Integrated Care    |
| Ms. L. Helsby     | - | Associate Director Primary Care, Greater Manchester Integrated Care   |
| Dr. Ratnarajah    | - | Bolton Locality Clinical Director, Greater Manchester Integrated Care |

## C2

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Ms. M. Cox           | - Divisional Director of Operations<br>NHS FT |
| Mr. I. D. Mulholland | - Deputy Democratic Services<br>Manager       |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Rimmer and Priest and Anne Schenk- Health Watch, Bolton.

Councillor Haworth in the Chair.

### **11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 were submitted.

Further to minute five relating to details of the employment statistics for those with learning disabilities working for the Council and the NHS, it was explained that the progress system was being amended and the Disability Partnership will be consulted. Furthermore, it was indicated that it was not envisaged that the figures would be available at the next meeting.

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

(ii) That the issue of the provision of details of the employment statistics for those with learning disabilities working for the Council and the NHS be added as a note on the Committee work programme.

### **12. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2022/23**

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

Resolved – That the work programme be approved, subject to the inclusion of the Annual Report of Health Watch, indicatively for February, 2023.



### **13. CIVIL CONTINGENCIES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Director of Public Health submitted a report which set out details of the Bolton Civil Contingency Assurance and Governance Annual Report, 2021-22.

The report provided assurance and governance that the local authority was compliant with its duties under the Civil Contingency Act, 2004, and included an update on key local developments since the commencement of the portfolio being led by the Public Health Team in April, 2021. The report highlighted -

- Governance and assurance arrangement were in place for the Council's responsibilities as a Category 1 responder and included oversight and expert advice from GM Resilience Unit;
- All functional plans had been reviewed or were being reviewed and updated to ensure contacts and procedures were in line with GM standardised plans;
- Incident responses and associated recovery had totalled 37 during the period, 1st April, 2021- 31st March, 2022 including two significant weather events related to storms and flooding;
- Learning from incidents was captured in post-incident reviews and incorporated into future learning and training for Council on-call and functional responders;
- An emergency response on-call rota operated with a total of 54 responders across the roles of forward incident officers, tactical officers and strategic officers;
- Communication and infrastructure checks were completed frequently to ensure that the Council's response to incidents was timely and effective. This also included a comprehensive review of emergency control centre sites and familiarisation of responders to those centres;
- The training and development plan was set each year by the GM Resilience Unit and Bolton Council's Public Health Team with the opportunity to include bespoke training in response to emerging local and national learning to incidents;

- Training was provided to all on-call responders and Bolton Council's Civil Contingency training matrix was reviewed regularly to ensure compliance;
- Bolton Council in partnership with GM Resilience Forum provided horizon scanning assessments affecting emergency planning, resilience and response and the Bolton Council civil contingency work plan including; impacts of climate change and forthcoming new legislation such as the Protect Duty Legislation (expected Autumn, 2022), and reviews of legislation – The Civil Contingencies Act 2004; and
- Risk assessments and identification of risks are integral to the Bolton Council Contingency work plan, practice, and continuous review. Risks that are identified are recorded on the Corporate Risk Register as appropriate.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Emergency financial assistance;
- The role of Councillors and to avoid duplication; and
- Staff welfare and volunteer recruitment and care for people after incidents.

Resolved – That the report and discussions be noted.

#### **14. ELECTIVE WAITING LIST RECOVERY**

Ms. Fiona Noden, Chief Executive of Bolton NHS FT and Ms. Michelle Cox, Divisional Director of Operations NHS FT gave a joint presentation matter concerning the elective waiting list recovery.

The meeting was advised of matters why recovery was needed

–

- The overall waiting list had grown ;
- The lasting impact of the pandemic;
- People still had COVID-19;
- People coming forward later ;
- Impact on the workforce ;
- Increasing number of people who needed to access the services;

## C5

- People were living longer with conditions that needed regular review and treatment; and
- People were more anxious about their health due to the pandemic and seeking advice and reassurance.

Members were advised of matters around the national targets and the progress that had been made so far in Bolton to reduce the 104 week waiters to zero.

The pressures were –

- Trust waiting list size was growing;
- GM waiting list was growing at 3,000 people per week;
- Reduced capacity to treat patients and
- Urgent care pressures impacting capacity further.

To aid recovery, theatre capacity was expanding as was endoscope provision. A personalised follow up system was being undertaken and also issues of management of the patients care in the most appropriate setting. Also improved use of digital applications for health were being pursued.

Members were also advised of matters around care priorities –

- National priorities exist;
- People with protected characteristics and from lower social economic groups had poorer outcomes;
- Barriers existed that made it harder to navigate the complicated health system;
- It was recognised that new ways of working ran the risk of unintended consequences; and
- To drive change we need to understand our data – currently there were gaps.

Information around helping people stay well and keeping them informed was key.

Resolved – That Ms. Noden and Ms. Michelle Cox be thanked for the detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **15. PRIMARY CARE ACCESS, WORKFORCE, DEMAND**

Dr Stephen Liversedge, Clinical Director Primary Care, Greater Manchester Integrated Care, Dr Ratnarajah, Bolton Locality Clinical Director, Greater Manchester Integrated Care and Ms. Lynda Helsby Associate Director Primary Care, Greater Manchester Integrated Care gave a joint presentation on primary care access, workforce and demand issues.

The meeting was informed of the GP Patient Survey (GPPS) which was an annual England-wide survey about patients experiences of their GP practice and was administered by Ipsos on behalf of NHS England.

In Greater Manchester, the Integrated Care Partnership had issued, 186,074 questionnaires and 44,970 were returned completed. This represented a response rate of 24%.

Various questions were asked in the survey and an analysis of the responses was given to the Committee.

What the Bolton Health and Care Partnership did know –

- Local people raising concerns about access to GPs: difficulty getting through on the phone and frustration with not getting a face to face appointment;
- Concerns about General Practice access were not just a local issue;
- Pressure on General Practice had never been higher;
- Demand increasing;
- Number of GPs reducing;
- GPs were providing a mix of face to face and other appointments;
- GPs were working long hours, were receiving abuse, and morale was suffering;
- There were changes to the way you accessed GP services;
- A wider range of professionals were now available;
- Local work to provide additional support; and
- we needed to work together to give the best support we could to local people.

## C7

The Committee was informed that Pressure on General Practice has never been higher.

Further information was presented to Members on the following points –

National Figures for England Workforce from British Medical Association;

- How had accessing a GP changed;
- How had accessing a GP changed;
- Additional Roles in GP Practices;
- Primary Care Access figures;
- Community Care Actions on Primary Care Access; and
- Extended Access.

Members were also advised of the following key messages, viz;

- General Practices were required to provide general medical services (not just urgent, on the day, care) to their registered patients within the hours of 8am – 6:30pm each weekday;
- Outside of these hours, practices provided extended services and an out of hours service operated to pick up urgent issues;
- Practices were very unlikely to return to open access with crowded waiting rooms;
- Digital and phone access;
- Triage and directing people to the right professional; and
- Judgement on whether face to face or remote consultation was needed.

Members in their discussions referred to-

- PCN's and maps of areas;
- The calls league table and how Bolton was doing in Greater Manchester;
- GP's working arrangements and trying to get more;
- An appreciation of what GP's do;
- The new theatres at the Hospital and staffing issues;
- Staffing is a main issue and the role of HM Government;

## C8

- Different experiences at GP practices;
- Patient satisfaction;
- Adult social care and flow and issue for the hospital;
- It being a depressing message and there needs radical change;
- Bolton pensioners experiences of trying to access GP's – many very elderly and pressure to go on-line;
- Good experience of 111 service;
- Good service from GP's and the hospital;
- Face to face at GP surgery – three week wait or having to travel to another site;
- Management of the worst waiting times;
- The practicalities of taking pressure off GP services; and
- Referrals to secondary care.

Resolved – That Dr Stephen Liversedge, Dr Ratnarajah and Ms. Lynda Helsby be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

### **16. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

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

- (i) Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing held on 18<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022; and
- (ii) Executive Cabinet Member Adult Social Care held on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.

Members discussed matters around the public health community engagement programme as indicated in the minutes of the Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing held on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, particularly in respect of outcome issues.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.26 p.m.)

(This meeting is for information only, it was approved by Council on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.)

## **CORPORATE AND EXTERNAL ISSUES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST, 2022

Present – Councillors Silvester (Chairman), Heslop (Vice-Chairman), Brady, Connor, Cowen, Hornby, McKeon (as deputy for Councillor Jiva), Peel, Mrs. Thomas, Veevers, Walsh and Wright.

Augmented by members of the Place Scrutiny Committee for items 9, 10 and 11: Councillors Atcha, N. Ayub (as deputy for Councillor M. Ayub), Donaghy, Hartigan, Haworth, Hayes (as deputy for Councillor Wilkinson), Iqbal and Meehan.

### Also in Attendance

Councillor Cox	Leader of the Council
Councillor Dean	Executive Cabinet for Stronger Communities
Councillor Warren	Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration
Mr. T. Oakman	Chief Executive
Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place Development
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Mr. P. Rimmer	Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M. Ayub, Eckersley-Fallon, Jiva, Mistry, Patel, Rimmer and Wilkinson.

Councillor Silvester in the Chair

## **6. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 July, 2022 were submitted.

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

## **7. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022/2023**

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

The Chairman advised members that an item on Apprenticeships and Succession Planning would be included in the work programme and this would be at a joint meeting of this Committee and Place Scrutiny Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. In view of this, it was proposed that the item on decision making be deferred from the February meeting to the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2022/2023, as amended, be approved.

## **8. £150 ENERGY PAYMENT**

Mr. P. Rimmer, Assistant Director Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services gave a presentation which provided an update on the current situation with regards to the support for energy bills.

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

- The background to the scheme;
- The funding levels for Bolton;
- The eligibility criteria;
- The process for making the payments;
- The progress made to date; and
- The discretionary scheme.



In terms of the next steps, members were advised that second reminder letters were issued on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 which confirmed the online application would close on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2022. A copy of this had been circulated to members. The letters also confirmed that the £150 would be credited to Council Tax Accounts if residents did not submit a claim by 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2022.

With regards to the discretionary scheme, this had been agreed under delegated powers as agreed in the original report.

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

- How processes have been improved;
- The process for residents who have £150 credited to their council tax account but don't pay council tax and how would they be aware of this and what happened if they passed away;
- Thanks be conveyed to officers for all their hard work in ensuring that residents received the £150;
- Who was the decision maker in relation to £150 being credited to council tax accounts if they had not applied ;
- Was the decision made under the Scheme of Delegation or an Executive Cabinet Member/Cabinet decision and what was the rationale behind the decision;
- How was the £28 discretionary amount to be paid;
- Concern about how the money would be allocated to pensioners who did not pay council tax and had not provided their bank details; and
- If a resident was in council tax arrears but then subsequently became in credit due to the energy rebate would officers consider withdrawing the summons and any charges associated with it.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **9. TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. G. Brough, Director of Place Development, submitted a presentation which provided information in relation to the progress being made with development in the Town Centre

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

- Bolton's 2017 Town Centre Regeneration Objectives;
- The six main development challenges;
- An explanation of the development challenges which were
  - Acquisition, demolition and conveyancing;
  - Attracting developers and investors;
  - Financial viability;
  - Availability of funding;
  - The Council's limited ability to support construction costs (either by providing development grants or assuming financial risk); and
  - Market uncertainty.
- The progress made to date on the Council Projects;
- Other town centre developments;
- The commitments to date from the £100m Town Centres Development Fund'
- Other grant funding which had been secured; and
- The future of Bolton Town Centre's.

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

- Thanks be conveyed to officers for the work undertaken on the Little Lever Health Centre;
- Previously £100 million had been committed towards the Town Centre. Did the Council still intend to utilise the £100 million within the Town Centre ;
- The level of income predicted to be received by the Council based on the number of new properties being built in the Town Centre;
- Town centre shopping habits had changed and there was a need to build it up publicly and were there any statistics compared with 10 years ago with regard to foot fall;

- Concerns were expressed regarding the development at Church Wharf;
- Disappointment was expressed regarding the situation with Crompton Place;
- The timescales for the construction at Church Wharf;
- A query regarding a figure which had been quoted for the investment into Bolton Town Centre;
- As a result of Covid, had things changed and would the Council look at things differently in terms of office/retail/accommodation/public realm;
- The need to review the balance between the different types of developments and sites;
- The need for a leisure offer within the Town Centre;
- Thanks be conveyed to officers for the excellent presentation and the level of transparency contained within it;
- Was there a market for the development of apartments in Bolton;
- Pressures on the department and staffing resources/capacity;
- Issues associated with the Bank of Beijing and the withdrawal of their support;
- Any other issues with tenants/leaseholders;
- The current situation with the dividends from the Manchester Airport;
- Public dissatisfaction with the town centre and the need for small solutions to improve the experience for the public and the night time economy;
- The viability of housing at Church Wharf;
- What was the proposed digital city development area and were businesses in the surrounding development area aware of the plans and timescales;
- Concerns regarding the cost of acquisitions of buildings within the Town Centre; and
- Issues associated with the Marks and Spencer building.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **10. POCKET PARKS IN THE TOWN CENTRE**

Mr. G. Brough, Director of Place Development, gave a presentation which outlined issues associated with developing pocket parks in the Town Centre.

Members were advised that the only true pocket park that had been proposed as part of the Council's regeneration plans was the one that was currently being constructed on the ex-Odeon site at Moor Lane.

It was also stated that public realm improvements would include green planting, wherever possible and practical, but it was unlikely that sufficient funding would be available to create more pocket parks, by acquiring private sites and ensuring their future maintenance and security. It was also pointed out that the Council's environmental and neighbourhood service budgets were currently under extreme pressure, therefore it was already increasingly difficult to maintain existing parks and green spaces.

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

- The importance of having a policy on public open spaces and not just for the town centre parks;
- The importance of people's wellbeing within the Town Centre and outer townships in terms of green spaces and the environment; and
- The creation of unofficial pocket parks.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **11. COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR LEVELLING UP BIDS**

Mr. G. Brough, Director of Place Development, gave a presentation on how levelling up funding was prioritised for the Borough and the types of projects which were or had been considered.

Members were advised that this topic had been covered in detail at the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, however, details were provided on how projects were selected based on the following criteria:-

- Only one successful bid allowed per MP Constituency, therefore, Bolton was restricted to a maximum of three successful bids;
- Bids to be related to Regeneration, Culture or Transport;
- Bids to a maximum of £20m unless related to a regionally or nationally significant cultural or transport project;
- Projects to be started by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 and fully completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025;
- A bid could consist of a maximum of three inter-related projects; and
- A successful bid would need to demonstrate a Benefit Cost Ratio greater than 1:1.5.

It was stated that it was extremely difficult to construct bids, within each parliamentary constituency, that met the above criteria. Consequently, resultant bids for BCMS, De Havilland Way and Bolton Town Centre (North) were the best possible bids.

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

- The involvement of MP's' in the bidding process and the right to veto a bid;
- Following the missed bid for Crompton Place was the intention to resubmit that bid;
- The undeliverability of the original bid for Crompton Place; and
- Did the department have enough resources to deal with both the projects at De Havilland Way and the Loco Works which were happening at the same time.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

## **12. OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING THE DE HAVILLAND WAY LEVELLING UP BID**

Mr. T. Oakman, Chief Executive, acknowledged that Ward Councillors should have been invited to the public meeting, which was organised on behalf of Chris Green MP, regarding the De Havilland Way Levelling Up Bid, and going forward this process would be followed.

Members enquired as to the costs of setting up this meeting and it was agreed that this information would be requested.

It was also proposed that the Borough Solicitor include something within the Scheme of Delegation to ensure that Ward Councillors are invited to any public meetings going forward and that this be brought back to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee for members consideration prior to approval at Council.

Resolved – (i) That the position be noted.

(ii) That the costs associated with the setting up of the public meeting be circulated to members.

(iii) That the Borough Solicitor be requested to amend the Scheme of Delegation in relation to the process of Ward Councillors being invited to all future public meetings and that this be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee for members consideration.

## **13. 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 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022;

(b) The Executive Cabinet Member Stronger Communities Portfolio held on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 9.15 p.m.)

## NOTES



(This meeting is for information only, it was approved by Council on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.)

## **PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, 2022

Present – Councillors Veevers (Chairman), Atcha, Brady, Bullock, Donaghy, Hartigan, Haworth, Heslop, Iqbal, Meehan, and Patel.

### Also in Attendance

Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader
Councillor Haslam	Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport
Councillor Muslim	Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services Delivery
Councillor Hewitt	Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning
Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place Development
Mr. J. Dyson	Director of Place Services
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Development and Regeneration
Mr. G. Parker	Assistant Director Environment and Regulatory Services
Mr. M. Russell	Head of Environmental Assets
Mr. A. Bolan	Head of Service, Regulatory Services
Mrs. L. Hunter	Head of Environmental Delivery
Mrs. J. Barber	Services Schools Manager
Mr. P. Entwistle	General Manager
Mr. P Mykytiuk	Trading Standards Manager
Mr. D. Shepherd	Principal Group Accountant
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

(Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors D Wilkinson, Walsh, Weatherby, Ayub and Eckersley- Fallon and Councillor Warren as executive Cabinet Member)

Councillor Veevers in the Chair.

## **6. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 were submitted.

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

## **7. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

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

Members discussed matters around performance reports and that the waste management item at the next meeting would include a thorough understanding of the challenges.

The Chairman also mentioned the proposal that the items concerning apprenticeships and the Albert Halls would be considered by a joint meeting of this Committee and the Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

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

## **8. TRADED SERVICES**

Mr. Jon Dyson, Director of Place Services and colleagues gave a presentation on how Covid-19 had impacted Bolton's Traded Services.

With regard to Bolton's Markets, Members were appraised of the following –

- Responsible for the Bolton Market; other special markets in the Borough and support to the Corporate Events team in organising the Bolton Food and Drink Festival;
- Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday (9am-5pm);
- Employed 16.31 FTE staff;
- High level trader occupancy - currently 90%; and
- Secured £5.9m from the Towns Fund to upgrade/modernise Bolton Market to create a unique community/shopping destination.

The meeting was also informed of the Markets projected financial position for 2021/22.

The meeting was also informed of the following -

- Significant loss of rental income;
- Additional operating costs due to restrictions (ceased on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022);
- Occupancy levels remained above the national average (83%) at 93%;
- High level of trader arrears due to the pandemic - individual repayment plans are in place;
- Ongoing review to attract new businesses to the market;
- Regular updates to traders on the Towns Fund investment to upgrade/modernise Bolton Market;
- Phase 1 of the early works development of Bolton Market completed (car park entrance);
- Public realm works around Bolton Market – on target to be completed in early September; and
- Phase 2 of the early works development of Bolton Market underway (waste compound move).

The meeting was also informed of the current financial position of Heaton Fold Garden Centre and Gift shop, the Covid 19 impacts and recovery. It was explained that there were 3.8 FTE staff plus a casual pool for retail / catering. There had been a loss of income due to business disruption during the pandemic. The café had now re-opened and was trading, and the monthly Artisan market resumed in May, 2022. Continued promotion of the business was being undertaken.

An Overview of Building Cleaning Services was given together with the financial impacts of Covid, the 2021/22 Actual Outturn and the Covid 19 recovery plan. Members were reminded that the service was provided to 59 primary schools, 1 secondary school and 38 assorted internal Council buildings and the NHS.

It was explained that the service had been vital to the continued operation of schools throughout the pandemic and had generated a consistent level of income throughout. There had however been challenges with staff shielding, provision of cover staff and on-going recruitment challenges.

An overview of the School Meals service was given together with the impacts of Covid 19 2021/22 and the Actual Outturn 2021/22. Members were reminded that the service was provided to 94 primary schools and academies across Bolton and employed 339 staff.

There had been a significant loss of income from paid meals, Breakfast Clubs and adult meals during Covid. There had also been other additional costs due to the impact of covid 19. In terms of recovery a number of theme days had been delivered and would continue to be delivered, new menu launches, tasting sessions and flexible menus.

An overview of the Trade Waste service was given along with the effects of Covid 19 on the service. The outturn for 2021/22 was also provided and a summary of how the Service was recovering post Covid 19.

It was explained how the residual waste service operated in Bolton, and turnover, with over 1,500 customers. The vast majority of contracts had been retained during Covid. In terms of recovery, it was indicated that the business mix and price enabled the service to remain attractive and the income had recently been enhanced by several large contracts.

Matters around school collections (and charging opportunities), route optimisation and service promotion were also mentioned.

An overview of the Pest Control Service was given along with a summary of Covid 19 impacts and the financial outturn for 2021/22. It was noted that there were five staff in the service with a duty to keep the Borough as free from vermin as practically possible. The service scope also included an annual sewer baiting programme, responding to domestic and commercial pest control requests and delivering contracts to the commercial sector.

The service had been disrupted during Covid 19 and there had been a reduced number of enquiries.

The service had now fully resumed, and a new charging structure had been put in place following approval. The service was currently reviewing commercial development opportunities.

An overview of Bereavement Services was also provided including the financial outturn for 2021/22. The Service operated the Overdale Crematorium, 8 public cemeteries and maintained 4 closed church yards. There were 20 operational and administrative staff.

Members were appraised of the demand during the pandemic and current demand. It was also explained that the service recovered its costs and made a contribution to departmental budgets.

Members in their discussions referred to the following -

- The presentation was a reminder of how difficult things were during covid;
- Priority afforded to Bolton Market public realm and aesthetics vs trader support in challenging economic times. Also, how the Market Place distinguished from the Market;
- Pest control services and contracts with the Council;
- The impact of charges – Service Level Agreements with landlords;
- Pest control enforcement and where the statutory service met the paid service;

- Markets - the dialogue with stall holders re Towns Fund project and wider support;
- Free school meals being important – universal service as opposed to infant free school meals;
- Digitisation to reduce costs regarding traded services;
- Heaton Fold – profits v other social/value adding benefits;
- Bolton Market open days and out of town markets;
- Vegan and plant based foods as part of the school meals offer;
- Pest control and whether requests had dropped due to the charges;
- Trade waste and charges;
- Provision for internment of ashes and opportunities for woodland burials;
- Second hand Sunday market provision;
- Market footfall;
- Sincere thanks to all staff throughout the pandemic who have played their part in securing the financial outturns that have been considered by the Committee;
- Cause of pest infestations and actions that could be taken;
- Markets and opportunities to increase footfall, e.g. local development; and
- Universal services.

Resolved – That Mr. Dyson and colleagues be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position and discussions be noted.

## **9. TRADING STANDARDS – TACKLING THE SALE OF ILLICIT TOBACCO**

Mr. Jon Dyson, Director of Place Services Mr. Philip Mykytiuk, Trading Standards Manager and Mr. Andrew Bolan, Head of Regulatory Services gave a presentation relating to the threat to communities of the sale of illicit tobacco.

Members were informed that once seen as an insipid criminal commodity, illicit tobacco was now determining the make-up of some of our neighbourhoods and was impacting on community

life. It was the highest area of demand for Trading Standards in Bolton.

As a consequence, the team was committed to tackling illicit tobacco on Bolton's Streets.

Almost a year on from the previous committee meeting the following results/outcomes should be noted :-

- In excess of 470,000 cigarettes and 74kg of hand rolling tobacco across 38 seizures since October 2021;
- Over 2,000 Nitrous Oxide cannisters seized alongside illegal tobacco - being supplied alongside one another;
- 13 cars used for storing illegal goods, seized, removed from streets and impounded along with £6k in cash;
- If you consider that across GM authorities, 280,000 cigarettes were seized in the last 6 months, Bolton was well in excess of this figure in the first 5 months of operating; and
- those methods worked - the pace and intensity needed to continue.

Operation Avro was explained to members of the Committee and the following highlighted -

- An example of the exemplary partnership enforcement work with our partners in GMP;
- Dynamic response to continued intelligence; and
- Working towards more integrated partnership operations- shared intelligence and resources.

The meeting was advised that illicit tobacco was an organised threat to our communities and was -

- No longer an insipid criminal commodity;
- Distorting the local economy;
- Linked to money laundering - buying up property; and
- Linked to other crime.

Furthermore, the following was indicated -

- Operated by organised crime groups (OCGs) and links to other forms of serious criminality;
- Developing knowledge and intelligence indicates illegal immigration was fuelling and resourcing this activity; and
- Shops that were once hubs of the community were now influencing the living standards of local residents/communities.

An illustrative portrayal of how illicit tobacco infiltrates communities was provided through video clips.

It was emphasised that the sale of illicit tobacco was serious and organised, and that Bolton's direction of travel should take the following course –

- This should not be tackled by a single agency- needed both internal and external enforcement partners;
- Information and intelligence maintained pace;
- Restore faith in the communities and re-establish territory; and
- Creative solutions:
  - Landlord disruption;
  - Mapping and targeting OCG's;
  - Premises closures; and
  - Cash seizures and asset recovery.

In terms of a local and national context, the following was noted:

- The government were aiming to reduce national smoking prevalence to 5% - in Bolton we were currently at 15%;
- Increasing the price of tobacco was the proven, worldwide strategy, to reduce smoking prevalence.
- The availability of illicit tobacco flies in the face of this strategy; and
- Surpassing illegal drugs in terms of cost to society.



Members in their discussions referred to the following –

- the big criminal activity and who was involved;
- The funding for these strategies;
- Commend the work done;
- Working with landlords;
- How the Council could help to make a difference;
- The extent of the issue in Bolton;
- Planning for raids.
- It ruins communities and importance of co-ordinated activity; and
- Nitrous Oxide use, effect on children and legal position.

Resolved – That Messrs Dyson, Bolan and Mykytiuk be thanked for the very informative presentation and that the position and discussions be noted.

## **10. MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

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

- (i) Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation held on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022;
- (ii) Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022;
- (iii) Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022;
- (iv) Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2022; and
- (v) Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Service Delivery held on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 8.40pm)

## NOTES