

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 27th JULY, 2023

Present – Councillors Warren (Chairman), Ali, Chadwick, Dean (as deputy for Councillor Cox), Mrs. Fairclough, Fielding, Grant, Heslop, Iqbal, Amjid Khan, Mistry, Morris, Rotheram, Sanders, Taylor, Veevers, Walsh (as deputy for Councillor Muslim) and Webb

Also in Attendance

Councillor Haworth	Executive Cabinet Member Regulatory Services and Property
Councillor Silvester	Executive Cabinet Member Climate Change and Environment
Councillor Zaman	Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration
Mr. G. Parker	Assistant Director Environment and Regulatory Services
Mr. P. Whittingham	Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration
Mr. A. Bolan	Head of Service Regulatory Services
Ms. J. Hall	Principal Environmental Health Officer
Mr. A. Chalmers	Principal Development Officer (Planning)
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Cox, Maher and Muslim.

Councillor Warren in the Chair.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 12th April, 2023 were submitted. Also presented were the minutes of the informal meeting held on 20th June, 2023.

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

2. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report which set out details of the proposed Committee work programme for the ensuing Municipal Year following the discussions held at the informal meeting of the Committee on 20th June, 2023.

Resolved – That the work programme, as outlined be approved.

3. CALL IN – GREATER MANCHESTER MINIMUM LICENSING STANDARDS FOR TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE – STAGE 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee was advised that decisions in relation to the report, Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards for Taxi and Private Hire – Stage 2 Recommendations, had been called in by Councillor Cox following the decisions taken by the Cabinet held on 26th June, 2023, in accordance with the Council's rules of Procedure, Section E, Scrutiny Procedure Rules: Paragraph 17.

The Committee had previously been circulated with a copy of the report considered at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26th June, 2023, the minute in this regard and procedural matters around the options available to the Committee following consideration of the matter.

At the start of the meeting, Councillor Mrs. Fairclough on behalf of Councillor Cox, who had called the item in, explained that the decisions taken should be re-considered by the Cabinet.

It was moved by Councillor Fielding and seconded by Councillor Mistry that the matter be referred to the Cabinet for re-consideration.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors Ali, Mistry, Chadwick, Fielding, Iqbal, Amjid Khan, Morris, Taylor, Warren, Mrs. Fairclough, Webb, Veevers, Rotheram, Grant, Heslop, Sanders, Dean and Walsh.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.

4. FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS IN BOLTON

Mr. Andy Bolan, Head of Service, Regulatory Services and Ms. Julia Hall, Principal Environmental Health Officer gave a joint presentation on Regulatory Services and food safety in Bolton.

Members were reminded that the Food and Health and Safety Team were responsible for food safety enforcement in over 2,600 food businesses, health and safety enforcement in over 6,000 work places, registration of skin piercing activities, investigations into food health and safety issues and infectious disease / outbreak investigations.

Members were also advised of-

- The pro-active risk based inspection programme and its determinants;
- The various types of food businesses;
- The varying types of inspections including unannounced;
- Matters around the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme and the scheme safeguards;

F4

- Enforcement powers including powers of entry, written warnings, premises closure and prosecutions;
- Matters around the work carried out by the Team in the period from July, 2021 until March, 2023 including 1627 food hygiene inspections;
- Matters around Covid 19 and recovery; and
- Future issues including recruitment challenges, post Brexit legislation changes, changes to food delivery models, display of food hygiene ratings and continuing to protect the health of the Bolton family.

Members in their discussions referred to-

- the re-inspections fee;
- people who had suspicions about certain premises but did not always know how to report it;
- data and bench marking with Greater Manchester;
- ratings and display of this in partnership with the local press;
- inspection frequencies;
- the recruitment and apprenticeships route;
- matters around lobbying HM Government regarding displaying of the food hygiene certificates;
- premises awaiting inspections;
- misrepresentation of food – food standards;
- prosecutions; and
- businesses who got zero ratings and the procedure.

Resolved - That Mr. Andy Bolan and Ms. Julia Hall be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

5. PLACES FOR EVERYONE UPDATE

Mr. Paul Whittingham, Assistant Director Economic Development and Regeneration and Mr. Andrew Chalmers, Principal Development Officer (Planning) gave a joint presentation updating on Greater Manchester Places for Everyone.

Members were reminded that this was the strategic spatial plan for nine of the ten GM districts (minus Stockport) and set out how much new development should come forward in terms of housing, employment, industry etc. It also identified important environmental assets to protect and enhance, allocates sites outside the urban area for employment and housing, supported delivery of key infrastructure and defined a new Green Belt boundary.

Members were reminded of the background to the plan being published in 2021 and the modifications that would need to be agreed going forward.

The plan set out Bolton's housing target of 787 dwellings per annum from 2022 to 2039. Around 13,400 in total. It also provided a range of new sustainability policies. Also, it did not allocate any other sites as this would be the task for the next local plan.

In terms of national policy changes, other significant consultations were around the Infrastructure Levy with changes to S106 and the CIL processes and permitted development rights.

Members were advised that any Bolton Local Plan review would need to follow and was dependent on the adoption of, Places for Everyone. It would need to be prepared under whatever the new planning system and local plans eventually looked like.

In conclusion, members were advised that, Places for Everyone, was likely to be adopted in 2024.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- the arbitrary figure of 787 dwellings and the issue of developers then not developing which forces other land to be freed up so targets can be met;
- Section 106 agreements;
- What the 787 target consisted of in terms of type of dwelling;

- Who the strategic partners were;
- The contribution of Horwich to the housing stock;
- Places for Everyone – good thing for Bolton and protect the Green Belt;
- The local plan evidence base and preparations for this;
- The Westhoughton housing targets and planned developments;
- Infrastructure issues;
- The equation inspectors used nationally;
- Land supply;
- Affordable social housing; and
- What was agreed with developers and what actually happened.

Resolved – That Messrs Whittingham and Chalmers be thanked for their detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

6. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- (i) Executive Cabinet Member Highways and Transport held on 17th April, 2023.
- (ii) Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 24th April, 2023.
- (iii) Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader held on 17th April, 2023.
- (iv) Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Service Delivery held on 18th April, 2023.
- (v) Executive Cabinet Member Strategic Housing and Planning held on 9th March, 2023.
- (vi) Executive Cabinet Member Regulatory Services and Property held on 18th July, 2023.
- (vii) Executive Cabinet Member Planning, Housing and Highways held on 19th July, 2023.
- (viii) Executive Cabinet Member Regeneration held on 11th July, 2023.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

F7

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 8.03 p.m.)