

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 8TH OCTOBER, 2013

Present – Councillors Mistry (Chairman), Silvester (Vice-Chairman), Allen, C. Burrows, L. Byrne, Evans, Hall (as deputy for Councillor Haslam), G. Harkin, Kellett, Lewis, Pickup, Mrs. Swarbrick (as deputy for Councillor Radlett) and A. S. Walsh

Lay Members

Ms. B. Berry - BATRA
Ms. J. Horan - BATRA

Also in Attendance

Councillor Peel	- Executive Cabinet Member Environmental Services
Councillor J. Byrne	- Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Community Services
Councillor Chadwick	- Cabinet Member, Highways and Transport
Councillor Sherrington	- Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Housing
Ms. S. Johnson	- Assistant Director of Finance and ICT and Chief Officer Support
Mr. K. Davies	- Director of Development and Regeneration.
Mr. M. Cox	- Director of Environmental Services
Mr. S. Young	- Assistant Director Highways and Business Development

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| Ms. J. Pollard | - Head of Service Finance and Business Development |
| Mr. K. Coup | - Transport for Greater Manchester |
| Mr. C. Barnes | - Transport for Greater Manchester |
| Mr. I. D. Mulholland | - Principal Democratic Services Officer |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Haslam, Radlett, Watters and Wild.

Councillor Mistry in the Chair.

13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th August, 2013 were submitted.

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

14. MONITORING OF DECISIONS

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out the progress of decisions which had been made at previous meetings.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

15. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2013/14

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which set out details of the proposed work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved.

16. INTERCHANGE UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from Mr Karl Coup of Transport for Greater Manchester which provided members with an update on the implementation of the new passenger interchange for Bolton.

Members were advised of the key objectives of the scheme, viz-

- to improve the public transport offer and attract new users onto the network;
- to improve connectivity and opportunity to the interchange between bus and rail services via the relocation of the bus station and inclusion of the sky link footbridge;
- enhance access into and across the regional centre providing further employment, education and healthcare opportunities; and
- act as a catalyst for economic regeneration across two key town centre locations, which would provide improved vitality, confidence, employment opportunities and town centre facilities.

In terms of the specific detail of the Scheme, the Committee was advised of the following –

- relocation of the bus station to a site adjacent to Bolton Railway Station;
- provision of a single passenger concourse building capable of accommodating current service provision whilst ensuring flexibility for future growth;
- a sky link pedestrian footbridge linking the bus station with Bolton Railway Station to improve connectivity;
- provision of a cycle hub as part of a Greater Manchester wide cycling initiative;
- bus operator office / driver facilities to improve service provision;
- extensive public realm and highway improvements; and

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- improvements to the existing interchange (outside the Railway Station).

The presentation went onto explain matters around the Scheme benefits which included –

- transport;
- accessibility;
- environmental; and
- regeneration.

Members were also apprised of the risks and challenges of the Scheme.

In terms of the next steps, the Committee was informed of the following –

- identify successful demolition contractor;
- conclude demolition of existing properties and associated advanced works;
- complete scheme design;
- obtain all necessary powers and consents;
- conclude main interchange procurement exercise; and
- commence construction of interchange.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- the new walk way and use of Newport Street to gain access;
- the use of CCTV and monitoring arrangements on the bridge walk way;
- the included retail outlets and their opening hours;
- the disabled facilities;
- travelators; and
- facility opening times and staffing matters.

Resolved – That Mr Coup be thanked for his informative presentation and that the update position be noted.

17. WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Director of Environmental Services gave a presentation which updated the Committee on the progress of waste management issues within Bolton.

The Committee were informed of the following –

- a huge increase in recycling container orders since introduction of managed weekly collections;
- a large amount of initial enquiries into the waste and recycling inbox;
- minimal contact via Councillors into the Project Support inbox;
- councillors informed directly of problems in their areas and asked to assist;
- press interest due to small numbers of operational issues had been very low; and
- excellent working relationship between services to deliver changes.

Mr Cox went on to explain matters around –

- the large increase in recycling bin orders;
- waste audit requests;
- tonnages of residual waste, food and garden waste, comingled and pulpables collected;
- issues around household waste and amounts collected;
- the recycling rate performance;
- matters around increasing participation and partnership working; and
- education and enforcement matters.

In summary Mr Cox explained that –

- recycling rates were increasing and residual waste tonnages decreasing;
- the target for 2013/14 was 38% and the Department were currently on track to achieve this. The target for 2014/15 was 41 %.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- the recycling progress made;
- fast food takeaway litter;
- waste issues and population changes in certain wards and working with landlords for example via the NW Landlords Association;
- fly tipping prosecutions and publicity; and
- small animal bedding disposal.

Resolved – That Mr Cox be thanked for his informative update.

18. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER ONE

The Director of Environmental Services and the Director of Corporate Resources submitted a joint report which provided the Committee with information relating to the financial and performance quarter one position for the Environmental Services portfolio for the 2013/14 financial year.

The report explained that performance was in line with the Community Strategy and the targets were being met. In terms of revenue expenditure, it was indicated that there was an underspend against the budget of £257,000 after planned reserve movements. The main variances were in highways and markets.

With regard to capital expenditure, the report explained that so far this year this amounted to £1.258m against a program of £18.974m.

The Committee was also informed that the Department had a projected general reserve of £557,000 for the end of the year.

Budgeted efficiency savings for the Department were £1,795,000 and all planned efficiencies were being achieved.

In conclusion, the report explained that specific areas of financial risk identified for the year related to loss of income due to the economic downturn, energy prices for street lighting

and business continuity risk related to the market redevelopment.

Members in their discussions referred to the possible use of underspend monies on highway repairs.

Resolved – That the financial and performance quarter one position be noted.

19. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION SERVICES HOUSING PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE, QUARTER ONE

The Director of Development and Regeneration and the Director of Corporate Resources submitted a joint report which provided the Committee with information relating to the financial and performance quarter one position for Housing Services for the 2013/14 financial year.

The report explained that performance was in line with the Community Strategy and the targets were being met. In terms of revenue expenditure, it was indicated that there was an underspend against the budget of £98,000 after planned reserve movements.

With regard to capital expenditure, the report explained that so far this year this amounted to £691,000 against a program of £3,353,000m.

The Committee was also informed that the Department had a projected general reserve of £940,309 for the end of the year.

Budgeted efficiency savings for the Department were £443,000 and all planned efficiencies were being achieved.

In conclusion, the report explained that specific areas of financial risk identified for the year related to loss of grants and occupancy within the accommodation services.

Resolved - That the financial and performance quarter one position be noted.

20. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environment Services held on 2nd September and 7th October, 2013;
- Environment and Housing Policy Development Group held on 16th September, 2013; and
- Cabinet held on 16th September, 2013.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.17pm)