

# **Bolton Council**

## **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## **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 via Microsoft Teams Live Event on Wednesday next, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 at 7.00 p.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 meeting of the Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (Section A).

### **2. Recommendations to Council**

(a) Motion to be moved by Councillor Greenhalgh:-

To approve or otherwise the recommendations of the Cabinet made at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, (see Section C) relating to the fixing of the budget, the setting of the Council Tax and the determination of associated financial matters (see Section B for copy of the motion to be moved at the Council).

(b) Motion to be moved by Councillor Greenhalgh:-

To approve the proposals as detailed in the report in relation to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.

### **3. Changes in Committee Membership and Appointments to Other Bodies**

### **4. Committee Proceedings**

To approve the proceedings of the following Committees:-

Planning Committee (See Section D)

## **5. Scrutiny Committees**

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

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

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section F)

Health Overview and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee (See Section G)

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

(a) Motion in the name of Councillor Peel –

Council notes that Bolton has suffered 10 years of swinging cuts, under the guise of austerity, that despite promises from successive Prime Ministers that austerity was “over”, that the cuts and subsequent damage to council services continued.

Council believes that the impact of the years of cuts has left this council exposed and vulnerable to an unforeseen crisis, and that our resilience to deal with such a crisis has been damaged. The “perfect storm” of the Covid Pandemic has now led to council finances being stretched to such an extent, that further heavy cuts will cause damage beyond repair for the foreseeable future.

Council notes that Covid related costs, both in year, and projected to future years are considerable, both in terms of loss in income, loss of projected future income, and additional demands of services, and cannot be easily quantified in the proposed 2021/23 budget.

Council notes that at the start of the Covid crisis, the Government promised to do all that it can to

assist local councils and said that no local council would be out of pocket. Council now concludes that the Government has fundamentally failed to keep its promises and has failed the people of Bolton.

Council believes that the actions of the Government, in turning a blind eye, to the financial crisis in local government across the country is a dereliction of duty, and that in forcing elected members to a position of making over £35 million pounds of cuts to staff and services in a single financial year is immoral and wrong.

Council believes that the £3 million of additional Government resources for our council services is nothing short of an insult.

Council notes that a motion calling for the Government to assist Bolton Council budget setting, by allowing deficit budgets to be passed for a period of time, thus spreading the pain over several years, whilst allowing for the economy and therefore income levels at the council to improve, was passed unanimously. However, council is extremely disappointed that despite lobbying on this 'part solution' to the crisis, the Government has failed to formally respond to this motion.

Council maintains its position that the stringent and pedantic controls that central Government has placed on local councils requiring them to always set a balanced budget, even in times of a national crisis, are no longer fit for purpose, and that the Government needs to take urgent action to reform these strict rules.

Council, therefore regards the financial parameters around the 2021/23 budget to be wholly false, misleading and short term in their nature, and that a long term financial settlement, that allows

(A) additional Government funding, and

- (B) the ability to plan properly for the future, by allowing for deficit budgeting.

is the only viable solution to Bolton Councils financial problems.

- (b) Motion in name of Councillor Sherrington –

This Council recognises and applauds the vital work that is being carried out by frontline care workers across Bolton, during the Covid 19 pandemic, looking after and protecting some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Council is resolute in its view that decent care work cannot be done on the cheap, and that the Government should challenge the culture of low paid staff who often feel undervalued, by leading a new national strategy in investment in pay, training and support.

Council therefore calls upon the Government to invest £1.4 billion into care workers pay, meaning that these staff who serve a vital function in society receive a 'real Living Wage' of £9.30 per hour, outside of London and £10.75 in London.

- (c) Motion in the name of Councillor Murray -

This Council expresses its serious concern about the issue of speeding cars and reckless driving within our Borough, which is continually leading to needless loss of life resulting in devastating damage to families and communities.

Council accepts that cuts to police budgets has led to a reduction in the ability for the police to effectively enforce speed restrictions. In addition, since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic, police resources have been further stretched.

Council notes that one method by which the issue of speeding cars can be tackled is to tap into the willingness of community groups to organise Community Speedwatch Initiatives, and notes the successful, but informal, pilot that has been operating in Ainsworth Lane, Tonge with the Haulgh Ward. Whilst accepting that CSI's are not a panacea to the problem, Council is nevertheless disappointed that in reply to a question from a member, the GM Neighbourhood Roads Policing Manager did not offer any reassurance of a full roll out of these initiatives.

Council believes that the issues raised by GM police can be solved in partnership with Bolton Council.

Accordingly, Council asks that early talks be opened between Officers of the Council, the Police and the GM Mayors Office in order to resolve any obstructions that are preventing the roll out of Community Speedwatch Initiatives.

(d) Motion in the name of Councillor McKeon –

That building on the decision of the Council to declare a Climate Emergency and the significant amount of work currently in train to make that declaration a reality, this Council expresses, in a vote, its support for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill currently before the House of Commons. Furthermore, the Council agrees to contact the three MPs who represent the borough to urge them to support the bill.

Next year the UK is to co-host the 26th Climate Change Conference and thus has an opportunity to show leadership in combating what is possibly the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced. The evidence of the catastrophic effects of climate change is now too obvious to enumerate. The related ecological disaster is only too apparent with

the decimation of species the most egregious example.

The objectives of the bill are to ensure that the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C and actively conserving the natural world by protecting and restoring the UK's ecosystems.

It also calls for a temporary Citizens Assembly to help the Government and Parliament to decide on the measures to include in the strategy necessary to achieve the objectives.

This Council, on behalf of the people of Bolton, who we represent, expresses its support for a bill which contains measures which are potentially lifesaving for ecosystems, species and humanity.

(e) Motion in the name of Councillor Hayes –

Council considers that the majority of members of Greater Manchester Police perform their duties with a high degree of dedication and professionalism and wishes to thank them for their work during such hard times.

Council recognises that Government cuts to the Greater Manchester Police budget of £215 million over 10 years, which resulted in cuts of 2,000 officers and 1,000 support staff, has inevitably led to a reduction in the standard of service provided to the residents of Greater Manchester and Bolton. However, the recent report by the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) indicates that the performance of Greater Manchester Police is far worse than that of the majority of other forces. HMICFRS found that over 80,000 crimes had not been recorded in the year ending on 30th June and the force was placed in 'Special Measures'.



Council considers that the recent damning HMICFRS report indicates a serious lack of organisation and leadership in Greater Manchester police, for which senior officers must be held largely responsible.

Council notes however, that the role of Elected Mayor for Greater Manchester incorporates the responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner, with responsibility to ensure efficient and effective policing in the area. The existing Elected Mayor appointed a Deputy Mayor to carry out this role on his behalf. Council is concerned that despite warnings from HMICFRS in 2016, 2018 and earlier in 2020, no action appears to have been taken by either the Mayor or Deputy Mayor to deal with the very real concerns, and believes that they have seriously let down the residents of Bolton and Greater Manchester as a whole by their inactivity.

Council resolves to request that the Mayor prepares a detailed report to Bolton Council indicating the action plan to return policing in the Borough to an efficient and effective level.



TONY OAKMAN  
Chief Executive  
Town Hall, Bolton

10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

The proceedings of the Cabinet and Executive Cabinet Member Portfolio meetings from 11<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 are included for information only in a separate volume, together with the minutes of the Chief Officers Appointments Panel.



**BOLTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH**

**2020/2021**

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**13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

Present - Councillors Mrs. Thomas (Mayor), Mrs. Fairclough (Deputy Mayor), Abdullah, Adia, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

**47. IN MEMORIUM – COUNCILLOR PAUL WILD**

Members observed a minutes silence in memory of Councillor Paul Wild who had sadly passed way.

**48. IN MEMORIUM – HONORARY ALDERMAN NORMAN CRITCHLEY**

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

**49. IN MEMORIUM – FORMER COUNCILLOR MRS. RITA FAIRHURST**

Members observed a minutes silence in memory of former Councillor Mrs. Rita Fairhurst who had sadly passed away.

**50. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

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

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

- (i) by Councillor Haworth relating to the Health Skills College

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (ii) by Councillor Peel relating to the Care Workers Pledge

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (iii) by Councillor Hayes relating to the Government's Planning White Paper

The Chief Executive replied to this question.

- (iv) by Councillor Hayes relating to vaccinations for vulnerable groups

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (v) by Councillor Hayes relating to the performance of Greater Manchester Police

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (vi) by Councillor Donaghy relating to IT facilities for remote learning

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

- (vii) by Councillor Wilkinson relating to online learning for children

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

- (viii) by Councillor Wilkinson relating to the railway bridge on Leigh Road, Daisy Hill

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

- (ix) by Councillor McGeown relating to missed bin collections

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

- (x) by Councillor Heslop relating to funding from the Town Centre Masterplan

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xi) by Councillor Heslop relating to the All In The Family logo

The Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xii) by Councillor Wilkinson relating to support measures for those suffering with mental health

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

- (xiii) by Councillor Wilkinson relating to SAMP Sale of Land

The Deputy Leader of the Council replied to this question.

- (xiv) by Councillor Dean relating to women's sanitary products

The Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing replied to this question.

## **52. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Planning Committee held 25<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be approved.

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

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Fairclough, seconded by Councillor Dean and agreed –

That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 be approved.

## **54. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

It was moved by Councillor Bagnall, seconded by Councillor Weatherby and agreed –

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

Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee –  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Place Scrutiny Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
December 2020

Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny –  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**55. ITEM REFERRED TO COUNCIL FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – HARVEY NURSERY REVIEW**

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

That the decision be referred to full Council for further consideration, including exploring the financial options, and then being referred back to the Executive Cabinet Member for further consideration.

As an amendment, it was moved by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Dean -

That the Council is asked to note the decision to send the proposal to close Harvey Nursery out to consultation.

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

For the Amendment, 21 viz:

Councillors Allen, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Hewitt, Hornby, Morgan, Muslim, Radcliffe, Walsh, Warren and Watters.

Against the Amendment, 35 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Bagnall, Brady, Cunliffe, Darvesh, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Haworth, Heslop, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McMulkin, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Weatherby, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the amendment was declared lost.

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

For the Motion, 36 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Ayub, Bagnall, Brady, Cunliffe, Darvesh, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McMulkin, Mistry, Morris, Murray, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Weatherby, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 20 viz:

Councillors Allen, Baines, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunningham, Dean, Mrs. Fairclough, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hewitt, Hornby, Morgan, Muslim, Radcliffe, Walsh, Warren and Watters.

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**56. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY**

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

We in the Bolton Lib Dem Group, like the vast majority of the population, were outraged by the Government's decision to deny children access to free school meals during school holidays. We welcome the Leader's response to our request to override that decision and take action for the children of Bolton during the Autumn half term break, but when charitable food donations are being relied upon to feed hungry children, it means that those running the Country and its economy are failing badly. Our children deserve better.



Council accepts that the Local Welfare Provision Scheme helps people in short term crisis in Bolton. That scheme is funded by the Council on an annual basis, but Council believes we need more than this for:

- The families who don't fit the criteria for Free School Meals but are struggling due to a sudden and massive change in their circumstances due to the Covid pandemic;
- For all those families who, this time last year were "just about managing" but aren't anymore; and
- For every child who goes to bed hungry in Bolton, in term time or holidays.

Council believe that we must act proactively to deal with the new set of problems facing our Bolton Family. Families who were “just about managing” this time last year are finding themselves floundering now and those that were struggling before the pandemic now find that they are in a downward spiral. It is with this in mind that we look to our colleagues in another authority (Wigan) who have developed a Community Book: an online register of all relevant services available to our residents. This book also logs all community and voluntary groups who can offer help and brings all partners together in a positive and productive way. Council should develop such a service for Bolton, one that constantly evolves and improves for the benefit of all our residents. Instead of reacting to unexpected consequences this book will enable the Authority to offer proactive assistance to families by signposting them the way to support in a way they can access with autonomy and dignity. It also maximises the offer we can provide with all our partners. This can be achieved with very little financial outlay, just the will to succeed and the usual excellent level of collaboration. We hope tonight that Council can agree on the principles and ask that the Executive report back to Council with a progress report.

Council applauds all the wonderful groups who stepped up at half term and are always there when we need them, but this Council must coordinate its efforts and provide for our children and their families, not just in the short term but as part of our commitment to the Bolton Family – the production of a Community Book will do just that

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

For the Motion, 57 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wilkinson, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

**57. MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 4 – HEALTH EQUITY IN ENGLAND: THE MARMOT REVIEW TEN YEARS ON**

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

This Council is extremely concerned about the report, 'Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review Ten Years On', which describes health inequalities that have more public awareness and are brought into sharp focus in the Covid 19 pandemic.

The report summarises that there is no biological reason for stalling life expectancy and widening health inequalities and that this has been a decade of deteriorating health. Many matters reported on are pertinent to Bolton which has a ten year difference in life expectancy between some council wards.

Therefore this Council resolves;

To learn from and make full use of pertaining to local government, the Health Equity Report 2020.

To prioritise action that will bear down on health inequalities in the Bolton Borough.

To place a high priority on the council services, like housing and child early years, in the work of the Council to improve disadvantaged people's lives.

In addition, in all opportunities that arise, the Cabinet seek to gain any additional funding for the Council to assist with the work.

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

For the Motion, 55 viz:

Councillors Abdullah, Adia, Allen, Ayub, Bagnall, Baines, Brady, Bullock, Connor, Cox, Cunliffe, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Donaghy, Eckersley-Fallon, Evans, Mrs. Fairclough, Fletcher, Flitcroft, Galloway, Gibbon, Greenhalgh, Haslam, Hayes, Haworth, Heslop, Hewitt, Hornby, Iqbal, Ismail, Khurram, McGeown, McKeon, McMulkin, Mistry, Morgan, Morris, Murray, Muslim, Newall, Parkinson, Pattison, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Silvester, Veevers, Walsh, Warren, Watters, Weatherby, Wright and Zaman.

Against the Motion, 0

Abstained, 0

Whereupon, the motion was declared carried.

At this point, the Mayor advised that as the meeting was approaching the time limit of 10.30 p.m., the following Motions under Standing Order 4 would be deferred to the meeting of the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, viz:-

- Care Workers Pay;
- Community Speed Watch Initiatives;
- Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill; and
- Action Plan for Greater Manchester Police.

(The meeting started at 7.00 p.m. and finished at 10.19 p.m.)

**DRAFT SUBSTANTIVE COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION**

- (i) That the following recommendations of the Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be approved:-
- (a) The Council be recommended to approve the Budget for 2021/22
  - (b) That the council tax for 2021/22 be increased by 3.8% comprising
    - The Adult Social Care Precept at 2.5%
    - The general levy at 1.3%
  - (c) The Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme and Strategy for 2021/22
  - (d) The Council be recommended to approve the Investment and Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategies 2021/22 to 2023/24
- (ii) It be noted that on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the Cabinet calculated
- (a) the Council Tax Base 2021/22 for the whole Council area as 76,281 (item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”); and
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as:

**Parish Councils**

The Parish of Blackrod	1,982	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Horwich	7,518	Band D equivalents
The Parish of Westhoughton	8,610	Band D Equivalents

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year 2021/22 for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- (iii) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2021/22 (excluding Parish precepts) is £120,050,560

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(iv) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2021/22 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act.

- |     |              |  |
|-----|--------------|--|
| (a) | £237,319,396 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.  |
| (b) | £116,842,835 | being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.   |
| (c) | £120,476,561 | being the amount by which the aggregate at (iv)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iv)(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).  |
| (d) | £1,579.37    | being the amount at (iv)(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T ((ii)(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).  |
| (e) | £426,001.00  | being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, each individual parish precept being:<br>Blackrod                      £71,847<br>Horwich                      £204,559<br>Westhoughton              £149,595   |
| (f) | £1,573.79    | being the amount at (iv)(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iv)(e) above by Item T (ii)(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates. |

### B3

(g)	Part of the Council's Area	Parish of Blackrod	£1,610.04
		Parish of Horwich	£1,601.00
		Parish of Westhoughton	£1,591.16

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at (e) above divided in each case by the amount at (ii) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

#### (h) Part of the Council's Area

Valuation bands	Parish of Blackrod	Parish of Horwich	Parish of Westhoughton	All other parts of the Council's area
A	£1,073.36	£1,067.33	£1,060.77	£1,049.19
B	£1,252.26	£1,245.23	£1,237.58	£1,224.07
C	£1,431.14	£1,423.11	£1,414.36	£1,398.92
D	£1,610.04	£1,601.00	£1,591.16	£1,573.79
E	£1,967.82	£1,956.77	£1,944.74	£1,923.51
F	£2,325.62	£2,312.56	£2,298.35	£2,273.26
G	£2,683.40	£2,668.33	£2,651.93	£2,622.98
H	£3,220.08	£3,202.00	£3,182.32	£3,147.58

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (f) and (g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands

(v) That it be noted that for the year 2021/22 the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and the Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Precepting Authority

Valuation Bands	Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)	Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept
A	£60.63	£145.53
B	£70.73	£169.78
C	£80.84	£194.04
D	£90.95	£218.30
E	£111.16	£266.81
F	£131.37	£315.32
G	£151.58	£363.83
H	£181.90	£436.60

(vi) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iv), (f), (i), and (v), the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

## (i) Part of the Council's Area

Valuation bands	Parish of Blackrod	Parish of Horwich	Parish of Westhoughton	All other parts of the Council's area
A	£1,279.52	£1,273.49	£1,266.93	£1,255.35
B	£1,492.77	£1,485.74	£1,478.09	£1,464.58
C	£1,706.02	£1,697.99	£1,689.24	£1,673.80
D	£1,919.29	£1,910.25	£1,900.41	£1,883.04
E	£2,345.79	£2,334.74	£2,322.71	£2,301.48
F	£2,772.31	£2,759.25	£2,745.04	£2,719.95
G	£3,198.81	£3,183.74	£3,167.34	£3,138.39
H	£3,838.58	£3,820.50	£3,800.82	£3,766.08

(vii) That the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22 at an increase of 3.80% is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

(viii) That the Deputy Chief Executive be delegated authority to collect revenues and disburse monies from the relevant accounts.

(ix) That it be noted that the Government have set a National Non-Domestic Rate of 49.9p in the pound for small businesses and 51.2p in the pound for larger businesses for the financial year 2021/22.



(x) That the Council's current policy in respect of discretionary relief for charitable organisations, as approved by the Cabinet on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021, be reaffirmed and that the Deputy Chief Executive be delegated authority to determine applications for such relief.

(xi) That War Disablement Pensions and War Widows' Pensions be disregarded for the purposes of the Council Tax Support Scheme.

(xii) That Council approves the following definition for the 'minimum occupancy period' for Council Tax Discount Class C properties, to apply from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021:

"For the purposes of Discount Class C, in considering whether a dwelling has been vacant for any period, any one period, not exceeding six weeks, during which it was not vacant shall be disregarded".

(xiii) That the minutes of the proceedings of the undermentioned Scrutiny Committee regarding their consideration of the budgets be noted:-

Corporate Cultural and External Issues      11<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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**NOTES**

## **THE CABINET**

### **MEETING, 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

Councillor Greenhalgh	Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Cox	Deputy Leader's Portfolio
Councillor Haslam	Highways and Transport
Councillor Muslim	Stronger Communities
Councillor Warren	Environmental Service Delivery
Councillor Morgan	Adult Social Care
Councillor Baines	Wellbeing
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough	Environmental Regulatory Services
Councillor Galloway	Children's Services
Councillor Hewitt	Strategic Housing and Planning

#### Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Dean  
Councillor Radcliffe  
Councillor Walsh  
Councillor Peel  
Councillor Zaman  
Councillor Donaghy  
Councillor Haworth  
Councillor Hayes  
Councillor Hornby  
Councillor Sanders  
Councillor McMulkin (as deputy for Councillor Ismail)  
Councillor Brady

#### Officers

Mr. T. Oakman	Chief Executive
Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Chief Executive

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Mr. G. Brough	Director of Place
Ms. B. Brown	Director of Children's Services
Dr. H. Lowey	Director of Public Health
Ms. R. Tanner	Managing Director – Bolton Integrated Care Partnership
Ms. E. Brook	Assistant Director Strategy and Partnerships
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. J. Kelly	Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Mrs. V. Ridge	Democratic Services Manager

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Ismail.

Councillor Greenhalgh in the Chair.

### **26. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **27. BUDGET REPORT 2021-2022**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which provided members with the following:-

- The consolidation of service budgets to provide the Council's overall 2021/2022 budget;
- Options to inform Council Tax setting for 2021/2022; and
- The Financial Arrangements account for 2021/2022.

Members were reminded previous reports to Cabinet had outlined the financial challenges which faced the Council over the next two financial years particularly in light of the pressures in Social Care and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. As such these reports had identified savings requirement covering the years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 of £39.5 million, the vast

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majority of which (£37.2 million) needed to be found in 2021/2022 in order to set a balance budget.

The report advised that, following the local government finance settlement which was announced on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, the following amendments meant that the savings target could be reduced by £3 million to £36.5 million, viz:-

<b>Changes since November Cabinet</b>	
Pay Award 21/22 – take out further 2% (i.e. reduce to 0%)	-2.3
Add back – pay award for earners less than £24,000	+0.4
Pay Award 22/23 – take out a further 1% (i.e. reduce to 1%)	-1.1
Collection fund reduced deficit 20/21	-1.0
Emerging demand for Leisure and CICT provision	+1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>-3.0</b>

It was also stated that as a result of one-off grants outlined within the report the £36.5 million was now split £31.6 million in 2021/2022 and £4.9 million in 2022/2023.

Members were also reminded that the Council has had to find significant savings over the last eight years which totalled around almost £190 million by the end of 2021/2022 and adding in the proposed 2021-2023 savings target this took the figure to around £225 million. It was also stated that beyond 2021/2022 there were some key funding issues yet to be confirmed which could impact further on the Council which were as follows:-

- Fair Funding Review (FFR) – as part of the 2016/2017 finance settlement it was announced that there would be an FFR of authorities' funding needs, initially to be implemented in 2019/2020. This was subsequently deferred by one year to 2020/2021 and the Brexit debate pushed this further back to 2021/2022. However, the Covi-19 pandemic had now pushed this back further to

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2022/2023 and there was now some uncertainty as to whether or not this would happen in 2022/2023; and

- Business Rates – the government had announced that from 2020 business rates retention would be 75%, 1% of this being passed to the Fire Authority and 25% to central government. However, this had been deferred to 2022/2023. Furthermore, the business rates reset initially intended to be implemented in 2021/2022 had also been deferred until at least 2022/2023. As a result this made forecasting business rates beyond 2021/2022 extremely difficult to do. In addition, it was not possible to project what the council could receive in some form of re-distributed grant from any potentially available funds.

The report also provided an updated expenditure forecast for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023. This forecast was based on the assumption that Council Tax would increase by 2% for Adult Social Care and 1.99% for the general levy. It was explained that the level of Council Tax would be determined by the Council at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 following a recommendation from the Cabinet.

Members were advised that as a result of deferring £8 million of savings over the 2019-2021 period this together with the forecasted savings target in 2021/2022 meant the total indicative savings target for 2021/2022 was £31.641 million and the indicative savings target for 2022/2023 was £4.859 million.

In terms of reserves, the council estimated its reserves balance to be £101 million at the end of 2020/2021 before the DSG balance and details of this were provided in the report. Appendix F to the report also provided some information of the implications of not holding these reserves.

Currently it was estimated that available balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 would be £10.66 million and the Deputy Chief Executive recommended, as a minimum, balances of £10 million or higher should be maintained based upon her understanding of the risks and financial issues facing the

Council over the next three years and the proposals around the budget, as identified in the report.

The individual parish precepts were also detailed in the report and as required by the Local Government Finance Act 1982 these needed to be added to Bolton's budget requirement.

With regard to the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services), it was explained that this was set by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The proposed increases in the Mayoral Precepts were as follows:-

- For the Mayoral General (including Fire Services) a 0% increase; and
- £15 increase for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept.

It was stated that should the final decisions of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority be different, this would be reported to members at the meeting.

With regard to Business Rates, whilst the Council was part of the Greater Manchester 100% pilot, it should be noted that the Government determined the rates to be collected and had set these at 49.9p in the pound for small businesses and 51.2p in the pound for larger businesses.

In terms of setting the Council Tax, it was explained that based upon the Adult Social Care precept being set at 2% for 2021/2022 plus a 1.99% general levy increase for Council Tax for Bolton Council for 2021/2022 (i.e. excluding Parish and Mayoral precepts) this was the equivalent to an additional 78p per week on Band A properties which were more than 40% of the overall tax base.

The report also summarised the key messages from the public consultation exercise which was undertaken and a total of 359 responses were received. Full details of these were outlined in Appendix J to the report.

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

**Resolved – That the Cabinet, having taken into account the consultation responses and the Equality Impact Assessment, recommend to Council:-**

**(i) The revenue budget for 2021/2022 as set out in the Budget Report subject to the following savings proposals being amended as follows:-**

<b>DIRECTORATE</b>	<b>OPTION</b>	<b>AMENDMENT £000</b>	<b>REVISED OPTION £000</b>
Adults	Review of staffing in Adults Portfolio	500	875
Corporate	3 day shutdown removed	1,200	0
Place	School Crossing Patrols	50	57
Place	Waste/N'Hood amalgamation	400	1,393
Place	Review of N'Hood Services	150	132
Place	Review of Albert Halls	100	0
Corporate	CTSS topslice 17.5%	400	900

**(ii) That the Council Tax for 2021/2022 be increased by 3.8% represented by a 2.5% increase for Adult Social Care and a 1.3% general increase.**

**(iii) That the Council Tax figures included in the report for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) are the recommended provisional amounts pending their formal approval.**



## **28. CORPORATE CAPITAL AND ONE-OFF FUNDING 2021-2023**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report that proposed a Capital Strategy, Corporate Capital and Revenue Programme, a Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy and Capital Prudential Indicators for the next two years.

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

The Capital Strategy was a key document for the Council and formed part of the authority's integrated revenue, capital and balance sheet planning. It provided a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contributed to the provision of services and provided an overview of how associated risk was managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. It also included an overview of the governance processes for approval and monitoring of capital expenditure. Appendix 1 to the report detailed the Capital Strategy for 2021-2022.

Members were advised that the significant reductions in the Council's revenue budget had meant that the maximisation of capital funding had become a vital part of ensuring the Council could continue to pursue its key objectives. In recent years, capital monies had been allocated to support the strategic road network across the Borough and to enable the developments in the town centre. The current funding position for 2020-2021 onwards was as follows:-

	<b>Current Capital Programme 2020-2023</b>
	£m
Corporate Supported Borrowing	74.9
Corporate Revenue	9.8
Corporate Capital Receipts	14.1

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Service Supported Borrowing	0.1
Service Revenue	17.4
Government Grants	39.8
Other Contributions	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>161.9</b>

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

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

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

	%
2020/2021	3.83
2021/2022	3.95
2022/2023	4.07

The detailed calculations were set out in Appendix 3 to the report. The 7 year average was 3.49% and was therefore within the HMRC limit.

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

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

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

- (i) **The Capital Strategy for 2021/2023 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.**
- (ii) **The Corporate Capital and Revenue Programme for 2021-2022 be approved.**
- (iii) **The Minimum Revenue Provision policy as set out in section 5 of the report be approved.**
- (iv) **The Capital Prudential Indicators as set out in Section 6 of the report be approved.**

## **29. TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES FOR 2021/2022 TO 2024/2025**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report that outlined the Council's prudential indicators for 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 and set out the expected treasury operations for this period.

The report fulfilled two key legislative requirements:-

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

**Resolved – (i) That, subject to the approval of Council, the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/2022 to 2024/2025 and the treasury limits on activity contained within this report; the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator and the Investment Strategy 2021/2022 contained in the treasury management strategy be approved.**

### **30. CORPORATE PLAN 2019/2021 – END OF YEAR UPDATE**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which provided an update with the continued progress made against the Corporate Plan for 2019/2021.

Members were advised that the Corporate Plan identified 18 priorities, coming from each of the four directorates and a RAG rating system had been utilised to determine overall progress made against the priority.

Table One in the report provided a visual summary of the feedback from across the organisation and it was stated that since the development of the Corporate Plan key work(s) had continued which had resulted in 11 of the overall 18 priorities achieving a green RAG rating and 0 priorities given a red RAG rating.

A copy of the Bolton's Corporate Plan for 2019-2021 was appended to the report.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

### **31. CORPORATE DASHBOARD – END OF YEAR UPDATE 2020/2021**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which provided the updated Corporate Performance Dashboard Plan for end of year update 2020/2021.

Members were advised that the Corporate Dashboard reported in total 30 indicators on a quarterly basis and of these 20 had been RAG rated as new data was readily available for this quarter. It was stated that for the remainder there has been no updates in the figures although a qualitative update had been provided where applicable.

The report gave a breakdown of how each of the Key Performance Indicators were performing on a directorate basis.

A copy of the Corporate Performance Dashboard end of year update was appended to the report.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

**32. ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY INVESTMENT (£12M) 2019 –  
PROGRAMME APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONAL  
SCHEMES**

The Executive Cabinet Member Deputy Leader and the Director of Place submitted a report which sought members approval of the programme for the underspend of the £12 million investment in the unclassified road and footway network.

Members were reminded that in September, 2019 Cabinet approved the investment of a total of £12 million in the unclassified road and footway network. Each ward was allocated a total of £600,000 to spend on maintenance schemes in their ward on unclassified roads and footways which the ward members selected.

The report advised that the initial list of 259 schemes had now been nearly completed or currently in progress and due to various factors most wards still had some of their allocated budget remaining. Consequently, a programme of additional schemes had been developed in conjunction with ward members.

Members were informed that it was anticipated that careful planning of future work schedules would enable the additional work to be undertaken alongside the existing highway programme. It was also stated that as additional survey information became available, or if risks become apparent on a road or footway, these would be built into the rank priority in an area so that the forward programme could be kept live and be ready for any future investment strategy.

A copy of the proposed schemes for inclusion in the (Carriageways and Footways) construction programmes was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

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**Resolved – (i) That the full expanded U-class carriageway and footways programme priority list for each ward be approved.**

**(ii) That the ward determined priorities for inclusion in the current budget be approved.**

## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Ayub (Vice-Chairman), Connor, Darvesh, Dean, Haworth, Hayes, Hornby, Mistry, Morgan, Newall (as deputy for Councillor Wilkinson), Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Wright.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Wilkinson

### **28. COUNCILLOR PAUL WILD**

The Chairman informed the Committee of the recent death of Councillor Paul Wild.

The Committee observed a minute silence in his memory.

### **29. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

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>
Councillor Haworth	09252/20	She has previously expressed an opinion on the matter and left the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application.

### 30. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered certain applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

Councillor Greenhalgh, in his capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the meeting and spoke in respect of application numbered 07518/19.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in relation to the following applications:

07518/19

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

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
08141/20	Erection of 17 no. two bed apartments together with other associated works including landscaping and 22 no. car parking spaces on land at rear of Roka Restaurant , 122 Bradshaw Brow	<p><b>Deferred for further information.</b></p> <p>A motion to defer the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>An amendment to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for the amendment to approve the application (2):</p> <p>Councillors Haworth and Mistry.</p>



		<p>Members voting against the amendment to approve the application (14):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Connor, Darvesh, Dean, Hayes, Hornby, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and Wright.</p> <p>The amendment to approve the application was lost.</p> <p>The original motion to defer the application was then put to the vote.</p> <p>Members voting for the motion to defer the application (14):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Connor, Darvesh, Dean, Hayes, Hornby, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and Wright.</p> <p>Members voting against the motion to defer the application (2):</p> <p>Councillors Haworth and Mistry.</p>
07518/19	Demolition of existing buildings and erection of Lidl Foodstore (Class A1) and 43 no.	<b>That the decision be delegated to the Director of Place for approval, subject to conditions</b>

	retirement apartments (Class C3), creation of sport pitches and laying out of a public commuter car park on land off Darwen Road, Bromley Cross	<p><b>and a Section 106 Agreement, as recommended in the report now submitted.</b></p> <p><b>That the application be then referred to the Secretary of State for approval.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (10):</p> <p>Councillors Connor, Dean, Haworth, Hayes, Hornby, Morgan, Radcliffe, Sanders, Walsh and Wright.</p> <p>Members voting against approval of the application (6):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Darvesh, Mistry, Newall, Peel and Sherrington.</p>
09179/20	Erection of a commemorative monument on land at Moses Gate Triangle, Bolton Road, Farnworth	<b>The application had been withdrawn for consideration by the Committee and deferred to a future meeting.</b>

09252/20	Redevelopment of redundant rail/bus interchange incorporating demolition of bus station concourse building and construction of new carriageway including taxi rank, two-way cycle way and relocation of vehicle drop off and loading bay from Trinity Street together with erection of bollards and 8m high lighting columns at Bolton Interchange GMPTE, Trinity Street	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions, as recommended in the report.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (15):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Connor, Darvesh, Dean, Hayes, Hornby, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington, Walsh and Wright</p>
06464/19	Erection of 2 no. residential detached dwellings on land adjacent sub station, Doris Avenue	<p><b>The application had been withdrawn for consideration by the Committee and deferred to a future meeting.</b></p>

### 31. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS

The Director of Place submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 3.50pm)

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## **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

Present – Councillors Walsh (Chairman), Ayub (Vice-Chairman), Darvesh, Dean, Haworth, Hayes, Hornby, Mistry, Morgan, Newall (as deputy for Councillor Wilkinson), Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Wright.

Councillor Walsh in the Chair.

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Wilkinson

### **32. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **33. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Under the approved delegation arrangements, the Committee considered certain applications, as set out in the report submitted by the Director of Place, for permission to undertake developments, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act.

The following Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business:-

<b>Member of Council</b>	<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Councillor Haworth	09471/20	She is a member of the School Board.  She withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application.

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Councillor Sanders	09148/20	<p>He had held discussions with interested parties on the matter prior to the meeting.</p> <p>He withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of the application.</p>
Councillor Mistry	09670/20	He lives in the vicinity of the application.

Councillor Flitcroft, in her capacity as Ward Councillor, attended the meeting and spoke in respect of application numbered 09148/20.

Members of the public addressed the Committee in relation to the following applications:

09148/20      08141/20      09471/20      09670/21

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

Application Number	Proposal and Location	Decision
08141/20	Erection of 17 no. two bed apartments together with other associated works including landscaping and 22 no. car parking spaces on land at rear of Roka Restaurant, 122 Bradshaw Brow	<b>That the decision be delegated to the Director of Place for approval, subject to conditions and subject to maintenance of the stone steps being included within the Section 106 Agreement.</b>

		<p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (15):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Darvesh, Dean, Haworth, Hayes, Hornby, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington. Walsh and Wright.</p>
08452/20	Change of use of land from residential to light industrial and erection of 2 no. buildings comprising 6 no. units with parking and associated works at Open Gate Caravan Park, Belvoir Street	<b>The application had been withdrawn for consideration by the Committee and deferred to a future meeting.</b>
09148/20	Siting of new boundary fencing/gates at St James CE Secondary School, Lucas Road, Farnworth	<b>That the decision be delegated to the Director of Place for approval, subject to conditions, and subject to further discussions taking place between the School, residents, Ward Councillors and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee regarding the siting of the boundary fence and its maintenance.</b>

		<p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (14):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Darvesh, Dean, Haworth, Hayes, Hornby, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sherrington, Walsh and Wright.</p>
09471/20	Erection of a new secondary school (6 form entry) with associated access, parking and landscaping on land south of Freshfield Avenue	<p><b>That the decision be delegated to the Director of Place for approval, subject to conditions and a Section 106 Agreement, as recommended in the report now submitted.</b></p> <p><b>That the application be then referred to the Secretary of State for approval.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (10):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Dean, Hornby, Mistry, Morgan, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Walsh.</p>

		<p>Members voting against approval of the application (4):</p> <p>Councillors Darvesh, Hayes, Newall and Wright</p>
09670/20	<p>Erection of a two storey side extension, single storey extension at rear/side and enlargement of front canopy at 12 Daffodil Road, Farnworth</p>	<p><b>Approved, subject to conditions.</b></p> <p><b>Members considered that the proposed development would not harm the already varied character and appearance of the street scene and surrounding area, and therefore considered that the proposal would comply with Policies CG3 and RA2 of Bolton's Core Strategy.</b></p> <p>A motion to approve the application was moved and seconded.</p> <p>Members voting for approval of the application (14):</p> <p>Councillors Ayub, Darvesh, Dean, Haworth, Hayes, Hornby, Mistry, Morgan, Newall, Peel, Radcliffe, Sanders, Sherrington and Wright.</p>



		Members voting against the application (1):  Councillor Walsh.
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### **34. PLANNING APPEAL DECISIONS**

The Director of Place submitted a report which informed the Committee of the outcome of various planning appeals between 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020 and 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 3.35pm)

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**NOTES**

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

Present – Councillors Iqbal (Chairman), Brady (Vice-Chairman), Connor, Dean, Donaghy, Ibrahim, Khurram, McGeown, McMulkin (as deputy for Councillor Ismail), Murray, Newall, Walsh and Watters.

### Co-opted Member

Reverend Canon Dr Bracegirdle – Church of England Diocese Representative

### Also in attendance

Councillor Galloway	-	Executive Cabinet Member for Children
Ms B. Brown	-	Director of Children's Services
Mr P. Rankin	-	Deputy Director of Children's Services
Ms H. Lowey	-	Director of Public Health
Ms S. Cornwell	-	Head of SEND and Principal Educational Psychologist
Mrs S. Bailey	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Ismail

Councillor Iqbal in the Chair

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

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

## **22. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020/2021**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which detailed the Committee Work Programme for 2020/2021.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2020/2021 be noted.

## **23. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES OVERVIEW**

Ms S Cornwell gave a presentation on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision in Bolton.

Members were informed of the production of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which focused on 0–25-year-olds and included data analysis and recommendations. It had been developed by a working group of key personnel from the Local Authority, Public Health, the CCG and Bolton Parent Carers.

The production of the document was recommended by the DfE and had identified the following key findings:

- 8,590 children and young people (CYP) with SEND (6,068 on SEN Support and 2,522 on EHCPs);
- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> were male and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> were female;
- disproportionality by ethnicity - the proportion of black children with SEND was more than twice the percentage of black children in the general population;
  - CYP with SEND were clustered in areas with higher levels of deprivation;
  - the numbers with early years inclusion support funding had risen 55% over the last four years;
- in the last decade, numbers on SEN Support had nearly tripled and numbers on EHCPs had doubled;
- proportionally, there had been an overall slight decrease in % of school population classed as SEND;
- there was a current and projected shortage of special school places;

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- Nearly 1/3rd of CYP with SEND had a moderate learning difficulty - 1/5th have speech, language and communication needs and 1/5th had social, emotional and mental health needs;
- the biggest % increases over the last 3 years had been in multi-sensory impairment; SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need, and; Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD); and
- nearly half of all CYP with SEND had social care involvement.

With regard to educational and training outcomes, it had been found that CYP with SEND had poorer educational outcomes than CYP without SEN, which replicated the national and regional picture. However, CYP with SEND in Bolton generally did better than comparators at Key Stage 2.

The picture was more mixed at Key Stage 4 with Attainment 8 for those with an EHCP being better than regional and statistical comparators but lower than national, but for those on SEN Support was lower than all comparators. At 77.74%, Bolton had the lowest proportion of 16-17 year olds with SEN in education and training out of all comparators.

In terms of need:

- nearly 1/3rd of CYP with SEND had a moderate learning difficulty, 1/5th had speech, language and communication needs and 1/5th had social, emotional and mental health needs;
- the biggest % increases over the last 3 years had been in multi-sensory impairment, SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need, and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD); and
- nearly half of all CYP with SEND had social care involvement.

## F4

In respect of Educational and Training Outcomes:

- CYP with SEND had poorer educational outcomes than CYP without SEND (replicated the national and regional picture);
- CYP with SEND in Bolton generally did better than comparators at Key Stage 2;
- the picture was more mixed at Key Stage 4; Attainment 8 for those with an EHCP was better than regional and statistical comparators but lower than national, but for those on SEN Support was lower than all comparators; and
- at 77.74%, Bolton had the lowest proportion of 16-17 year olds with SEN in education and training out of all comparators.

Evidence from parents, young people and children involved:

- ideas for change in services;
- improved communication of key information including offer, processes and pathways;
- improvements to SEN Support provision;
- ensuring take up of SEND training for professionals;
- assessing and monitoring Short Breaks offer; and
- improved inclusive approach for CYP with SEND at mainstream schools.

Recommendation contained within the JSNA included:

- a review what type of SEND provision was best to meet growing local needs (including special schools and inclusive mainstream schools) - this could include increased investment in services for children and young people with SEND, given the growing population;
- work with SENCOs in order to ensure the accurate identification of need;
- development of a more robust SEN Support offer;
- development of an offer for neurodiverse children and young people, including pre and post diagnostic support,

CAMHS and transition support, ensuring the multidisciplinary system was working well, including for young people who have negative Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule assessments but still had needs;

- ensuring that the information in the JSNA was used to inform joint commissioning and review, align and develop our service/community-based support models to meet the current need and to manage future demand in those areas already identified as increasing in numbers e.g. Autism, emotional health and wellbeing;
- ensure better recording of post-KS4 and post-19 destination data for young people with SEND;
- set up collection of data on accommodation for young people 18 plus with SEND;
- improve data capturing and intelligence on ASD;
- developing a person centred approach to outcomes, developed with and for young people such as reviewing our short break model and offer to make sure that we are targeting those young people who need a short break the most; and
- developing a mechanism for recording access to Short Breaks care, including direct payments, that could be easily accessed and shared in the form of an annual report.

The presentation advised of the progress to date in implementing the recommendations. They had been reflected in a SEND Action Plan which was informing the work of the SEND Strategic Steering Group and work regarding special school provision was ongoing with expansion projects at Firwood and Rumworth planned.

The SEND Handbook had also been launched on 12th January, 2021 which was hoped would help with the accurate identification of need and a more robust SEN Support offer.

Connexions had also created processes this year to track the destinations of those Young People in Year 14.

The presentation went to give an overview of Specialist Provision for 0-16 years by type of school. Details of Bolton Special School placements, numbers attending and current physical capacity were provided.

Members were also informed of the production of a revised SEND handbook which had been structured to act as a guide through the SEND journey. It also contained many new elements and included a section on identification of need which focused on descriptors of each need and prompts for initial meetings with parents to aid in the joint identification of needs and to start working in a collaborative way from the outset.

For each area of need, the handbook detailed key areas of concern, typical indicators and features that created an inclusive school/classroom environment to meet the need.

The presentation went on to focus on Quality First Inclusive Teaching which was designed to form the basis of an inclusive teaching approach for any child with additional need such as those with SEND, LAC and EAL/INA children.

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

- the mental health provision that was being put in place to help children who were being adversely affected by the recent lockdown – members were assured that there was a strong multi agency approach to ensuring that the social, emotional and mental health needs of children were being met during this challenging time - the Council continued to work closely with colleagues in special schools to ensure that measures were in place to support families and to plan for future need;
- the measures that had been put in place to identify signs that a child was suffering from social, emotional and mental health issues – members were advised that this was a significant priority in schools, particularly since the effects of the first lockdown had been seen – the recent publication of the revised SEND handbook contained



clear signs to look for and would assist in identifying children who were in need of extra support;

- concerns at the shortage of SEND places in Bolton, and the need to for children to be placed in schools out of the Borough – members were informed that it was a challenging situation with the position in Bolton being similar to that of the national picture – members were reminded of the inclusivity approach being adopted by the Authority where the aim was to provide specialist provision within mainstream schools, however, some children had such specialised needs that they needed to be placed out of the Borough with providers that could meet their particular requirements – there was a coherent strategy for pupil place planning and work was ongoing in partnership to manage provision with the aim of inclusivity for all;
- the ongoing budget constraints and how the reducing resources were being planned for – members were informed that schools funding came from different budget streams and that ongoing consultation with schools had led to the formation of a working group to discuss the inclusivity agenda and agreement had been reached for the allocation of £1.1m of targeted investment into the inclusion programme;
- an update on inclusive schools that were currently operating would be useful – it was agreed that this would be provided to members following the meeting;
- the establishment of the Primary Autism Unit – members were advised that this was progressing at Moorgate School and building works were underway;
- the status of the pupil referral units – members were informed that these were now operated by the Bolton Impact Trust with no current in-house provision – their services were quality assured and were in close dialogue with the Council – they aimed to provide an alternative provision for a limited period until a return to mainstream schools could be achieved;
- the use of independent schools – members were advised that the Authority could make use of places at

independent schools at a cost – the schools were inspected by Ofsted and places there were classed as out of Borough even if they were located in Bolton as they fell outside Local Authority control;

- the measures being put in place to ensure all families had equal access to resources for home schooling during the pandemic – members were assured that access for all children to resources was a priority and schools were making every effort to ensure that all children were supplied with the necessary materials and devices to enable them to learn at home - alternative methods were provided if internet was not available; and
- the length of time taken for children to get back into a school setting – members were advised that many protocols and handbooks had been revised and that decisions on placements were being made faster – the Director of Children’s Services was now a member on the Fair Access Panel and she reassured members that this area was a priority for the Authority.

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

## **24. COVID-19 UPDATE**

Ms H. Lowey and Mr P. Rankin gave a presentation which updated the Committee on the latest position regarding Covid-19 in Bolton and within schools.

Members were advised that rates continued to be fragile and were high in the working age group. The new variant was shown to spread more easily and was now the dominant strain in PCR positive cases.

The ability to stay at home varied and was more difficult for those in more deprived areas or on lower incomes or with insecure jobs.

Non-compliance with measures was a risk to the control of spread and there were concerns about failure to isolate after a positive test.

The presentation also provided details of the vaccination programme which had initially focused on preventing deaths and protecting the health and social care system and was now being rolled out to other vulnerable groups. Treatments for seriously ill people had improved but COVID was still much more deadly than flu.

The presentation went on to focus on children and young people and reported that case numbers had begun to rise for all younger age brackets at the beginning of each term.

In the most recent school term covering November to December 2020, children aged 11-15 years had seen the largest number of cases, which had gradually reduced over the 2 months. In recent weeks, there had been a rise in cases in children aged 0-4 years, with most recent cases being found in young people aged 16-19 years.

With regard to Covid-19 education settings, members were informed that approximately 15% of children were attending schools on site. Other children were receiving online learning with 3,500 devices being provided by the DfE via maintained schools.

In relation to Assessments for 2021, consultation had been completed on GCSE, AS and A Level and grades should be awarded. Primary schools would have Teacher Assessments. Lateral Flow Device Testing was also now in place for secondary and primary schools. The impact of funding and demand on Early Years Providers and wrap around care was being monitored closely.

In relation to Children's Services, there had been an increased demand on Children's social care services and Child Protection Plans were up to 423 which was a 35% increase since 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. There was also increased pressure on the LAC System with 628 Looked After Children (down from 631 at 31<sup>st</sup>

March, 2020) with 22 awaiting adoption orders and 12 awaiting discharge.

The presentation concluded that Covid-19 would continue to have an impact on all children in Bolton for several years to come.

Following the presentation, members acknowledged the huge effect that Covid-19 had had on schools and thanked all staff for their efforts during the pandemic.

Resolved – That Ms Lowey and Mr Rankin be thanked for their informative presentation.

## **25. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

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

- (a) the Executive Cabinet Member for Children held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

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

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.55pm)

## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021

Present – Councillors Donaghy (Chairman), Pattison (Vice-Chairman), Abdullah, Conner, Cunningham, Darvesh, Dean, Eckersley-Fallon, Gibbon, Haworth, Mistry, Radcliffe and Sherrington.

### Lay Member

Ms. S. Hilton - Age UK

### Also in attendance

Councillor Morgan - Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Councillor Baines - Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Ms. R. Tanner - Managing Director ICP DASS

Ms. H. Lowey - Director of Public Health

Ms. S. Long - Chief Officer, Bolton CCG

Ms. F. Noden - Chief Executive Bolton FT

Mr. I. D. Mulholland - Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Donaghy in the Chair.

## **22. TRIBUTES**

The meeting began at 6.05pm following the national clap in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore.

The Chairman also paid tribute to Councillor Paul Wild who had recently died and also mentioned the death of Councillor Mistry's brother who had died of Covid 19.

The meeting marked the death of Councillor Paul Wild with a period of silence.

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

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 were submitted.

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

### **24. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2020/2021**

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

Members in their discussions referred to the decision taken at the meeting in August, 2020 regarding the setting up of a special review panel of inquiry relating to Covid 19 in Bolton and how the Borough had been affected. It was explained that this matter would be looked at further in due course.

It was also indicated that the item concerning commissioning for mental health and what community services were available, agreed at the last meeting, would be included in the formal work programme report.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

### **25. COVID 19 UPDATE**

Dr. Helen Lowey, Director of Public Health, Ms. Fiona Noden, Chief Executive of Bolton Foundation Trust, Ms. Rachel Tanner, Managing Director ICP DASS and Ms. Su Long, Chief Officer of Bolton CCG gave a joint presentation updating the Committee on the Covid 19 position.

### G3

Members were apprised of the public health data which highlighted that as at 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, the estimated Reproduction Rate for the north west was between 0.8 and 1.1 with a daily infection growth rate of -4% to 1%.

As at 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 there had been a total of 608 deaths in Bolton. The number of people in hospital was currently 136 and 14 on ventilation and both these numbers were falling.

In terms of targeted testing for critical workers and targeted sectors, it was explained that this was taking place at Castle Hill, Bolton Arena and Deane Road Hindu Temple.

Members were apprised of information regarding in patient peaks in waves one to three, capacity issues concerning the workforce and the vaccination programme for Bolton FT staff and ICP staff. The biggest challenges included, staff fatigue, demand on urgent services, delivering cancer and urgent elective patient pathways, maintaining Covid safe pathways and Nosocomial infection.

With regard to the Integrated Care Partnership, members were updated on the priority focus of responding to winter pressures and Wave 3 and vaccinations. The biggest challenges included Covid and increased demand, maintaining flow from hospital, managing outbreaks, staff fatigue and managing access for eligible staff to vaccination.

The meeting was also informed of matters around care homes, specifically in terms of vaccination, visiting, infection control and discharges.

In conclusion, members were informed of the current Covid vaccination position in Bolton, using the two nationally licensed vaccines. The meeting was also reminded of the location of the seven vaccination sites in Bolton. In addition, there were hospital hubs, a mass vaccination centre at the Etihad Tennis Centre in Manchester and a pharmacy led site at Bolton Wanderers which started on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

In terms of the vaccine supply, it was mentioned that this was controlled nationally but Bolton was using all the supply that was delivered and the priority groups were being targeted by the timescales.

Members in their discussions referred to the following-

- Support funding regarding dealing with isolation matters;
- The social landlord sector – did this testing include individual private landlords who had to work with private tenants;
- Nosocomial infections and causes and protection in hospital for staff and patients;
- Some staff were getting ill and the pressure on others and the levels of PPE in use in the hospital;
- Data on patients getting Covid from hospital wards;
- How the NHS staff were coping;
- Care homes and testing issues;
- Discharge matters and changes in phase three;
- Variation in uptake of vaccination between groups of population and different parts of the Borough and how the gaps were being tackled;
- Targeted work, champions and uptake data;
- Vaccination of the vulnerable and those who cared for them; and
- Self employed carers on a rota basis and vaccine entitlement.

Resolved- That Messrs Lowey, Noden, Tanner and Long be thanked for the detailed in the presentation and that the position be noted.

## **26. MEMBERS BUSINESS**

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

- (a) Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.



G5

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.05p.m. and finished at 7.45pm)

G6

**NOTES**