

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 19TH AUGUST, 2014

Present – Councillors Spencer (Chairman), Silvester (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Bury, L. Byrne, Evans, G. Harkin, Haslam, Kellett, Martin, Mistry, Pickup, Richardson, A.S. Walsh, J. Walsh and Watters.

### Also in Attendance

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Councillor Peel          | Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services         |
| Councillor Bashir-Ismail | Cabinet Member for Community Services                       |
| Councillor Chadwick      | Cabinet Member, Highways and Transport                      |
| Councillor D. Burrows    | Cabinet Member for Police and Community Services.           |
| Mr. M. Cox               | Director of Environmental Services                          |
| Ms. S. Schofield         | Assistant Director<br>Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services |
| Ms. J. Pollard           | Head of Strategic Finance and Accountancy                   |
| Mr. A. Bolan             | Environmental Education and Enforcement Manager             |
| Mr. N. Marten            | Neighbourhood Services Team Leader                          |

Mr. I. D. Mulholland

Principal Democratic Services  
Officer

Councillor Spencer, Chairman.

## **6. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 were submitted.

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

## **7. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2014/15**

The Committee received the proposed work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the work programme as submitted be approved.

## **8. FLY TIPPING ON BACK STREETS AND ENFORCEMENT**

Mr Andy Bolan, Manager, Neighbourhood Services gave a presentation on matters around behaviour change and environmental enforcement.

The meeting was advised of background matters including the Love Bolton, Hate Litter campaign in order to create a cleaner Bolton and also the many volunteers involved in this. He also highlighted the partnership working involved which included Area Forum and Neighbourhood Management Support.

The meeting was reminded of the introduction of the new managed weekly collection service effective from 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 and the success of this to date.

Mr Bolan went on to explain matters around the reduction in resources impact.

The meeting was also informed of matters around –

- historical and on-going hard to reach areas;
- back street waste;
- the impact of loose refuse;
- working with communities; and
- actions to date including matters around the relevant legislation.

In conclusion the meeting was notified of matters around specific enforcement and prosecution matters.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- back street waste issues and management of;
- intervention escalation levels, fixed penalty fines and fines imposed by the Magistrates;
- areas being targeted regarding waste issues and matters around a multi-agency approach to improve the quality of life;
- fires in back streets; and
- fly tipping issues and impact.

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

## **9. THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

Ms Sarah Schofield, Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services gave a presentation on matters concerning the Grounds Maintenance Schedule in the Borough.

The presentation included details concerning –

- grass cutting;
- shrub beds and weeds including invasive weeds;
- maintenance of Bolton at Home land;

- street cleansing and emptying of litter bins.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- the avoidance of work by design; and
- the cutting of bowling greens.

Resolved - That Ms Schofield be thanked for her informative presentation and that the position be noted.

## **10. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FINANCE REPORT FINAL OUTTURN, 2013/14**

The Director of Environmental Services and the Borough Treasurer submitted a joint report which set out the financial final outturn position for the Environmental Services portfolio for the 2013/14 financial year.

In terms of revenue expenditure the report explained that this had underspent against the budget by £16,000 after planned reserve movements.

With regard to capital expenditure for the year this was £16.882m against a programme of £25.961m.

The Department also had a general reserve of £173,000 at the end of the year.

Budgeted efficiency savings for the department were £1,795,000.

All planned efficiencies had been achieved. Where the approved option had not been achieved, one off savings had been found.

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.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

## **11. DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE, FINAL OUTTURN, 2013/14**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided a quarter four performance update for the Environmental Services Department.

The report specifically provided –

- a summary of progress against the major strategic priorities for which the Environmental Services Department is responsible within the Council;
- a summary of progress against the operational priorities which the Department fulfils, as a provider of a number of large front line and support services; and
- conclusions and key messages concerning 2013/14.

Members in their discussions referred to matters around sickness absence.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

## **12. MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

The Committee were informed that a members Question had been submitted by Councillor Martin in accordance with Standing Order 36, viz :-

Q.

The new pavilion/café in Moss Bank Park was due to open shortly. Also, the tennis courts had been refurbished. Were these two developments intended to increase the number of visitors to the Park?

If so, what was the increase likely to be?

A.

The answer to the question was prepared by the Director of Environmental Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the Executive Cabinet Member for Environment.

Moss Bank Park was already a very popular Park attracting visitors from across Bolton and beyond. The café and upgraded tennis courts would provide improved facilities and an added attraction to visit the Park. The café would complement the many facilities including, 'The Hive' food growing project, two play areas, the walled garden, the rock garden and a number of children's rides.

It was anticipated that the new pavilion café facility would also encourage more visitors to the Park in inclement weather.

Members in their discussions referred to a general desire for there to be increased visitors to the Park but that the numbers were an unknown quantity.

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

- Executive Cabinet Member for Environment Services held on 16<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2014;
- Neighbourhood and Community Services Policy Development Group held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2014; and
- Environment Services and Waste Policy Development Group held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2014.

Resolved – (i) That the members question submitted and the answer provided be noted.

(ii) That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.18pm)