

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee held on 15 April 2015 at City Hall, Bradford

Commenced	1800
Adjourned	1932
Reconvened	1937
Concluded	2025

PRESENT – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Sykes	Azam	Collector
	Dunbar	
	Engel	
	Arshad Hussain	
	Mohammed	

Apologies: Councillor Shabir Hussain

Councillor Arshad Hussain in the Chair

67. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

68. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2015 be signed as a correct record.

69. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

70. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted by the public.



71. **DEVOLVED BUDGET - SAFER ROADS SCHEMES***All Wards in Bradford West*

The report of the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Culture (**Document “AL”**) sought approval for a programme of Safer Roads Schemes for Bradford West for the 2015/16 financial year.

The Principal Engineer introduced the report to the Committee.

A question and answer session ensued:

- How effective would the “2 Vehicle Actuated Signs” be on Prune Park Lane?
 - Traffic signs played a vital role in directing, informing and controlling road users’ behaviour in an effort to make the roads as safe as possible for everyone. In relation to Prune Park Lane, it was not possible to have such information at present;
- There was a large sized pothole on Allerton Road that was an inconvenience for pedestrians and motorists and therefore repair work was required immediately; would the NHS assist the Council in funding this scheme?
 - Further to consultation with the NHS, officers were waiting for input from the NHS but at present it was assumed that the Council would finance the whole scheme;
- This was a serious issue that had to be resolved swiftly as an incident had already taken place and the fact that this road was a major route for children to access local schools.
 - In response, this scheme could be progressed immediately;
- Clarification was sought as to why a scheme for Southmere Terrace had not been included in Appendix 3 despite an officer having confirmed in October 2014 that there was an area wide review scheme expected and Southmere Terrace would be included?
 - It was confirmed that this would be looked into and the concerned Member would be advised; and,
- Great Horton Road had a speed limit of 30 but many motorists throughout the whole day were driving in excess of the speed limit and therefore had traffic calming measures been considered?
 - Implementation of new traffic measures were dependant on the number of casualties in the past 5 years as this budget was for the sake of Casualty Reduction.

The Committee expressed an interest in traffic monitoring be undertaken on Prune Park Lane in order to collate correct traffic information.

Resolved –

- (1) That the programme of Casualty Reduction Schemes for 2015/16, as listed in Appendix 1, attached to Document “AL” be approved.**
- (2) That the proposed programme of Traffic Management schemes for 2015/16, as listed in Appendices 2 and 3, attached to Document “AL” be approved.**
- (3) That a further report be presented to the Bradford West Area Committee in Autumn 2015 to update Members on progress with the 2015/16 schemes programme and give consideration to the allocation of any residual funding.**

- (4) That any Traffic Regulation Orders, or any legal procedures linked to the processing of traffic calming measures or pedestrian crossing facilities which are necessary to implement the chosen schemes be approved for processing and advertising subject to the scheme details being agreed with the local Ward Members.
- (5) That any valid objections to the advertised Traffic Regulation Orders, traffic calming or pedestrian facilities be submitted to the Bradford West Area Committee for consideration or in the event of there being no valid objections the Traffic Regulation Orders be sealed and implemented and the traffic calming or pedestrian facilities be implemented as advertised.
- (6) That those items highlighted in Appendices 4 and 5, attached to Document "AL", be removed from the list for future consideration in accordance with the methodology detailed in paragraph 3.3 of this report.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Environment and Waste Management
ACTION: Strategic Director, Regeneration and Culture

72. COUNCIL WARDEN SERVICE DEVOLUTION TO AREA COMMITTEE

All Wards in Bradford West

The report of the Bradford West Area Co-ordinator (**Document "AM"**) provided an update to the report, presented to the meeting of Bradford West Area Committee on 10 July 2013, regarding the devolution of the Council Warden Service.

The Warden Manager was present and gave a summary of the report. In addition he stated that the safety of Wardens on a sporadic basis was in question as they had received verbal abuse and had been subject to physical violence on a number of occasions. Wardens were occasionally paired in certain areas for safety reasons. As a result, the Committee also approved the purchase of two additional body cameras to be used by West Wardens from its Area Action Planning fund.

A question and answer session ensued:

- What was the number of Wardens in the West area?
 - There were no longer thirteen Wardens in the whole area because some had moved on to further professions and a new recruitment exercise had not been undertaken to date for a further three new Wardens;
- The Committee was confirmed that undertaking environment services work was the Wardens primary role.
 - In response, three years ago Neighbourhood Wardens, mobile unit and Park Rangers had merged and parking enforcement had become the primary role and the fact that it was primary purpose of the Wardens job. Council Wardens were also tasked with carrying out their environmental role in Wards. The Committee was advised that if Members wished for environmental work to be carried out by Warden in their own wards that they discuss with the Warden Manager and Ward Officer; and,
- Were Wardens delegated to specific areas on a regular basis in order to familiar themselves with the community?
 - Wardens were allocated to areas according to the needs of the area and some were operating in same wards. The service ensured that Wardens were operating in every area at least twice a week.

The Chair concluded the discussion by expressing his dissatisfaction towards the unfair treatment of his constituents. He went on to say that when a parking permit (valid for 12 months) had expired, it was unfair for permit holders to be given fines. They should be given a reminder.

Resolved –

- (1) That the information contained in Document “AM” be noted and welcomed.
- (2) That the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport be requested to review the policy on the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices to Permit Holders that forget to renew their permits and are displaying out of date permits on their vehicles.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Corporate
ACTION: Strategic Director, Environment and Sport**

73. AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN SUPPORT FUNDING

All Wards in Bradford West

The report of the Bradford West Area Co-ordinator (**Document “AN”**) provided an update on the allocation of the £60,000 Area Action Planning funding which was made available in 2014/2015 to support priorities within the Bradford West Ward Plans 2014-2015.

Resolved –

- (1) That the projects/activities funded by Area Action Planning funding 2014-2015 (Appendix A) be noted.
- (2) That the wide range of applications from groups and organisations across Bradford West be noted and welcomed.
- (3) That the Bradford West Grants Advisory Group and Members be thanked for their active participation in the Area Action Plan funding grant allocation process.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Corporate
ACTION: Interim Assistant Director, Neighbourhood and Customer Services**

74. YOUTH SERVICE – BRADFORD WEST

All Wards in Bradford West

The report of the Interim Assistant Director of Neighbourhood and Customer Services (**Document “AO”**) gave an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford West Area since the service was transferred to Neighbourhood and Customer Services on 6 July 2014. It also gave details of the budget for the Youth Service in 2015/16.

Practitioner along with the Bradford West Area Co-ordinator was in attendance and jointly presented the report.

Four young volunteers were also in attendance and with the permission of the Chair spoke to the Committee of their experience within the Youth Service, as follows:

- The first volunteer started by stating that she started as a volunteer in September 2014 in order to boost her chance for admission into university. She had undertaken first aid courses and learnt various skills in order to progress in professional settings and was now undertaking training at level 2 certificate in her youth work practice;
- The next volunteer highlighted that she had been involved for the past two years and had now shown signs of being much stronger and confident when conversing with people in general. She further stated that the Youth Service was actively involved in continuously supporting young people. The Youth Service also assisted young people in residential days, assisted in the arranging of new projects in order to make volunteers more comfortable and this would finally result in a strong long term career build;
- Another volunteer talked about the anger problems she had before she joined the Youth Service and that into 12 months with the Youth Service, she was finally able to talk and express herself without any form of aggression; and,
- The final volunteer mentioned that she initially had plans for the future that may not have been practicable or achievable in terms of her skills and experience. The Youth Service had assisted her in relevant skills and experience to achieve long term goals.

A question and answer session ensued:

- How was youth work rolled out across the wards?
 - The Bradford West area had established centres that included; a state of the art youth centre “Culture Fusion”, Khidmat Community Centre and the Toller Youth Cafe. Youth sessions were spread across the Wards and held in community settings;
- In comparison to the youth population figure in the Heaton ward, what was the reason behind the small number of youths engaged with in this ward?
 - There was a requirement of 25% of youths being engaged with and the service had exceeded its target;
- Was it possible to exceed the 25% target level?
 - Heaton had been a very successful ward in the engagement process with youths and despite the diverse cultural backgrounds including new communities’ families residing in the ward, the centres were attracting 60 to 70 youth per session. The service had worked hard to include all communities in order to balance an equal share of numbers of youths being engaged;
- What was the amount of funds used for the hiring Community Centre buildings?
 - Centres were financed with a budget of £1000; and,
- The Committee sought feedback from the Advanced Practitioner as to what it could do to assist the Youth Service in its services for young people.
 - In response, and to shed some light on the financial aspects, the services delivered at the Toller Youth Café went beyond £40 per young person; there was a 40% reduction in financial resources and as a result this was having detrimental impacts on the delivery of youth services.

The Committee made the following comments during the discussion; the 25% target level should only be used as a foundation level and it was paramount that the service tried its utmost to exceed this target. The Youth Service continuously engaged with as many young people as possible. There had been negative feedback on the Culture Fusion centre by young people. Due to a reduction of resources towards the Youth Service it was important that the business plan for the Culture Fusion be looked at again.

The Committee concluded the discussion by thanking the young volunteers for their efforts in the community and attendance. The Advanced Practitioner was also praised for his leadership skills when engaging with young people in the Bradford West area, especially in the current difficult financial times.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Youth Service be commended for its efforts and commitment in delivering vital provisions to the young people of the Bradford West area as detailed in Document “AO”.
- (2) That the resolutions made by Executive and included in this report at section 3.16 regarding the Youth Service Buildings Review were considered.
- (3) That the resolutions made by Executive and included in this report at section 3.19 regarding the Review of the Youth Offer were considered.
- (4) That a further report be presented to the Bradford West Area Committee in November 2015, which highlights the obstacles that are hindering the delivery of the service and what resources are required in order to maintain an appropriate youth provision for the young people of Bradford West.
- (5) That Bradford West Area Committee receives reports on the work of the Youth Service on an annual basis.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Children’s Services

ACTION: *Interim Assistant Director, Neighbourhood and Customer Services*

75. NEW DEAL PROGRAMME AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES*All Wards in Bradford West*

The report of the Assistant Director, Policy, Programmes and Change (**Document “AP”**) provided an overview of the New Deal programme along with details of the public participation activities, and highlights of some of the key elements of feedback.

The Interim PPC Manager, Strategy & Engagement was in attendance and gave a synopsis of the report.

A question and answer session ensued:

- Had a list of core services been compiled that the Council delivered?
 - The New Deal Programme was to start fresh and the next phase was about specifics and how to progress;
- Following progression, when would the Council be made aware of the next phase?
 - This will be shared within the Council and ideas would be sought from partners after elections;
- What were the attendance levels of events?
 - Each event averaged 300 to 500 attendees; and,
- Was it possible to consult with all Councillors on an individual level because there could possibly be regrets at a later stage if the New Deal Programme was to move forward swiftly without a consultation with Members?
 - The service was constantly held to account by the Leader in relation to concentrate further efforts towards social media and there were intentions of consulting with Councillors and Council staff after the elections period.

The Committee and officers made comments as follows; the key issue was about delivering the most important services from the right locations in communities. Schools had immense facilities to deliver wide range of services. It was about looking at alternatives in light of budget cuts when delivering vital services and how to bring them to the people. The

numbers of attendees at events were poor in comparison to the population of the District. There was a low level of participation during activities and to roll out the New Deal Programme may result in negative feedback.

Resolved –

- (1) **That the contents of Document “AP” be noted.**
- (2) **That as per option 9.3, Members of the Bradford West Area Committee commit to promoting the New Deal programme to stakeholders and their constituents.**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Corporate

ACTION: Assistant Director, Policy, Programmes and Change

76. BRADFORD WEST WARD PLANS

All Wards in Bradford West

The report of the Bradford West Area Co-ordinator (**Document “AQ”**) presented six Ward Plans for consideration by the Area Committee with a view to their adoption in 2015/2016.

The Bradford West Area Co-ordinator confirmed that these plans was a template used for every Area Committee and was open to amendments to meet the priorities that the Committee thought best for the Bradford West area.

The Committee queried whether the service had sufficient funds for the delivery of priorities. In response, funds were insufficient to deliver every priority and therefore not all services would be delivered. A further question was asked regarding why specific contact details were not listed under the named person responsible in Appendix A so making it difficult for Members to liaise with the correct officer when wishing to seek clarity or address an issue on a specific priority. It was said that this request could be looked into further.

The Committee further stated that it was important that the awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation be included in the plans and efforts be made to enforce it in all wards.

Resolved –

- (1) **That the six Ward Plans be approved and adopted.**
- (2) **That Council Officers, partner agencies and community organisations to support the implementation of the Ward Plans.**
- (3) **That the Bradford West Area Co-ordinator be requested to work with relevant officers to support the implementation of the Ward Plans.**
- (4) **That the Bradford West Area Co-ordinator reports back to the Bradford West Area Committee on the progress made in addressing the priorities contained in the Ward Plans.**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Corporate

ACTION: Interim Assistant Director, Neighbourhood and Customer Services

77. CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair announced that this was the last meeting of the Municipal Year and therefore thanked Members, Officers in the Area Co-ordinator's Office, Highways and Committee Secretariat for supporting the Committee this year.

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee.

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THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER