

Minutes of a meeting of the Keighley Area Committee held on Thursday 3 December 2015 at Keighley Town Hall, Bradford

Commenced 1830
Concluded 2030

PRESENT – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Ali	Bacon
Brown	Khadim Hussain
Mallinson	Pullen
	M Slater

Also present: Councillor V Slater, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Housing, Planning and Transport

Councillor Hussain in the Chair

33. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

34. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2015 be signed as a correct record.

35. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

36. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.



37. **KEIGHLEY TOWN CENTRE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

**Keighley Central
East & West**

Previous reference: Minute 53 (2014/15)

The report of the Strategic Director, Regeneration, (**Document “N”**) provided feedback following public consultations on proposed Traffic Management Measures in Keighley town centre. The report also offered Members options to continue development and implementation of a clockwise gyratory scheme for the town centre or to consider the investigation of alternative solutions.

Members were reminded that a report had been presented to the Committee in January 2015 and had revealed progress on the development of a one-way gyratory arrangement in Keighley town centre and described the advantages and disadvantages of the scheme, whilst highlighting the relatively restricted economic benefits of the scheme and proposals around the impact of future traffic growth. At that meeting it had been resolved, amongst other things, to support the continued development of a clockwise gyratory scheme for the town centre and that a consultation be undertaken on the gyratory scheme.

It had been requested that the outcome of the consultation be reported back to Members and Document “N” provided the results of that consultation and ongoing development of the scheme. It was revealed that concerns expressed in January 2015 regarding the long term benefits of the scheme had been confirmed and actual and projected traffic growth had reduced the benefit to cost ratio (BCR) to a level to indicate the scheme in its current form represented low value for money. The consultation had also revealed divided public opinion on the proposals.

Members were asked for their views on the continued support of the development of a clockwise gyratory for Keighley Town Centre as set out in the Area Committee report of January 2015 as an affordable scheme whilst accepting that there was divided public support or, in the light of that divided support and the current and predicted increase in traffic growth trends to refer the scheme back to the Executive to request further work to identify options to achieve a longer term solution to traffic problems, higher benefits and value for money and that would reflect forthcoming planning and development initiatives in Keighley.

The Portfolio Holder in attendance at the meeting clarified that because the capital expenditure had not been delegated to the Area Committee the Executive wanted a steer from those Members on how they wished the Executive to proceed. She explained that traffic had grown exponentially in the area and, whilst that growth was encouraging and showed the area was thriving, it had altered the previously limited benefits of the original scheme.

Following a detailed presentation Members raised the following issues/concerns:-

- The current scheme contained limited benefits which had been further eroded by the increase in traffic flows.
- If the scheme were not to go ahead as proposed Measures to ease the congestion in the area would still be required.
- The cost benefit ratio provided from the current scheme was a cause for concern.



- Council Wardens could be utilised to manage traffic violations which obstruct the highways and impede the flow of traffic.
- Congestion in the town centre had a detrimental knock on effect throughout the town.
- Measures proposed in the area should be tested with the use of temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to assess their effectiveness and the impact on other parts of the town.
- Synchronisation of traffic signals may ease congestion.
- Improved public transport was required.
- The views of the public that 81% agreed there was congestion but only 30% thought the proposals would be beneficial could not be ignored.

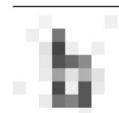
In response Members were advised of the micro-simulation traffic model details which had been developed based upon 2010 traffic flows and had been factored with predicted future traffic flows. The volume of traffic had increased exponentially since that time reducing the already limited benefits greatly. The results of the public consultation undertaken were also discussed in detail.

It was also explained that:-

- Temporary TROs could assess the impact of measures taken at the current time but could not predict traffic issues in 2020.
- Previous traffic models developed separately for Bradford and the Keighley area were unable to be integrated. It was now possible to develop models which could provide a district wide model with enhanced information and reveal the wider implications of measures undertaken in Keighley town centre.
- A report was being provided to the Executive to allow the Compulsory Purchase Order to obtain the land required to commence the Hard Ings Road scheme which had been included in the West Yorkshire Plus Transport Fund.
- It would be difficult to provide a time scale for completion of developments at the railway station as those measures had to be undertaken with Network Rail.
- If further work was carried out to achieve a longer term solution for the traffic problems the money allocated to the previous scheme would not necessarily be lost.
- The public consultation included an initial written consultation with local businesses, stake holders and residents, followed by a two day drop in event at the Airedale Shopping Centre supported by a leaflet and on-line questionnaire. That provided a more accurate account of views than a questionnaire exercise as officers were available to explain the proposals in detail.

The Portfolio Holder assured Members that there were resources available in the capital scheme for transport issues in Airedale. She acknowledged that measures were required to improve traffic flow in Keighley and she would ensure that those remained as a priority.

Concern was expressed that minor amendments had been made to junctions in the area for a number of years; however, the congestion had not been eased. Those amendments had been made in isolation and a view that more comprehensive and significant measures were required to address holistically the congestion in the Keighley area was expressed.



The potential to organise a Member steering group was discussed and the Portfolio Holder agreed that the views of Members would be welcomed by the Executive and she agreed to investigate that suggestion.

Resolved –

- (1) That in the light of divided public support and current traffic growth trends the scheme be referred to the Executive and that the Executive be requested to ask for further work to be carried out to identify options that achieve a longer term solution to traffic problems, higher benefits and value for money and that reflect forthcoming planning and development initiatives in Keighley.**
- (2) That the Strategic Director, Regeneration, be requested to provide a progress report in 12 months time.**

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

**38. KEIGHLEY AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS 2015-17
PROGRESS UPDATE**

Previous reference: Minute 41 (2014/15)

The Strategic Director, Environment and Sport, presented a report, (**Document “O”**) which outlined the work of the Community Development Workers on behalf of the three commissioned organisations during the period April 2015 to September 2015 to support Ward priorities within the Keighley Area Ward Plans 2015-16.

Members were reminded that at the meeting held on 27 November 2014 it had been decided to support, with Community Development grants of £21,000 per year for the two years 2015-16 and 2016-17, Keighley & Ilkley Voluntary and Community Action, Hainworth Wood Community Centre and Bracken Bank & District Community Association. The Community Development works and members of the management committees of organisations supported were in attendance to discuss their work and examples of their activities were appended to Document “O”. It was emphasised that the appendices provided only a flavour of the activities undertaken and Members were invited to examine more detailed reports or to visit those organisations.

The Community Development Workers reported the value for money which was provided from their role and explained that £30,000 had been provided to the Central Ward as a result of their work. It was feared that removal of their funding would result in valuable links provided to people in some of the more deprived wards being lost.

A Member questioned the Community Development work structure and activities undertaken in the Craven Ward. In response it was explained that each Community Development Work was assigned to two wards, but it was expected that their work would be focused on the ‘Keighley Ward’ and that they would only undertake work in the other ward where their capacity allowed and in response to a demonstrated need.



The benefits to the residents following the activities undertaken were acknowledged. Members reported the feedback gained from residents in areas already impacted by cuts to services and thanked those responsible for their commitment. It was believed that their efforts and levels of commitment were not fully reflected in the examples of activities undertaken. The support of the Area Co-ordinator's office was also acknowledged.

Resolved –

That the work of the Community Development Workers on behalf of the three commissioned organisations during the period April 2015 to September 2015 to support Ward priorities within the Keighley Area Ward Plans 2015-16 be acknowledged and that all of the Community Development Workers be thanked for their hard work.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Corporate
ACTION: Strategic Director, Area Co-ordinator**

39. 'PEOPLE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE' – CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE STRONG AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

The report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport, (**Document "S"**) outlined a year long 'People Can Make a Difference' campaign that the Area Committee was being asked to actively contribute towards.

It was explained that the 'People Can' campaign aimed to highlight the contributions of communities within the Bradford District and build on those strengths as part of the New Deal. The campaign would focus on the four priority themes during the year of Neighbourliness; Joint Local Action; Formal Volunteering and Fundraising (for community activities). A suggestion that promoting an involvement in democracy could be included was made.

The Community Stars Award which had very recently take place was discussed. It was agreed that recognition and awareness of the positive outcomes of people becoming involved in their communities would encourage others to become involved.

It was acknowledged that with diminishing resources an increasing reliance on community members to ensure services were preserved would be required.

Resolved –

- (1) That the People Can Make a Difference campaign be supported.**
- (2) That the Area Co-ordinator be requested to develop a wide range of activities during Keighley Area Committee's designated month in the 'People Can' campaign and where appropriate make a contribution to other months.**



(3) That all elected Members be encouraged to get involved in the campaign

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

40. POLICING ACROSS BRADFORD DISTRICT

The report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport, (**Document “P”**) informed Members of new policing arrangements for the Bradford District. Members were invited to consider how the Area Committee could work with the police and partners to improve community safety for neighbourhoods and communities.

The Temporary Chief Inspector was in attendance to ensure Members were informed of the new arrangements and to ascertain if there were measures which Members believed should be undertaken to ensure the Police and Members could work together to improve safety in the district.

He explained that, in line with national reductions in police budgets, West Yorkshire Police was reviewing the structures and operating models used for policing. Following consultation with partners, Bradford District Police Senior Leadership Team had reviewed the Partnership Problem Solving Model which would improve effectiveness and efficiency in times of increased challenge and austerity.

It was explained that the effectiveness of the previous dedicated problem solving approach had been recognised and as a result of that success the new model would double the number of dedicated Problem Solving Ward Constables deployed.

Appended to Document “P” was a detailed account of the new Partnership Problem Solving Model and revealed the allocation of 25 Police Ward Officers throughout the district’s five constituencies. It was questioned how the allocation for Keighley had been determined and it was explained that it had been decided on the demand for the service; the complexity of those demands; the demographics of the district and the areas of deprivation. Members raised concerns that although the Keighley district contained areas of deprivation and included a wider and more rural community it had been allocated 50% less resources than other constituencies.

Assurances were provided that the area would still have dedicated Neighbourhood Patrol Officers in addition to the dedicated Problem Solving Ward Constables. The Problem Solving officers would be protected from routine police issues; more extensive hours would be covered; officers would be available on mobile telephones and one of those officers would always be on duty.

The allocation of a dedicated officer to the Keighley West ward and the shared resource for Worth Valley and Keighley West was questioned. It was suggested that it would be more efficient and effective to geographically align police resources with those of the Ward Officers. The Temporary Chief Inspector agreed that the allocation could be reviewed following discussions with the personnel familiar with local issues.

Members discussed the communications they had previously undertaken with representative of the police and the ability that could provide to address issues such as



resource requirements prior to structures being agreed. Concerns that a high volume turnover of police personnel could erode that communication process with officers being unaware of issues and not having those established methods of communication were raised.

A suggestion that an annual meeting with all Keighley Members be arranged to communicate local issues and build those communication channels was suggested.

In response to questions it was reported that the new model had been developed when more extensive cuts to resources were expected. As the cuts had been less than anticipated officers were confident that the proposed model could be delivered and may be invested in further.

A Member requested that a letter be sent to the Keighley Neighbourhood Inspector wishing her a long and happy retirement.

In summation the Temporary Chief Inspector agreed to consider Members' proposal for an annual meeting and the suggestion that the dedicated officers be aligned with the Ward Officer team.

Resolved –

That Document “P” be noted and the representative of West Yorkshire Police be requested to consider how the Area Committee can work with the police and partners to improve ward based problem solving activity to improve community safety outcomes.

***OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Corporate
ACTION: West Yorkshire Police***

41. ARRANGEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL AND ITS PARTNERS TO TACKLE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

Previous references: Minute 72 (2014/15) and Executive Minute 66 (2014/15)

The report of the Assistant Director, Children's Services, (**Document “Q”**) provided an update to the report presented to the Council Executive on 13th January 2015 and subsequently to the District's Area Committees regarding the issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE). It set out the arrangements that had been put in place, and which were continued to develop, to safeguard children from CSE.

Resolved –

That, to allow a representative from Children's Services to present the report the item be deferred.

***OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Children's Services
ACTION: Strategic Director, Assistant Director, Children's Services***



42. PARKS AND GREEN SPACES SERVICE FLOWER BEDS

Previous reference: Minute 9

The report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Sport (**Document “R”**) provided an update on the Parks and Green Spaces Service proposals with regard to the change in flower bed provision in the Keighley Area.

A report had been presented to the Keighley Area Committee on 25th June 2015 detailing the decision to reduce expenditure on flower beds by 80% across the district. At that meeting it had been resolved that a further report be presented in the autumn setting out the proposal for flower beds in the Keighley areas, following consultation with Ward Councillors, Friends of Groups and or Resident Groups.

The report revealed that in an effort to achieve the level of savings required proposed new alternative models of service delivery and a range of options were suggested for consideration. Those proposals included the grassing over of flower beds in low priority areas; reductions in the size and /or density of planting in some beds; the production of plant beds which would produce colour all year round with minimal maintenance and the introduction of community planting and maintenance scheme through a ‘friends of the flowers’ model.

It was explained that consultation had been undertaken with many groups and a positive response had been received with many residents wishing to become involved in community planting. The sustainable planting proposed would prevent planting being required twice per year; would allow plants to be split and planted elsewhere and for community groups to enhance the beds with additional bulbs. It was agreed that from what was potentially considered a drastic proposal a large amount of planting and colour could be maintained throughout the district.

It was explained that sustainable planting had been commenced a few years previously and that the beds in Bradford city centre all contained sustainable plants which could be used to create plants for other parts of the district.

In response to questions about the number of community groups interested in becoming involved it was explained that a variety of groups had presented a number of proposals including some wishing to provide vegetable beds.

The potential for sponsorship of flowerbeds was discussed and a view that the rules and regulations could deter potential sponsors was expressed.

A ‘Grow Bradford’ and ‘Grow Keighley’ trial was discussed and it was explained that this allowed for unused Council land to be utilised by communities to grow vegetables. This required communities to return the land to the Council if it was needed and to share with their community the crops which were grown.



Resolved –

That Document “R” be noted and proposals for each flower bed as detailed in Appendix 1 to Document “R” be approved.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Regeneration and Economy
ACTION: Strategic Director, Environment and Sport

43. KEIGHLEY AREA WARD PLANS 2015-16 UPDATE

Previous reference: Minute 74 (2014/15)

The Strategic Director, Environment and Sport, presented a report, (**Document “T”**) which outlined the work of the Keighley Area Co-ordinator’s Office in the period April 2015 to September 2015 to support Ward priorities within the Keighley Area Ward Plans 2015-16 and proposed a new format for Ward Plans for 2016-17.

Appended to the report were highlights of selected pieces of work which reflected the type of activities and actions that had been undertaken between April and September 2015, within Wards that had contributed to addressing the priorities within the Keighley Area Ward Plans 2015-16. They were not an exhaustive list of actions but were intended to give a flavour of the nature of activities that had been undertaken. A full progress report for each ward had been sent via email to the relevant Members.

The new format was welcomed and a view that it provided a more focused outcome of the priorities was expressed. It was suggested that the information be distributed to residents in a newsletter style format to show residents the value of the work undertaken. The Area Co-ordinator agreed to send the information to Members for them to circulate to residents.

It was explained that in times of reduced budgets, staffing and funding in the whole of the public and voluntary sectors it was important to concentrate remaining resources on the main priorities which would help improve the quality of life for all in each Ward.

Keighley Area Co-ordinator’s Office was proposing, therefore, that instead of containing 18 or more ‘priorities’, the Ward Plans for 2016-17 would focus on the top 6 priorities for each Ward. For each priority the Plan would set out clear methods for addressing that topic which would include quantitative and qualitative outputs and outcomes that would help identify what had actually been achieved by the intervention of all partners during the course of the year.

Members were advised that those top six priorities would be drawn up by Ward Officers in consultation with District Ward Councillors and partner agencies. They would then be agreed by the Ward Partnership Team and finally approved by Keighley Area Committee. The Ward Plans would no longer be themed by type of issue, i.e. Safer, Cleaner/Greener, Health & Well-being etc. The Ward Officers would refer to those themes in drawing up the priorities but it could be that all the top six priorities were Safer and Cleaner/Greener issues. In some Wards there may well be a more wide spread of priorities across several themes. The principles of Stronger Communities and the involvement and empowerment of young people would feature in all of the top six priorities.



The work undertaken in the area was acknowledged and the Ward Officers were thanked for their hard work and dedication.

Resolved –

- (1) **That the work of the Keighley Area Co-ordinator's Office in the period April – September 2015 to support Ward priorities within the Keighley Area Ward Plans 2015-16 be welcomed and the Ward Officers be congratulated for their work in the constituency.**
- (2) **That the new format for Ward Plans for 2016-17 as set out in section 3 of Document "T" be approved.**

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

44. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2015

The Strategic Director, Environment and Sport, submitted **Document "U"** which provided information about the community engagement activities undertaken by the Keighley Area Co-ordinator's office during April to September 2015.

Members were advised that following the reduction of the number of Neighbourhood Forums from 32 to 15 per year Ward Officers had worked more creatively to increase community engagement.

Appended to Document "U" were details of the community engagement activities that had been undertaken by Keighley Area Co-ordinator's Office (KACO) during the period April-September 2015. Those activities had included 'traditional' Neighbourhood Forums, public meetings organised by KACO staff open to all but run on a different format to Neighbourhood Forums, meetings targeted at particular 'people groups' (e.g. young people), attendance at meetings and other events organised by partner agencies or community groups, door-knocking and 'street consultations'.

Members were advised that the variety of approaches had proved much more effective at reaching a wider and more diverse range of the general public than normally would attend Neighbourhood Forums. Assurances were provided that the Area Co-ordinator's Office would continue to identify ways of making Neighbourhood Forums, and other forms of consultation and community engagement, relevant to the interests and character of each particular neighbourhood and would work with elected Members on ways of increasing public attendance and engagement.

Ward Officers were thanked for their support and the assistance provided to the residents of Belgrave Road experiencing flooding as a result of blocked drains was particularly acknowledged. The Fair Trade event held in the Keighley Central ward was discussed and it was suggested that assistance for future events may be available from residents who had run similar events in the Worth Valley ward.



Resolved –

That the constructive engagement with a wide range of the public undertaken through community engagement activities by Keighley Area Co-ordinator's Office in the period April - September 2015 be welcomed.

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

Chair

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

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

