

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford East Area Committee held on Thursday 19 November 2015 at City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 1800
Concluded 1912

PRESENT – Councillors

LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Iqbal	R Sunderland (Chair)	Karmani
Jamil	Griffiths (Deputy Chair)	
H U Khan	N Pollard	
	Reid	
	J Sunderland	

Deputy Leader and Housing, Planning & Transport Portfolio Holder: Councillor V Slater

Councillor R Sunderland in the Chair

29. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest were received.

NO ACTION

30. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meetings held on 25 June, 17 September and 15 October 2015 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

31. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

32. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted by the public.



33. **PARKS AND GREEN SPACES SERVICE FLOWER BEDS**

All Wards

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

Members made the following comments:

- The scope of the report was quite narrow. This was only annual planting of flower beds and did not cover other areas.
- On a ward by ward basis have members been consulted on all the green areas in their ward?
- We are being asked to look at only one tiny part of work to be carried out.
- I am concerned about the level of consultation with friends of groups such as the one for Peel Park.

The Principal Parks and Green responded to members comments and made the following points:

- The report was in relation to seasonal planting.
- The work would include the plants outlined in the report other shrubbery would remain the same.
- Officers had met with the Greengates group and Friends of Peel Park group.
- We would check the amount and level of consultation.

Resolved –

- (1) **That the content of the report be noted and the proposals for each flower bed as detailed in Appendix 1 of Document “N”, be approved.**
- (2) **That the Committee accepts the environmental benefits of permanent planting and requests that ward members be consulted about work proposed in each of their wards.**

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

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

All Wards

The report of the Assistant Director of Children’s Services (**Document “O”**) outlined that Bradford East Area Committee was invited to consider the report presented to Council Executive on 15th September 2015.

Document “O” 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 sets out the arrangements that have been put in place, and which continue to develop, to safeguard children from CSE.

Members made the following comments:

- It was good that tackling child sexual exploitation was a high priority and that we see prosecutions and safeguarding across the district.



- My concern was that 80% of the work was in respect of criminal justice and only 20% in respect of frontline prevention work.
- Child sexual exploitation was linked to alcohol and drugs abuse.
- The work taking place in schools was good.
- Children were at risk and a lot more should be invested on front line work.
- There should be work on prevention to stop children falling into child sexual exploitation.
- The report provides a lot of information and there should be clear bullet points providing a picture of what was happening in Bradford.
- Frontline experience information was necessary.
- There needs to be more focus on prevention rather than criminal justice.
- Do you have the exact figures for today?
- One of the problems was that we are trying to prove that we are not a Rotherham.
- A proper timeline was needed and a clearer look at where we are.
- Barnados published a report on child sexual exploitation in Bradford in 1994.
- Concern was expressed about the budget.
- A number of people have had forced marriage protection orders.
- This issue was about vulnerability and not about targeting any communities.

The Assistant Director, Children's Specialist services stated that there were a lot of agencies working to ensure children are safe.

The Group Service Manager responded to members comments and made the following points:

- We are working to tight resources.
- Our team had looked at historic cases.
- The report could be much clearer.

The Deputy Leader and Housing, Planning & Transport Portfolio Holder made the following comments:

- The Council are working with Barnados on cases where child sexual exploitation happens at night.
- The Council has worked closely with taxi drivers and has organised child exploitation training for taxi drivers.
- Work was also done with hotels where young people are likely to be taken to be abused.
- There was more we can do to prevent child sexual exploitation. As a city we are doing more than other places. It is one of our top priorities.
- I'm not trying to prove we are better than Rotherham. We would not shy from historic cases. I have outlined what we are doing in Bradford district.
- The budget would be looked at and to protect the budget would mean consequences.

Resolved –

- (1) That the work being undertaken to tackle child sexual exploitation be noted.**
- (2) That a further report is presented to the Committee in the next three months detailing;**
 - (i) Progress on dealing with historic cases of child sexual exploitation.**
 - (ii) Progress on how the models of child sexual exploitation and grooming have been developed to include child sexual exploitation in black and minority ethnic communities.**



- (iii) **The ongoing budget for the provision of research and services to children and young people at risk of, or who are victims of child sexual exploitation and grooming.**
 - (iv) **The number of people subject to a Forced Marriage Protection Order in Bradford East and the work being done to raise the issue and support those children and young people subjected to an order and those who are at risk.**
- (3) **That it be noted that there is child sexual exploitation across all vulnerable groups and that it takes place in all communities.**

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

35. POLICING ACROSS BRADFORD DISTRICT

All Wards

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

Members made the following comments:

- When do the changes outlined in the report commence?
- When we call a police officer we get the answer machine rather than the person themselves.
- How were the Community Support Officers distributed across Bradford East?
- There was a good partnership team.
- There was the age old problem of when crime statistics come out, were they in time for team meetings?
- Give us an example of the problem solving approach?
- Our communities are diverse. How do you reflect this in respect of recruitment to the police?
- There was a two tier structure with special constables who reflected the community and police who didn't.
- We never see a police officer about anymore except when there are incidents, issues to deal with and trouble occurring. This leads to polarisation and the police are seen not as a public service but just about managing problems.
- What was the relationship like between problem solvers and police who work in schools?

A representative of West Yorkshire Police responded to members comments and made the following points:

- The changes outlined in the report would go live in February 2016.
- It would be possible to make direct phone calls to police officers mobile phones.
- The Community Support Officers were distributed across the whole Bradford district.
- There was a two week rolling process when considering crime statistics.
- The problem solvers were effective.
- There were some individuals who contact us again and again. These are people who have issues other partners need to pick up such as mental health. This would free up police officers for patrols.
- The demands we face were not just crime related.
- In terms of recruitment we target certain areas and have doubled the number of special constables. We get more volunteers than other Yorkshire areas.



- It would be good to get back to community beat officers.
- The police would be given more technology to ensure more visibility.
- Secondary schools all have a police officer and their relationship with problem solvers was not very close.

Resolved –

- (1) That Document “P” be noted.
- (2) That the Committee works with police, ward members and partners to improve ward based problem solving activity and to improve community safety outcomes.
- (3) That a Crime Forum be supported when requested by local councillors.
- (4) That all ward members get an update on the proposed changes and information on named police officers.

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

**36. ‘PEOPLE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE’: CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE AND
ENCOURAGE STRONG AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES All Wards**

The report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport (**Document “Q”**) outlined a year long People Can Make a Difference campaign that the Area Committee was being asked to actively contribute to. The ‘People Can’ campaign aims to highlight the contributions of communities within the Bradford district and build on these strengths, as part of the New Deal. The success of ‘People Can’ would be determined by the energy and commitment that we can all contribute.

A member stated that Bradford has a great voluntary sector tradition in some wards.

Resolved –

- (1) That the People Can Make a Difference campaign be supported.
- (2) That the Area Committee, with the support of the Area Coordinator, develops a good offer during their designated month and where appropriate makes a contribution to other months.
- (3) That there be a report back to the Committee including information on activities to take place.

**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 Bradford East Area Committee.

i:\minutes\bea19Nov

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

