

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment and Waste Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 18 April 2017 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.30 pm
Concluded 6.50 pm

Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	GREEN
Gibbons	A Ahmed Berry Thornton Watson	Stubbs	Love

Observers: Councillors Ross-Shaw, Salam and V Slater

Apologies: Councillor Naveed Riaz and Julia Pearson, Bradford Environment Forum

Councillor Warnes in the Chair

72. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received at the commencement of the meeting but Councillor Berry disclosed an interest in the interest of transparency as a Member of Better Start Bradford during the course of discussion on the item relating to Bradford District Cycle Strategy (minute 77).

73. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2017 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).

ACTION: City Solicitor



74. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

75. BRADFORD BECK PILOT STUDY

Previous Reference: Minute 69 (2015/16)

The Strategic Director, Place presented a report (**Document “AH”**) which outlined progress made in respect of Bradford Beck in the current financial year (2016-17).

The Chair commended officers on a very informative report and queried when the flood risk strategy would be published. In response, he was advised that it had already been signed off and was available on the Council’s website. In response to another question, he was also advised that sustainable drainage was looked at in respect of all new building developments.

Resolved –

- (1) That Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency be recommended to undertake a full investigation of sewage related pollution sources in the Bradford Beck catchment in the next investment cycle.**
- (2) That the Friends of Bradford’s Becks and the Strategic Director, Place be requested to work jointly on studies and proposals for the Canal Road Area.**
- (3) That the Friends of Bradford’s Becks be invited to report back in a year’s time.**
- (4) That Document AH be noted and that the ongoing collaboration between officers and the Friends of Bradford’s Becks be supported.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

76. UPDATE ON THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT

Previous Reference: Minute 28 (2016/17)

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “AI”**) provided an update for Members on conditions in the Private Rented Sector in the Bradford District and the impact of legislative changes on the sector, including those in relation to energy performance certification.

The Chair enquired whether the Strategic Director was confident that the



requirement to meet the new EU standard on energy certification would encourage landlords to consider the Green Deal to improve their housing stock.

In response, he was informed that the new arrangements for the Green Deal may offer loans that could be targeted to landlords who needed to bring properties up to standard. It was noted that, if there was a tenancy gap in respect of a property which had benefitted from a Green Deal loan, the landlord would be liable for repayment of such a loan.

The enforcement arrangements for the new legislative requirements were as yet unknown. Current enforcement responsibility sat with West Yorkshire Trading Standards rather than the Council. The Chair of the West Yorkshire Trading Standards Committee was in attendance as an observer and advised that there was as yet no resourcing in place for enforcement.

The Principal Operations Manager, Housing Operations also noted that there was an expectation that the service would be resourced from fines levied but that this was a mismatch with the desire for compliance over non-compliance.

In response to questions about publicity undertaken with landlords and other private sector stakeholders, Members were informed that there had been a workshop held in October 2016 but that it had been poorly attended and that various on-line tools were available, the use of which was encouraged. Members were also advised that the various national landlords organisations were very well informed bodies and that landlords were encouraged to join them.

A Member queried the level of prosecutions which had taken place and was informed that the eleven which had been undertaken was a high level compared to other Local Authorities and that Bradford was a proactive Local Authority in terms of prosecution, however it was stressed that prosecution was always regarded as a measure of last resort and that most landlords responded positively to the process which preceded that final step.

A Member queried what would constitute an exemption to the requirement to do works to improve a property's energy efficiency would constitute and was informed that it would be something that would make it not technically feasible to do the works, such as listed building status or problems arising from a property's construction.

Members discussed the requirement for properties to have a certificate of energy efficiency and noted that not all rented properties currently held such a certificate and that landlords were only required to obtain one when a new tenant moved in but that all properties would require a certificate by 2020.

Members expressed concern that the requirement to hold a certificate may eventually mean a number of properties would no longer be available for letting and were advised that the loan scheme mentioned earlier would be a possible way of offering assistance to landlords to achieve the necessary energy band levels on their properties in order to achieve certification.



In response to a question about the Council's working relationship with Trading Standards, Members were informed that a good relationship was already in place and that it would develop further as the legislation came through.

Resolved –

That the report be noted and a further update on energy efficiency in the private rented sector be requested in twelve months.

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

77. BRADFORD DISTRICT CYCLE STRATEGY

Previous Reference: Minute 35 (2015/16)

The Strategic Director, Place presented a report (**Document “AJ”**) which included the proposed final draft Cycle Strategy and presented the key content of the associated action plan with the top ten issues highlighted for Members' attention along with the Key Performance Indicators of the strategy.

The Senior Transport Planner, Place and the Chair of the City Connect Advisory Group attended the meeting and presented the Strategy and its associated documents to the Committee.

The Chair congratulated them on the report and the strategy, commenting that it was a fantastic document and that it showed the enormous progress which had been made in the last three to four years.

Another Member queried whether two of the issues in the top ten priorities were in fact the same and was informed that it was a typographical error as two of the priorities had very similar titles and would be corrected.

A Member raised a question in respect of vulnerable young people and cycling and was advised that the West Yorkshire Combined Authority had been allocated £1.5million to encourage such young people into cycling to work. The WYCA was also making a bid to support disability cycling. An observer Member advised the Committee that Bradford Trident Community Council had a bicycle library and had seen massive benefits to local residents from that scheme as well as raising a considerable amount of money through charity cycle rides.

The Senior Transport Planner, Place highlighted the success of the bikeability scheme which ran in schools, explaining that it was now possible to sign up entire year groups at a time as there was a fleet of bicycles to access.

Members discussed the importance of cycling to both tourism in Bradford and the health and well being of local people, noting that it linked into other health initiatives which were also on-going.



A Member stated that a possible barrier to children taking up cycling was that parents were concerned about road safety and asked about progress on road safety. He was informed that a number of initiatives needed to be considered holistically including prioritising local roads, closing roads so that children could play in that space safely and the development of green lanes. A Member also suggested that a bike buddy system would be beneficial to a number of different potential user groups who would be vulnerable on the roads.

Members also asked about progress on the Queensbury Tunnel and were informed that it continued to be investigated.

The Senior Transport Planner, Place reminded the Committee that the Capital of Cycling Team was currently based in the ground floor premises below the Hall Ings NCP car park and urged Members to visit to find out about advice and activities that were ongoing.

Resolved –

- (1) That the report, Cycle Strategy and Action Plan be welcomed and everyone involved in their development be congratulated.**
- (2) That the Cycle Strategy and Action Plan be referred to the Executive for its consideration.**
- (3) That a progress report on the key performance indicators and Action Plan be presented in twelve months.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

78. WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

The report of the Chair of the Committee (**Document “AK”**) presented the Committee’s Work Programme for 2016-17.

Resolved –

That the Work Programme 2016-17 continues to be reviewed regularly during the year.

ACTION:Scrutiny Lead

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Environment and Waste Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

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

