

## Minutes of a meeting of the Environment and Waste Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 4 July 2017 at Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.05 pm  
Concluded 6.00 pm

### Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT	GREEN
Gibbons Senior	A Ahmed Berry Mohammed Watson	Stubbs	Love Warnes

### NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Nicola Hoggart – Environment Agency  
Julia Pearson – Bradford Environment Forum

### Councillor Warnes in the Chair

#### 1. CHAIR'S NOTE - Adjourned meeting 2 May 2017.

Members were reminded that the meeting scheduled for 2 May 2017 had been adjourned as the pre-election period had been entered by that date.

The 2 May 2017 meeting was reconvened and closed as the business for discussion was considered at this meeting.

#### 2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

#### 3. MINUTES

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2017 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).**

**4. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

**5. CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Resolved –**

**That it be recommended to Council that the appointment of the following non-voting co-opted members for the remainder of the 2017-18 municipal year be confirmed:-**

**Julia Pearson - Bradford Environment Forum  
Nicola Hoggart – Environment Agency**

**ACTION: City Solicitor**

**6. RENEWABLE FUTURE FOR BRADFORD COUNCIL**

The report of the Strategic Director, Corporate Services (**Document “AL” 2016/17**) provided an update on progress towards installing renewable energy generation capacity across the Council’s estate.

The report referred to APSE (Association of Public Centre Excellence) supporting energy as a policy work stream and its continuation of support to inform and shape the role which Local Authorities could play. In response to questions regarding the support which had been received it was reported that regular forums were arranged for Local Authorities to meet and discuss advances in renewable policy changes and to provide early stage free legal advice. It was confirmed that officers from Bradford regularly attended those events.

The CO2 emission figures for the corporate estate had been unavailable at the time of agenda production and those figures were tabled at the meeting. It was explained that the figures were early stage calculations but officers were confident that they were within five per cent. The figures were calculated to 2020 and it was questioned how the authority could move to a target beyond a 40% CO2 reduction beyond that date. In response it was confirmed that renewable energy and battery storage would have an increasing part to play in that reduction. New opportunities were approaching in wind/solar and battery storage and also opportunities from A21, a project which was looking to convert, in the long term,



gas in the Leeds gas network to hydrogen. It was explained that there were limitations, however, the authority was making progress and would continue to do so.

The removal of the solar panels from Jacobs Well to Eccleshill Pool was discussed. It was reported that the Voltaire panels would remain in place and generating until the Jacobs Well building was demolished. There were limited markets for second hand panels but discussions were being held about the potential removal of the panels to the Nell Bank Centre.

Whilst acknowledging the energy reductions achieved concern was expressed that the use of biomass could exacerbate air pollution. In response it was explained that care was taken upon installation. The Margaret McMillan Towers building had been the most recent installation. Analysis of the impacts of the installation was that it would lead to a less than 0.2% increase in NO<sub>2</sub> emissions. An impact of 0.5% was rated as negligible”

A Member questioned the steps taken, beyond the Council’s own fleet, with regards to electric cars. He felt that the authority should demonstrate and lead on issues to clean the air levels in the district. In response it was explained that there were issues with the rapid charging infrastructure, however, work was being undertaken with Public Health to address that matter.

**Resolved –**

**That the contents of Document “AL” (2016/17) be noted and a further update be requested at the end of the 2017/18 financial year.**

**ACTION: Strategic Director, Corporate Services**

## **7. WATER MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY REVIEW**

The report of the Chair of the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee (**Document “AM” 2016/17**) presented the findings of the Water Management Scrutiny Review.

Members were aware that, at its meeting on 19 January 2016, Council had agreed that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake an in-depth review in to the effectiveness of Bradford Council and its partners in dealing with the floods across the District in December 2015.

As part of that Scrutiny Review, members had explored how the Council could learn from the approaches taken during the winter 2015 floods, to assist the Council and its Partners to better deal with future floods.

Council had also agreed that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee would receive the final review report, prior to its submission to full Council.

In addition the Environment and Waste Management Overview Scrutiny



Committee had undertaken a wider scrutiny review into Water Management across the District. The draft Scrutiny Report following that review was appended to Document "AM".

It was acknowledged that a great deal of work and effort had been undertaken during the review; however, it was questioned if there should be firmer deadlines and achievable outcomes within the recommendations.

In response it was clarified that the final recommendation contained in the draft report was that the committee receive a further report, before the end of April 2018, which monitored progress against all the recommendations contained in the review. It was felt that this would provide the opportunity to flag up issues where policy could be implemented. Partners could be invited to discuss that report and judgements could be made at that time. It was stressed that the role of the Committee was to consider potential policy implementation and that resource committal was the Executive's role.

A Member referred to the role of the community in response to the floods. He referred to the decreased staffing resources in the Emergency Planning Department and the reliance on members of the community in emerging issues. He referred to Recommendation 10 *"that the Council review its record to date in enabling community engagement around the challenges of water management and flooding and explores the options for developing more resilient local networks in future years"*. He explained that Leeds Council employees were allowed 10 working days per annum to volunteer and questioned the policy for Bradford's own employees to volunteer in the community. He stressed that the flooding issues were not only about people living near to water. An example of the concreting of grassed areas on higher levels resulting in water flowing into lower lying areas of the district was cited.

The representative of the Environment Agency reported that her organisation had a long term plan for the next six years around the engagement of communities. She referred to Community Resilience meetings, chaired by the Council's Assistant Director, Waste, Fleet and Transport Services and that she felt assured that work was being undertaken on the review recommendations.

A representative from Silsden Parish Council addressed the meeting and reported concerns about flooding in the Craven area including:

- That according to the Council's Principal Drainage Engineer the worst flooding in December 2015 had occurred at Stockbridge in Keighley.
- Silsden Beck, as a tributary to the River Aire, had contributed to the high levels recorded on the river.
- The significance of flooding in Silsden had not been highlighted, in particular the constraint of the culvert and the high risk posed by additional housing development if the existing problems were not addressed.



- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for flood prevention measures and drainage improvements in Wharfedale was £100 per square metre. In Silsden it was set at £20 per square metre. When that figure had been challenged it was stated that a higher figure was possible for Silsden but the Council chose not to use that figure.
- Extensive work in Skipton had been undertaken without the use of CIL funding and it was felt that the work required in Silsden should also not be taken from the CIL.
- Residents were frustrated that long standing infrastructure problems in Silsden had not been addressed despite warning from the community. If that work had been undertaken prior to the floods in December 2015 much of the damage incurred would have been avoided.

In conclusion he stressed his belief that flood prevention measures and funding to date was inadequate to address the current and future anticipated developments in the area. The Chair agreed to pass the information he had shared to the relevant Portfolio Holder and to liaise on the issue on his behalf.

A Member raised concerns that the floods which had occurred in December 2015 had been worsened by gullies being blocked with contaminated water. He stressed that maintenance should be a day to day priority and that the review's recommendations provided an opportunity to ensure that this occurred. It was acknowledged that Recommendation 13 requested that both capital and revenue funding streams were reviewed to ensure that rises in water flows and climate change were addressed. There was the opportunity to review that recommendation but he was concerned that this would not occur prior to winter 2017/18.

The Overview and Scrutiny Lead reported that many of the issues raised by Members were included in the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee's review and this would be discussed in October 2017.

A Member questioned what action would be taken if no progress was made on the recommendations and he was advised that there was a lot of work being undertaken on flood alleviation schemes and that the Bradford Flood Programme Board were engaged with officer from Leeds City Council. Measures being undertaken on Supplementary Planning Guidance were also reported.

A suggestion that the Corporate and Environment and Waste Management Committees reports be amalgamated was discussed. It was agreed, however, that, although the topics were linked, the Corporate review was the immediate response to the floods whilst the report currently being discussed was broader and wide ranging.

Members discussed the work planning item on the Committee's agendas and agreed that it provided the opportunity for them to raise any issue they wished to consider in more detail prior to the review being revisited in April 2018. It was



suggested that Supplementary Planning Guidance could be a topic for discussion prior to that time. In response to a request that emergency status should be raised in response to flood issues it was agreed that the issue could also be discussed as part of the work planning process.

It was agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Lead would advise Members of the arrangements for the Executive and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee when flood/water management issues were being discussed.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the findings and recommendations contained within the draft Water Management Scrutiny Review Report appended to Document “AM” (2016-17) be adopted.**
- (2) That the Water Management Scrutiny Review Report be submitted to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.**
- (3) That the Water Management Scrutiny Review Report be submitted to the Executive for endorsement.**

**ACTION: Overview and 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

