

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford East Area Committee held on Thursday, 15 March 2018 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 6.00 pm
Concluded 8.00 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT	INDEPENDENT
Iqbal Jamil Shafiq	R Ahmed Stubbs J Sunderland R Sunderland Reid	Sajawal

Councillor R Sunderland in the Chair

53. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

- (1) Councillor Jeanette Sunderland disclosed a pecuniary interest in Minute 61 as she was the Trustee of the Springfield Centre and left the room when the item on Allocation of Underspend of Community Buildings Grant for 2017-19 was considered.
- (2) Councillor Jeanette Sunderland also disclosed an interest in Minute 60 as she was involved in the Feeding Bradford charity.
- (3) Councillor Jamil disclosed an interest in Minute 56 as she was a governor at Hanson School.

Action: Interim City Solicitor

54. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

55. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

56. CHILDREN'S SERVICES WORK IN BRADFORD EAST

The Strategic Director, Children's Services submitted **Document "AE"** which provided a summary of the volume of work undertaken locally relating to children, young people and families. It addressed education attainment and attendance, poverty levels, information about looked after children and other key issues.

The Targeted Early Help Manager for Bradford East attended the meeting and gave an overview of the work of Early Help Services, she reported that:

- Bradford's "Families First" initiative had been involved with some 628 families in Bradford East.
- 307 families were currently being supported.

She also informed Members of an example of how a 13 year old child was helped by the service and how the work undertaken by the Service helped his attendance at school/Pupil Referral Unit.

It was reported that school attendance in Bradford East was currently at 93% and work was on going to make improvements in this area.

The Children's Social Work Service Manager attended the meeting and presented an overview of work in his area which included:

During 2017, Children's Social Care in Bradford East received:

10904 "Contacts"

1832 of which potentially required a service.

2976 "Need Assessments"

914 "Section 47 Assessments" – Child potentially at risk of harm

303 children with a "Child in Need Plan"

156 with a "Child Protection Plan"

248 children "Looked after" by the local authority

The Deputy Director, Children's Services reported that a working party of Labour Group Members had been set up and had held meetings and drop in sessions with social workers who had also completed questionnaires; workload and pay was highlighted in the survey. It was reported that an improvement plan had been drawn up and that an additional £450,000 had been allocated in the 2018/19 budget to deal with the workload of Children's Services.

It was reported that 8 assessments a day were undertaken in Bradford East; the referrals were from schools or police call outs to domestic violence incidents.

Members commented on the following issues:



- What kind of cases were newly qualified Social Workers given? newly qualified Social Workers should not be given complex cases.
- 8 assessments a day for Bradford East was a lot if the Service did not have enough Social Workers; had the Service looked at home grown talent?
- What impact would the reduction in Early Help and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme have on the Service?
- What support was in place for families that were new to the area?
- Prevention and Early Help was supposed to reduce the workload of social services, had that not happened?
- Why was there such a large number of children missing from home in areas such as Little Horton (paragraph 2.6 of Document “AE”)?
- There were 283 children known to be missing from education in Bradford East, what contact did the authority have?
- Would have been helpful for Members if officers had included other reports that had been used in preparing the information presented to Members; the report was lacking information such as the number of children home educated etc; needed to support children who experienced barriers to learning and who might be falling behind or not getting the same chances in their education because their family was experiencing poverty or other financial difficulties.
- A Pupil Equity Group should be set up to support children in school who were affected by poverty.

In response to Members questions it was reported that:

- Social workers in their first year of training received 12 cases and co-worked with experienced staff; staff needed over two and a half years experience before they were classed as experienced Social Workers; the authority needed 60 % of its Social Workers to have 3 years experience in social work.
- Newly qualified Social Workers were supported by being allocated a low number of cases; regular supervision; Managers observed their case loads; offered half day study time; retaining experienced Social Workers was an issue for the authority.
- The authority was in competition for social workers with surrounding authorities.
- Social Work placements were offered to students from the local college and university; apprenticeship routes were being looked at.
- Recruiting Social Workers was not an issue for the authority; Social Workers were head hunted by other authorities who paid more.
- There was correlation between families living in poverty and demand on social services; rising poverty was a concern to the service and the demand it placed on it.
- The reduction in Early Help and Council Tax Reduction Scheme would have an impact on the Service.



- A number of measures were in place to help families new to the area; the challenge for the authority was for all schools to be good or outstanding; trying to progress more families to take up the 2 Year olds offer; it was difficult to persuade families new to the area to engage and efforts were being made to explain to them why education was a priority.
- Bradford was chosen as one of the Education Secretary's 12 Opportunity Areas; these were social mobility "coldspots" each receiving a share of £72 million to improve opportunities for young people in the community; Bradford's share of the investment was £6million and would total 11.5 million; which would include £5.5 million for the Essential Life Skills funding over two years to enable children and young people aged 5-18 to participate in curricular activities.
- Prevention and Early Help had reduced the demand on workload of social services in helping families to rectify issues; some families had been escalated into child protection thus helping families and children quicker; caseloads would be higher if there was no Early Help.
- The figures for children missing from home included children out of education; families moving around authorities; some families chose not to send their children to school and opted for home tuition.
- Education Safeguarding Teams looked into missing children and made enquiries to ensure they were safe and well; Early Help Services received a list of children not in education and the staff at Early Help did go out to visit the family to get the child back in school/training.

Resolved-

- (1) **That the contents of the report be noted and officers be thanked for its production.**
- (2) **That a Pupil Equity Group be established to work up a reporting framework that advocates on behalf of the child.**
- (3) **That a report be submitted to the Committee which includes schools causing concern and work being undertaken by the authority to support Hanson Academy.**

Action: Deputy Director, Children's Social Care

(Children's Services and Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee)



57. HASTINGS STREET, BRADFORD - REQUEST FOR A DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACE (EXCEPTION TO POLICY)

The Strategic Director, Place submitted **Document “AC”** which considered an application for a Disabled Persons Parking Place on Hastings Street, Bradford where the applicant did not meet all the policy criteria.

It was reported that the applicant met 3 of the 4 criteria listed in paragraph 2.2 of Document “AC”, but did not currently have a vehicle registered at the address but was currently being visited by care workers and family members in their vehicles for on going support.

Resolved-

- (1) That an application for the installation of a Disabled Persons Parking Place at 17 Hastings Street as an exception to the policy be approved.**
- (2) That the applicant be informed accordingly.**

Action: Strategic Director, Place

(Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

58. NORMAN LANE, BRADFORD, TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - OBJECTIONS

Members were reminded that this Committee at its meeting held on 9 November 2017 considered objections received to the advertised Traffic Regulation Order for Norman Lane, Bradford proposed in association with the provision of a pedestrian refuge island. It was resolved that the item be deferred for further consideration through a working group comprising of officers, ward members and key local interested parties.

The Strategic Director, Place submitted **Document “AB”** which reported on the outcome of the working group meeting held on 8 January 2018.

The Chair stressed the need for a scheme to improve pedestrian safety at Five Lane Ends due to the high number of pedestrian casualties in the area.

Resolved-

- (1) That the objections be upheld and the proposed pedestrian refuge island and associated Traffic Regulation Order be abandoned.**



- (2) That the proposed improvements to the zebra crossing on Norman Lane near Wayside Crescent be implemented.
- (3) That Highways officers investigate a scheme to improve pedestrian safety at Five Lane Ends roundabout.
- (4) That the objectors be informed accordingly.

Action: Strategic Director, Place

(Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

59. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE NON-CLASSIFIED ROADS AND SURFACE DRESSING ALLOCATION FOR BRADFORD EAST - 2018/19

The Strategic Director, Place submitted **Document “AD”** which provided information on Capital Highway Maintenance funding and made recommendations on the allocation for Non-Classified road resurfacing schemes and Surface Dressing sites for 2018/19.

There was a short debate on whether the Canal Road Corridor Cycleway Scheme included maintenance of Valley Road.

In response to a Members question it was reported that schemes were not removed from the Highway Maintenance Programme list until they were completed but would look into why back Gladstone Street was no longer on the list of schemes.

It was reported that gullies should not become blocked after road resurfacing had been undertaken but officers would observe the issue.

Members were informed that any roads that were causing concerns could be reported to the Principal Engineer Highway Maintenance and a standardised survey would be undertaken.

In response to a Members question, the Principal Engineer reported that he would look into whether the developer would be resurfacing Santa Monica Road.

Members highlighted that paragraph 7.8 of the report should read Bradford East Area Committee.



Resolved-

That the proposed programme of works for 2018/19 as shown in Appendix 1 and 2 of Document “AD” be approved.

Action: Strategic Director, Place

(Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

60. POVERTY IN BRADFORD EAST

Previous Reference: Minute 50 (2016/17)

The Strategic Director, Place submitted **Document “AF”** which provided an overview of poverty-deprivation related statistics in Bradford East and a summary of key interventions led by the Council and partners to support vulnerable people.

Members commented on a number of issues which included:

- Given that the poverty rates were increasing; were services prepared for the fall out of Universal Credits?
- Needed to look at other initiative to help support people financially struggling such as charging 50p for swimming lessons and selling healthy snacks rather than unhealthy food.
- How many schools had applied for the Bradford Education Opportunity Area funding? It was not appropriate for this initiative to be included in this particular report.
- Dentistry should have been included in the report.
- Welfare Advice Support Services needed to be in appropriate areas where people could get to without costing them; could look at proving advice in Community Centres.
- Information about where the advice services were based should be better advertised.
- Were Welfare Advices Services providing advice in different languages?
- What support was being provided to private landlords on the new housing standards?
- Bradford East was the most deprived parliamentary constituency and needed further targeted interventions in the lower level super output areas as detailed in Section 2 of Appendix “A” to Document “AF”.
- When were the best practice projects from Better Start Bradford being rolled out to other areas?



In response to Members questions it was reported that:

- Full impact of Universal Credits was not known yet; a multi-agency group, that included Council officers and a Department for Work and Pensions representative met regularly with the aim of ensuring the district was prepared for the full rollout of Universal Credits.
- The Council with its partners was developing a digital strategy; the aim of the strategy was to ensure people had online access and the skills needed to complete, save and submit forms.
- Officers were working with InCommunities and Manningham Housing Associations on the changes in the way rent would be paid so that they could provide support to Universal Credit claimants.
- The real challenge on the impact of Universal Credits would be known in 2 to 3 years.
- The DWP was not looking at local partners for translation services and the only support that would be available would be telephone helpline which was available in different languages.
- Information relating to the new housing standards and the advice that was provided to private landlords would be circulated to Members.

Resolved-

That whilst poverty is an issue for Bradford, the Committee notes:

- **That Bradford East is the most deprived parliamentary constituency**
- **¼ of all workers receive less than the National Minimum Wage**
- **7970 families were affected by the recent changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

On that basis the Committee asks the Anti Poverty Co-ordination Group to consider what further targeted interventions could be made in the most deprived areas referred to in Section 2 of Appendix “A” to Document “AF”.

Action: Strategic Director Place

(Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee)



In accordance with Paragraph 38.5 of the Constitution the following item was considered as an urgent item as the underspend in Community Buildings Grants for 2017- 2019 must be allocated by the Committee before 31 March 2018.

61. ALLOCATION OF UNDERSPEND OF COMMUNITY BUILDINGS GRANT FOR 2017-19

The Strategic Director, Place submitted **Document “AG”** which outlined the recommendations of the Bradford East Area Committee Grants Advisory Group for the allocation of underspend of Community Buildings Grants for 2017-2019.

Resolved-

That the allocation of the Community Buildings Funding outlined by the Grants Advisory Group detailed in Paragraph 3.2 and 3.3 of Document “AG” be approved subject to receiving further information from Eccleshill Community Association and Karmand Community Centre; in the event that the information is not valid or received in time then the funding be allocated between the remaining organisations listed at paragraph 3.3 of Document “AG”.

Action: Strategic Director, Place

(Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

Chair

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

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

