

**Minutes of a meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 16 April 2019 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford**

Commenced: 5.30 pm  
Concluded: 8.05 pm

**Present – Councillors**

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	GREEN
Heseltine Whitaker	Berry Jamil Dodds Mohammed Salam	Love

**NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBER**

Julia Pearson, Bradford Environmental Forum

Observer: Councillor Ferriby – Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places

**Councillor in the Chair**

**1 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

In the interest of transparency Councillor Berry disclosed an interest in the item relating to an Update on the Progress of Active Bradford In 2018 (Minute 5).

**2 INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

**3 REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no referrals to the Committee.

**4 BRADFORD BECK PILOT STUDY**

The Bradford Beck Pilot Study was first discussed by Members in April 2013 and had been before the Environment & Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis since then. It was resolved in April 2018 that the ongoing collaboration between officers and Friends of Bradford Beck be supported; also that the Friends of Bradford Beck be congratulated for the work they have undertaken throughout the years.

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “AR”**) outlined progress made in the financial year 2018- 2019.

Council representatives were invited by the Chair to introduce report. It was explained that following the floods of December 2015 it was recognised that there was a need for a long term strategic approach to managing flood risk and associated environmental impacts across the Bradford district. In identifying this need the Council worked with the Environment Agency to scope and develop a Bradford Flood Programme Board. The Programme Board was able to secure local levy funding from the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Costal Committee to help deliver a range of aspirations and the following pieces of work had been funded through the governance structure within the financial year 2018/19.

Following presentation, a question and answer session ensued:

- Further to The Friends of Bradford Beck and the Wild Trout Trust who are working in partnership to deliver a £90,000 EA funded scheme to re-naturalise the northern length of Bradford Beck, during what period was the spending to take place?
  - This was over a 3 year period;
- What activities had been addressed to tackle pollution?
  - The Environment Agency had failed to respond early in order to address problems;
- It was well known that The Environmental Protection Agency listed sediment as the most common pollutant in rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs. Was it possible to insert a condition during planning stages before sediments started or was it a matter of changing policy?
  - It was a difficult task in inserting conditions on separate elements however the request for planning conditions on temporary drainage schemes to ensure no pollution in future of the scheme;
- What was entailed with the European Projects?
  - The Council was within its third year of the four year BEGIN (Blue / Green infrastructure through social innovation) project which was approved in early September 2016 to EU North Sea Region Secretariat; The Lead Partner being the Municipality of Dordrecht in the Netherlands. The BEGIN project also aimed to engage with communities to increase awareness of the Beck and its catchment.
  - The Council was also within its first year of the four year SCORE (Smart Cities and Open date REuse) project which had been approved in early September 2018 to EU North Sea Region Secretariat and runs until 2022; The project had progressed and aimed to improve the delivery of public services based on innovative software solutions and data sharing. The work undertaken by the SCORE team, relevant to the Bradford Beck catchment, was detailed under the ‘Monitoring and Data’ heading below;
- Would Yorkshire Water be addressing the 53 sewage overflows in

Bradford?

- Yorkshire Water had project in Bradford and one was about looking into the sewage overflows with the Council including the amount of water that overflowed; and,
- On a whole factor, was Yorkshire Water efficient in overseeing and addressing problems?
  - In reflection, it had a good track record.

**Resolved –**

- (1) **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.**
- (2) **That the Friends of Bradford's Becks be invited to report back in a year's time.**
- (3) **That the report be welcomed and that the ongoing collaboration between officers and the Friends of Bradford's Becks be supported.**

***ACTION: Strategic Director, Place***

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## **AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF ACTIVE BRADFORD IN 2018**

Active Bradford was a partnership of agencies from across the District that were committed to working together to increase the number of people being active and playing sport across the Bradford District. This year the partnership became formalised as a Company Limited by Guarantee of which the Council is a founding member.

Last year Active Bradford presented to the scrutiny committee an update on the agreed physical activity strategy framework that it would be using to promote and develop physical activity across the District.

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “AS”**) set out progress that Active Bradford has made over this year against that framework.

The Sports and Physical Activities Manager was at the meeting and explained that it had been widely recognised that being inactive was the fourth biggest cause of early mortality in this country. It was estimated that 363 deaths would be preventable each year if everyone in the District were to become active. The health cost of physical inactivity relating to cancer, diabetes, coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular disease for the Bradford District was estimated to be £9.94m per year. But it is more than that. Along with better physical health, evidence had been pointing to physical activity contributing to an improved sense of well-being leading to better mental health; improvements in attainment in young people; improved sense of self-esteem and confidence; and an improved sense of belonging to the community.

She further stated that the most recent Sport England Active Lives research

published relating to November 2018 suggested Bradford had lower levels of inactivity (undertaking less than 30 minutes of moderate activity per week) than most other districts across West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire and is below the national average. The data showed that Bradford was one of only a handful of local authority areas across the country that had a significant reduction in inactivity levels. This was good news although by exercising some caution in interpreting the specific results due to the sample size. The Council would get a clearer understanding of the pattern of activity over the next few years.

A question and answer session ensued:

- As highlighted in 2.5 of the report, the data was of concerning levels due to the high level of Bradford's population not meeting activity demands. Were people willing to engage?
  - The Council was working with various voluntary organisations, engaging with schools and reflecting on further learning through past experiences to address present and future concerns;
- What level of responsibility was the strategy work being applied in communities?
  - The Council was looking at different streams of work with voluntary organisations in every community and with the resources of 3 Managers to undertake this exact task.
  - The scale involved in the region of 27,000 children in the district but it was about commencing work through communities from the very beginning;
- In addition to many wards, the Tong Ward was a high poverty area and better health of residents should be of a paramount task to focus on. Getting to every child was crucial and this activity could be achieved through engagement, therefore were the Managers engaging with Churches, Mosques/Madrasahs, Community Centres and other establishments?
  - The Council had worked with “Your Back Yard” (*organisation to support people communities by working with local people, businesses, councils and others to identify what is needed in each community, find the money for it, and make it happen*) and “Parkrun” (*a free weekly 5km event for runners of all standards, which took place on a weekly basis in Lister Park. It offered an opportunity for all the local community, male or female, young or old, to come together on a regular basis to enjoy the park and get physically active by encouraging people to jog or run together irrespective of their ability*). There was also consideration towards increasing the number of Parkruns and Public Health had echoed its support towards more runs;
- How were non participants being engaged with?
  - Through community readiness works with low level of intensity of activities in order to indirectly entice people towards activities. Activities involving gardening and free play areas;
- Many people refused to go for walks due to air pollution of high volume of vehicles. Cleaner air was important and it was frustrating to see parents who resided a few streets away yet driving their children to schools on a daily basis. What work was being undertaken to tackle this crisis?
  - The Council was liaising with organisations to address concerns and it was important for messages to be publicised on the impact of air

- pollution in order to change the attitudes of people's behaviours during school runs;
- How was the task of educating children to embrace activities in order to maintain good health?
  - It was about bottom approach hence the engagement with schools; and,
- Were Parkruns for adults only or all ages?
  - Adults but some junior runs too but Parkrun would be consulted in relation to this factor.

At this point, the Chair invited the Director of Parkrun who was at the meeting as a member of the public. He expressed favour into additional Parkruns for the purpose of community involvement with one another for the sake of better health of all involved.

During the closing stage of this item, the Committee praised the work that had already been undertaken especially with the engagement of schools. The impact of air pollution had not cemented with the people fully and it was important to send messages to change behaviours of people using their vehicles less and to walk more.

**Resolved –**

**The Committee notes the progress of Active Bradford and requests a further report in 12 months, giving details of the work undertaken and outcomes of the Local Delivery Pilot.**

**ACTION: Strategic Director, Place**

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## **BRADFORD DISTRICT CYCLE STRATEGY 2016 - 26 PROGRESS UPDATE**

Bradford District Cycle Strategy 2016-2026, entitled 'Keeping the Wheels Spinning', co-produced with the local cycling community, key cycling charities and the Council, was endorsed by the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 April 2017 and then by the meeting of Executive on 17 November 2017.

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document "AT"**) provided an update on the progress with implementing the Bradford District Cycle Strategy and Action Plan (Top 10 Priorities and KPIs) in accordance with the resolution at the meeting of the Committee on 17 April 2018 that a progress report would be presented in twelve months.

The Assistant Director, Planning, Transportation & Highways, the Planning & Transport Strategy Manager and the Senior Transport Planner were present and gave a joint synopsis of the report.

A Bradford resident who was also a member of BsPOKE (*a consultation group which was open to all cyclists or those with an interest in the Bradford area. BsPOKE aimed to act as a bridge between the Council and those with an interest in cycling and the district*) was also at the meeting and was invited by the Chair to

make representations. He explained that he worked in an unpaid capacity and stressed the importance for the Council to consider the risk factors in air quality. That cycling offered a cleaner air as opposed to other means of transport. The Council should commit to delivering more friendly user junctions for cyclists, as it was not only about providing additional cycle lanes for cycling. The need to note the good progress made of infrastructure in Bradford and with the right leadership would entail further progression through intellect leadership.

A question and answer session ensued:

- Cycling was not part of transport and therefore what radical approach was being undertaken towards a shift change?
  - While most funding streams were for significant schemes to segregate, the Council was considering a holistic approach for the purpose of being more sustainable in moving forward;
- Would cycling be considered in the Transporting Cities Fund?
  - Yes and there was ongoing press coverage.
  - There had not been much press coverage publicity and therefore more publicity was required.
  - The amount of £23m was to be brought into use and the Council was intending to actively seek further funding in the future;
- How were issues of congested areas, infrastructure of cycling that was not part of the Tour De France zone in Bradford issue of cyclists and pedestrians to co-exist being addressed?
  - There was detailed ongoing work between the Council and cycling groups but at present, no end solution however about continually working together to change behaviours. The fact that some sections of infrastructure were unable to be amended and therefore about shared facilities through adequate signage; and,
- Was it possible to prioritise schemes residents in Silsden and Riddlesden?
- The Council worked with the Combined Authority to ensure such schemes were funded in best way possible.

During the discussion, the Committee made known that the amount of cyclists at the busy junction on top of Manchester Road was unbelievable and it was unfortunate to see a real lack of connectivity for cyclists. If funding was already available in the Combined Authority, then such means should be utilised immediately for schemes in suburban areas that are needed in villages like Riddlesden and Silsden areas.

**Resolved –**

**That the Committee notes the progress being made on the implementation of the Bradford District Cycling Strategy.**

***LEAD: Strategic Director, Place***

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**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was asked to consider if the item relating to White Rose Energy Update (**Document “AU”**) should be considered in the absence of the public and, if so, to approve the

following recommendation:-

**Resolved –**

**That the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the Not for Publication report relating to White Rose Energy Update on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings, that if they were present, exempt information within Paragraph 3 (financial or business affairs) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) would be disclosed and it is considered that, in all the circumstances, the public interest in allowing the public to remain is outweighed by the public interest in excluding public access to the relevant part of the proceedings for the following reasons:**

**It is in the public interest in maintaining these exemptions because it is in the overriding interest of proper administration that Members are made fully aware of the financial implications of any decision.**

***LEAD: City Solicitor***

**8 WHITE ROSE ENERGY UPDATE**

The report of the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources (**NOT FOR PUBLICATION Document “AU”**) summarised Bradford Councils partnership with White Rose Energy.

**Resolved –**

**That the Portfolio Holder for Healthy People and Places in consultation with the Strategic Director, Corporate Services, jointly write to the Chief Executive of Incommunities to set up a meeting with a view to Incommunities adopting the energy scheme for their properties.**

***ACTION: Strategic Director, Place***

Chair

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

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