

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee held on Wednesday, 30 January 2019 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 6.00 pm
Concluded 8.10 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR
A Ahmed
Akhtar
Amran
Duffy
Engel
Kamran Hussain
Mohammed
Nazir
Shaheen

Councillor Amran in the Chair

41. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Akhtar disclosed an interest in the item relating to Partnership and Community Response to Bonfire Planning (Minute 49) as she was currently employed by the West Yorkshire Police.

ACTION: City Solicitor

42. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

43. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

44. THORNTON ROAD, THORNTON - OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT ORDER

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “W”**) considered objections received to a recently advertised Speed Limit Order for the reduction of the speed limit to 30mph from 40mph on Thornton Road.

Resolved –

- (1) That the objections are overruled and Thornton Road 30mph Speed Limit Order be sealed and implemented as advertised.**
- (2) That the objectors be informed accordingly.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

45. YOUTH WORK GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH YOUTH SECTOR

The report of the Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services (**Document “X”**) provided Area Committee with the details of the Youth Work Grants Scheme for the Voluntary, Community and Faith youth work sector in the district.

The Senior Youth Work Manager was in attendance and was invited to give a synopsis of the report.

The Committee asked questions to which she responded:

- Who was responsible for the allocation of grants?
 - £5,000 had been allocated to the Voluntary Community Sector by young people;
- What were the reasons behind only 4 organisations being awarded grants in the Bradford West area?
 - Only 19 organisations throughout the whole of Bradford District had been allocated funds. The organisations had been allocated funding during the previous year, for this Municipal Year;
- Could assurances be given to the strict monitoring and evaluation during the application process?
 - The young people during the deliberation of allocations were thoroughly robust in the detail of the decision making process;
- What was the actual delivery for organisation following receipt of grants?
 - Organisations were not allocated the full amount but on a staged quarterly basis and accompanied with strict monitoring;
- What work was being undertaken to build on resilience with organisations?
 - Worked jointly to apply for grant, networking, assist young people on life skills and access other small pots of money to assist young people through activities; and,
- Was partnership working with the NHS promoted?
 - Yes there was on going work with the mental health service in relation to young people who were stressed and with other district wide programmes.

Resolved –

That the work undertaken by Youth Offer Working Group as a partnership approach to sustaining VCS delivery in the future be commended.

LEAD: Strategic Director, Place

46. STREET CLEANSING - SERVICE REDESIGN AND DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “Y”**) provided information on the service redesign of Street Cleansing and options for operational deployment of resources.

The Shipley Area Co-ordinator was in attendance and with the permission of the Chair presented the report to the Committee. During synopsis he highlighted that at the meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee held on 28 November 2018, a report was presented outlining future changes to Street Cleansing and Warden services in the Bradford West area, in particular the 25% reduction in the district-wide Street Cleansing budget which would mean the loss of 28 frontline staff and five mechanical sweeper vehicles.

It was further explained that the operational changes to Street Cleansing within the District would see the creation of 23 new gateway routes that would cover busy gateway and arterial routes. He referred to Appendix A, a list of highways in Bradford West that would be on this daily route Monday to Friday backed with example maps of each ward. Furthermore, it was estimated that the prescribed routes would last 2-3 hours and require crews to start earlier at 0600. Upon completion of these routes, crews would be able to move in to their constituency areas for deployment.

He then confirmed that it was the full attention of the service to work alongside Members at point of commencing with the proposed operation through consultation in order to establish whether any operational changes were needed, and to make amends, as necessary, to the proposed street cleansing programme in the coming months.

The Committee expressed its disappointment to the lack of information in the report, despite the fact that the Committee clearly requested information at the previous meeting, that a further report detailing outline of schemes and how they would specifically relate to each individual Ward. This report failed to contain information as requested. Furthermore, officers who attended the previous meeting were not present to report back on findings following thoughts previously expressed by the Committee.

In response, the Shipley Area Co-ordinator highlighted that the Shipley Area Committee considered the reduction of resources by appointing a sub-group of a select number of elected Members from its Committee to maintain a healthy relationship with its cleansing service and to assist in the direction of implementation.

A question and answer session ensued:

- What was the reason in regards to option 1b, some zones would be done twice weekly and other zones would be attended once every 4 weeks?
 - Some estates did not require a weekly street cleansing and therefore resources could be pooled into areas that did. In addition, there were areas in the Bradford West area that only needed cleansing twice a year;
- In terms of behaviour changing, what did the service have for future plans?
 - It was not just a one answer response but at present, the service was relying on being notified. Occasionally, cleansing teams would knock on doors to establish the person responsible for the fly tipping; and,
- Had the service undertaken a trial period of either option proposed?
 - The proposals were based on knowledge and experiences of officers, however these could be changed.

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- There was no clear explanation on how Members would be given the opportunity to engage in this process in order to make changes. Whether engaging would be through Area Committee meetings or on a ward level basis;
- The report highlighted flexible arrangements but without an adequate explanation of the mechanism for this proposal working;
- The example maps presented were an old copyright of 2008. Since then, there had been significant housing developments and many highway changes;
- There were specific areas in particular Wards that a 4 weekly street cleansing would not be suffice;
- Irresponsible fly tipping attracted further careless disposable of waste hence the importance of behaviour change through education;
- Inner city Wards were demonised for being inundated with litter;
- Two proposals, as highlighted in the report presented to the previous meeting were not included in this report;
- Prior to reduction of financial resources, Wards were immersed with litter and therefore it was difficult to comprehend how the service intended to make the streets cleaner with the 25% reduction in the district-wide Street Cleansing budget which will mean the loss of 28 frontline staff and five mechanical sweeper vehicles;
- It was discussed whether similar to Shipley Area Committee, a Sub-Group be formed with a Councillor from each Ward to assist in this Committee moving forward with one of the options;
- Councillors were acquainted with their respective Wards better than officers;
- Councillors may be better acquainted but it was not they who carried out the practical operational aspects of street cleansing hence it was paramount that this Committee ensured the correct mechanism before it would be too late;
- Through experience of meetings, officers were familiar with areas in most need of targeting; and,

- As a matter of principle, an explanation was sought on the proposed changes, giving details of the impact on a Ward by Ward basis.

The Committee concluded by stating that the insubstantial options presented in this report were not adequate for the Bradford West area and it seemed that the Committee was being indirectly coerced into selecting an option for operational deployment of resources that was clearly not viable for implementation, therefore:

Resolved –

- (1) That an additional meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee be arranged on Wednesday 6 March 2019 to consider the issue of Street Cleansing and the proposed changes to the Warden Service within the Bradford West area.
- (2) That the impact of the proposed Options 1a and 1b, as set out in Document “Y” be presented in a further report by the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Customer Services to the above meeting, setting out the broader impact of the options/proposals on a Ward basis.
- (3) That the proposed future changes to the Warden service and the impact of the proposal on individual Wards be detailed in a further report to be presented by the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Customer Services to the above meeting.
- (4) That the invitation to the above meeting also be extended to the alternate members of the Bradford West Area Committee, in order to gauge the views of Members on the proposals that will be set out in the respective reports.

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

47. STRONGER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “Z”**) asked the Area Committee to consider the Stronger Communities Strategy and Delivery Plan, produced by the Bradford Stronger Communities Partnership.

The Integration Strategy Programme Lead was in attendance and with the invitation of the Chair introduced the report to the Committee.

A question and answer session ensued:

- What mechanisms would be implemented to raise awareness of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes?
 - Intentions were to establish a central hub so that all information on all providers of ESOL and other services could be accessed at one central point for easy access. There would be immense outreach awareness work undertaken to make people aware of the ESOL services within the central hub;
- What did the service anticipate in the next 2 years?

- In terms of service, to continue delivering. In relation to people having accessed an ESOL provision, independence, pride and a strong sense of belonging;
- In relation to the new governance arrangements being developed to formalise the 'Partnership Board' and the decision making processes, were there intentions to have community Members on the board?
 - The board membership would consist of 20 Members: 12 Statutory and non-statutory services. 5 residents living across the District in Keighley, Shipley, Bradford East, Bradford West and Bradford South. 3 reserved for specific skills or expertise. The membership makeup of the board would represent the whole district; and,
- There were a number of services delivery ESOL throughout Bradford therefore would the service phase into partnership working?
 - There were a large number of ESOL classes in communities but not all services were captured by local residents. It was paramount that the service to establish the provision then a large number of the work would be commissioned out.

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- Learning the English language was not only about gaining employment but being able to communicate in different environments with various people in the country's dominant language;
- Many people who were economically inactive were in fact incredibly valuable and by attaining basic English language skills through easy access would have a positive impact on their present circumstances; and,
- Through consultations, it was apparent that people had a strong desire to speak the English language but unfortunately, the courses available at present were not being accessed due to confusion of locations of services.

The Committee welcomed the initiative and praised the service in establishing a service that targeted the hard to reach people.

Resolved –

- (1) That the work carried out in the development of the Bradford Stronger Communities Strategy and Delivery Plan by the Stronger Communities Partnership be noted.**
- (2) That that Integration Strategy Programme Lead be praised for the detailed verbal presentation of the report; the Portfolio Holder, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety be thanked for the Strong Communities Strategy for the Bradford District 2018 – 2023; and, a further gratitude be extended to the Bradford Stronger Communities Partnership Board.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

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

The report of the Interim Strategic Director, Children's Services (**Document "AA"**) provided an update to the report presented to the Bradford West Area Committee on the 28 February 2018 regarding the issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE). It set out the arrangements that had been put in place, and which continue to develop, to safeguard children from CSE.

The Bradford Safeguarding Children Board Manager was joined by the Assistant Director, Performance, Commissioning and Partnerships and with the invitation of the Chair introduced the report.

A question and answer session ensued:

- A local community centre in the Clayton and the Fairweather Green Ward hosted a modern day awareness course with the Youth Service on CSE. This had a good turnout. However if educational training was delivered for a particular child age bracket , and if some children of the same age group were not as intelligent as their peers, therefore unable to process the information being delivered, what would be the next course of action?
 - Children were assessed with risk management factors and the Youth Service carried out an amazing task of targeting vulnerable children. Of course, there were wider issues and a wider area of vulnerability was assessed. A great deal of leaflets containing vast amount of information was circulated for education purposes;
- In terms of a education material, there was a specific universal information to assist with vulnerability?
 - There was specific work tailored for the purpose of assisting those that were vulnerable;
- How was the issue being tackled in regards to parents who refused to have their children be taught on the area of CSE?
 - At point of feedback, it was highlighted that children who attended classes when CSE was being addressed, the same children during the evening conversed with their parents on what they had learned at school. In addition, it was paramount that under the guidance of government, under section 175 of the Education Act 2002 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. To work together with other agencies to ensure adequate arrangements within schools to identify, assess, and support those children who may be suffering harm; and,
- What was the early prevention work undertaken for children from the ages of 14 to 15?
 - There was face to face support by the voluntary sector from the morning running through to the late afternoon.

The Committee concluded by highlighting that more emphasis had to be put on working jointly with community centres due to the high number of residents attended on a weekly basis.

Resolved –

That the update report be noted.

LEAD: Interim Strategic Director, Children’s Services

49. PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO BONFIRE PLANNING 2018

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “AB”**) provided members with the partnership response and community engagement activity which supported the operational approach to the planning in the run up to and during the bonfire period 2018.

The Safer and Stronger Project Officer was accompanied by a Police Inspector, the Safer Communities Delivery Co-ordinator and the Senior Youth Work Manager. A summary of the report was given to the Committee.

The Chair highlighted that all Councillors were out on bonfire night and through strong partnership working alongside the Youth Service, the Bradford Policing Team, Ambulance Service and local residents’, all parties had worked well with one another to try keep the residents’ and the Bradford West area a safe environment a safe place to live. It was further highlighted that it was unfortunate that planning ahead of the bonfire night had not started even earlier.

Feedback was sought on whether and fly tipper had been captured following the possession of CCTV images. In response, a number of prosecutions had been carried out for bonfire night fly tipping. In addition, there will be a stronger approach towards fly tipping during the next bonfire night which will include, there would be discussions prior to the night with Petrol Stations and businesses to advise on ensuring their CCTVs would be effectively working on the night.

During the discussion, the following comments were made:

- Unfortunately during the previous bonfire meeting, a representative from the Ambulance Service failed to attend despite an invitation being sent out;
- The Bradford Policing Team would welcome the opportunity to work in relationships with all concerned even in more advance than previously for the next bonfire night;
- The element of environment enforcement had to be considered for the next planning stage due to some residents and even people from outside of the Bradford West area were dumping any kind of waste;
- There were some youth workers that were extremely detached, that on bonfire night, Members had to visit their homes and kindly request for their assistances in helping Ward Councillors and emergency services;
- The cost towards fly tipping was immense and therefore it was paramount that enforcement and prosecution was dealt with the full hand of the law; and,
- There were young men driving vehicles and were throwing fire works at people during the night.

The Police Inspector thanked all Councillors who were out on the night of the

bonfire and aided the Bradford Policing Team in assisting in keeping the streets and the environment of the Bradford West area safe and clean.

Resolved –

- (1) That the report be noted.**
- (2) That the Bradford West Neighbourhood Policing Team, the Youth Service and Council officers be thanked for the partnership work undertaken in focusing on Bonfire activities 2018.**

LEAD: Strategic Director, Place

Chair

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

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