

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee held on Thursday, 24 October 2019 in Committee Room 4 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.00 pm
Concluded 6.35 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE
Wainwright T Hussain Dodds Wood Tait Mukhtar Watson	Bibby

Apologies: Councillor Sabiya Khan

Councillor Wainwright in the Chair

24. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

25. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019 be signed as a correct record.

26. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

27. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

28. LOCAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE - DEVOLUTION UPDATE & FUNCTION OVERVIEW

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “N”**) which detailed how the service currently managed the Local Highway Maintenance (LHM) function and allocated resources.

It also updated the committee with regard to current operations being undertaken on the network and the indicative costs of works undertaken in the current financial year.

During the discussion a Member stated that in relation to pothole repairs he had reported a location over 18 months ago and no action had been taken to repair the pothole. In response the Principal Engineer Highway Maintenance stated that once a pothole has been reported the pothole is then categorised and depending on its severity, remedied within a set timeframe. He suggested that the Councillor emails him with the details of the location, so he can investigate the matter further, adding that most reports were received from Members of the public as well as inspections undertaken by the Council.

In response to a question on road markings and that a number of locations needed urgent attention, the Principal Engineer stated that given the reduced budget in this area, lining schemes were having to be prioritised.

Resolved –

- (1) That the current operational methods adopted for Local Highway Maintenance be noted.**
- (2) That the indicative costs to date for the current financial year be noted.**
- (3) That the list of current and proposed CAT3/4 works as shown in Appendices 5 and 6 to Document “N” be approved.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

29. BRADFORD SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM ACTIVITY

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “L”**) which gave an update of some of the work undertaken by the Bradford South Area Neighbourhood Policing Team, and an overview of the Bradford South constituency performance data.

During the discussion, a Member commented that it was useful to have crime breakdown by ward, however this information was not available at partnership ward meetings. In response the Police representative stated that there were no reasons why this information could not be made available in the future.

A Member stated that the violence against a person category covered a plethora of crimes and it was difficult to gauge specific crime type. The Police representative acknowledged that the heading was based on the Home Office categorisation, however there was a rise in instances of domestic violence.

A Member commented that in order to strengthen work in schools, PCSO link in schools was crucial in strengthening preventative work and that Ward Councillors should be made aware of which PSCO's were linked to which schools.

A Member raised a concern regarding a spike in supermarket thefts in the Queensbury area. In response the Police representative stated that they worked closely with the Supermarkets to address the issues they faced with theft, however the supermarkets could employ additional security to address the problem.

In response to a question on arrest and convictions, the Police representative agreed to let Councillors have information regarding detection rates.

A Member stated that in areas where there was a troubled relationship with the Police, communication was key as well as publicising positive stories of what the Police were doing, in order to change perceptions.

The Chair expressed concerns that some schools were not proactively engaging with PCSOs and that more effort should be made to address this. In response it was acknowledged that in some instances this was the case, however engagement was primarily dependent on the senior leadership team and it was suggested that Ward Councillors could assist in forging a better relationship.

Resolved –

- (1) That the work undertaken by the Bradford South Neighbourhood Policing Team from April 2019 to September 2019 that contributed to addressing priorities within the ward plans for the Bradford South Area be noted.**

- (2) That the positive partnership working that has been established with**

Elected Members, Council Officers, community organisations, volunteers and residents within the Bradford South Area be noted.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Corporate

30. UPDATE ON FAMILY HUBS IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTCOMES FROM THE CHILDREN'S CENTRE ESTATES CONSULTATION

On the 3 April 2018, the Council's Executive agreed to implement the Family Hubs model for delivering prevention and early help to babies, children and young people from October 2018.

On the 9 June and 9 July 2019, the Council's Executive also agreed a number of recommendations to implement changes across the 41 children centre sites.

The Strategic Director Children's Services submitted a report (**Document "M"**) which provided an update on implementation and Children's Centre estates changes. It was stressed that the partnership model was key in the successful delivery of the new family hubs.

During the discussion, Members made the following comments:

The Chair stated that in some instance the Families First Programme was not supporting the most vulnerable families. In response it was stressed that payment was by results and that the Programme was fully audited.

In response to a question regarding hard to reach families, it was stated that outreach work was undertaken, sometimes involving health visitors, but in some cases engagement or the lack of was a real concern.

In response to a discussion on poor dental hygiene and high levels of obesity, it was stated that a number of initiatives were on going to address the issue, including more out of school activities as well as encouraging walking to school. In respect of dental hygiene it was suggested that collaborative work between schools could yield some benefits.

A Member requested that further analysis needed to be undertaken regarding the issues highlighted in Tong Ward to establish causal links and a plan of action to tackle them.

Resolved –

(1) That the progress made to date be noted and that future reports include more analysis around the comments and concerns raised by Members.

(2) That officers look into how engagement with partners can be

improved including working closer with Neighbourhoods.

ACTION: Strategic Director Children's Services

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children's Services

31. ENFORCEMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document "O"**) which presented information about the work of the Environmental Enforcement Team and the Neighbourhood Wardens.

It was stated that despite some issues around staff sickness absence, the closer working arrangements with the enforcement team was paying dividend. Additional work had also been undertaken with landlords with a view to them taking more responsibility for their tenants' actions.

Members welcomed the progress made in this area particular the work done in the Great Horton ward in dealing with litter and bulky waste, which had resulted in good engagement with the community. It was acknowledged that further work was needed, particularly in relation to litter in the vicinity of some of the businesses in the area.

Resolved –

That the Bradford South Area Committee welcomes the information contained in the report and that staff be commended for their hard work during the transition period.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration and Environment

Chair

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