

## Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford East Area Committee held on Thursday, 16 January 2020 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 6.05 pm  
Concluded 7.50 pm

### Present – Councillors

LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT GROUP	INDEPENDENT
Choudhry Iqbal Mir	R Sunderland Knox R Ahmed Ward	Sajawal

### Councillor R Sunderland in the Chair

#### 30. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency Councillor Sajawal disclosed an interest in the item relating to Youth Services Update – Bradford East (Minute 34) as he managed a centre that had youth provision.

ACTION: City Solicitor

#### 31. MINUTES

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the meetings held on 5 September and 17 October 2019 be signed as a correct record.**

ACTION: City Solicitor

#### 32. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

#### 33. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

**34. YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE - BRADFORD EAST**

The Strategic Director, Place presented a report (**Document “S”**) which gave an update on work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford East Area in the past twelve months and outlined the direction of travel for the next twelve months.

Young people who attended a number of youth clubs and groups in the district spoke of their experience and how they valued the services provided.

A member referred to the Greenwood Centre and asked what impact the Youth Service considered the £26,000 Opportunity Area Funding had made. It was noted that officers were looking for a base in the area and that a detached worker was working in the area. Opportunity Area workers had undertaken work with young ambassadors to identify what that they wanted to address in the area.

In response to a member question about sustainability it was noted that officers were looking at ways of keeping apprentices in the service once their apprenticeship finished.

A member praised the work of the Youth Service despite cuts to the budget. He thanked the young people for sharing their stories.

A member asked about the plans for the Fagley area and was advised that officers were in the early stages of discussion to identify a detached worker for the area.

A member congratulated the young people on their presentations and asked whether action could be taken to publicise the Youth Service in schools. He also felt it would be better for community cohesion if young people took part in activities in their own area rather than relying on taking them out of the area for activities.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the work undertaken by the Youth Service in the Bradford East Area as detailed in Document “S” be welcomed.**
- (2) That the Committee recognise the valuable work carried out by staff in the Youth Service and the impact on young people.**
- (3) That the Committee is grateful for the honest and brave comments of the young people who attended the meeting.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place  
Children’s Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**35. PETITION - ROWANBERRY CLOSE AND WHITEBEAM WALK, ECCLESHILL, BRADFORD**

The Strategic Director, Place presented a report (**Document “Q”**) which outlined

a petition that had been received and which requested the introduction of a residents' permit parking scheme on Rowanberry Close and Whitebeam Walk, Eccleshill, Bradford.

**Resolved –**

**That the request for permit parking on Rowanberry Close and Whitebeam Walk remain on the list for consideration by this Committee as and when future Safer Roads programmes are determined.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place  
Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### 36. **BRADFORD EAST AREA FLOOD PREVENTION**

**Resolved –**

**That consideration of the report (Document “T”) be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place  
Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### 37. **LOCAL HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE - DEVOLUTION UPDATE AND FUNCTION OVERVIEW**

The Committee was asked to consider **Document “R”** which detailed how the Local Highway Maintenance (LHM) function was managed and resources were allocated.

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

The Chair questioned whether it was correct that gullies on main arterial routes were cleared annually and secondary routes and side roads were cleaned on average every two years. In response it was noted that there had been cuts in gully cleansing, that main routes were cleared annually and that other routes were carried out as reactive works. This information would be updated the next time the report was presented to the Committee.

A member asked about the timescale between order and completion of CAT 3/4 Works and was advised that CAT 1/2 Works had specific timescales but that CAT 3/4 Works had no set timescale and were completed on a priority basis, preferably within one year, but sometimes took longer.

A member asked about the amount spent on sub-contracted labour/personnel and it was noted that the budget was very limited and that very little was spent on

sub-contractors.

Members received confirmation that the footway refurbishment works in Reginald Street listed in appendix 6 to Document "R" would not involve any change to the layout of the footpath.

In response to a member question it was confirmed that the Council could recoup the cost of repairs from insurers for damage caused to barriers by motorists.

Member questioned whether Hutton Road was in the Little Horton or Wibsey Ward which officers agreed to clarify.

**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 CAT 3/4 works as shown in Appendices 5 and 6 to Document "R" be approved subject to Hutton Road being in the Little Horton Ward.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

**38. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING IN BRADFORD DISTRICT**

The Strategic Director, Place presented a report (**Document "U"**) which provided information on key homelessness and rough sleeping issues across the District.

It was noted that Bradford was doing well compared to neighbouring areas and that there were fewer rough sleepers than last year.

A member who worked for Horton Housing asked whether any assistance could be given to people living a chaotic lifestyle who struggled to clear 25% of their debts before being allocated permanent accommodation. Officers agreed to raise this issue in the appropriate place.

Members were advised that the Rough Sleeper Service was looking into the reasons why a number of people were unable to leave hostels. They were looking at breaking down barriers with major housing providers and progress was being made, albeit slow.

A member asked what could be done to address one of the causes of homelessness, Notices to Quit from private rented accommodation. Members were advised that contact could be made with the landlord to negotiate more time for the tenant to find alternative accommodation. It was noted that the Council offered free training to landlords on how to work with the Council to prevent evictions and the take up was good.

A member questioned that the number of rough sleepers in 2018 was 24 and asked how the figure was arrived at. In response it was reported that an annual count was carried out on a specific day starting at 4am. Members referred to the number of people seen begging in the district and it was noted that someone seen begging may not necessarily be a rough sleeper.

Members were invited to the rough sleeper count that would take place on 31 January 2020.

A member referred to women with children fleeing domestic violence being placed in accommodation that was not big enough for them and asked how this was being addressed as social housing was not being built in the numbers required.

In response to a member question it was noted that bids had been made nationally for the £260m to set up homeless outreach partnerships and the outcome was awaited. It was also noted that a bid from the £63m cold weather fund had been successful and crash beds had been provided in Discovery House for 3-4 nights before moving people on to other accommodation.

It was confirmed that London Boroughs were required to inform the relevant Local Authorities where they housed residents in their area but they were not doing this. These concerns had been raised with the Local Government Association and a protocol was being worked on as a way forward which would require all Local Authorities signing up to it to make it work. It was noted that people who were rough sleeping in Bradford tended to be from the area and that Bradford did not attract more rough sleepers than neighbouring cities.

A member asked how many choices of accommodation had to be given to a family presenting as homeless and it was confirmed that by law they had to be given one choice, however the service was very flexible and wanted them to be successfully rehoused. If one offer was refused there was a legal requirement to ask them to vacate the temporary accommodation.

Members discussed the appropriateness of the location of accommodation offered to families and the suitability of the accommodation. They were advised that housing officers would make an assessment taking into account the age of the children and the schools that they attended. If they refused accommodation they had the right of appeal and the appeal was looked at by an officer that had not considered the original application. Applicants would be encouraged to accept the offer then appeal so that they were not without accommodation. A member was concerned that children may have to travel long distances to school, if no places were available in their area and asked whether checks were made as to whether school places were available. In response it was noted that individual circumstances were looked into and that people often received more than one offer of accommodation. Officers endeavoured to look into the individual cases identified to them by members.

It was agreed that officers look into the issue of school placements for children who had been made homeless and advise members.

A member referred to cases where people were moving into substandard accommodation. An assurance was given that accommodation was inspected by housing standards officers and that people would not be offered substandard accommodation.

A member raised the issue of the proximity and availability of services such as doctors and dentists when offering accommodation to homeless people. In response it was noted that there were 16,000 people on the housing waiting list and that people were urged to move into accommodation if it was deemed suitable.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That the information provided on key homelessness and rough sleeping issues, challenges and responses across the District be noted and that officers be thanked for attending the meeting and listening to the issues raised by members.**
- (2) That the Committee receive a report from the Housing Standards Team and the Rouge Landlords Scheme in the next 6 months.**
- (3) That the Committee recognises the pressures coming from the private rented sector on homelessness across the district.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

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