

Minutes of a meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 19 September 2019 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 6.05 pm
Concluded 9.10 pm

Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	GREEN
Heseltine	Berry Dodds Kamran Hussain Jamil Mohammed	R Ahmed	Love

Observers: Portfolio Holders for Healthy People & Places; Councillors Dunbar and Lintern

Councillor Jamil in the Chair

21. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency Councillor Dodds disclosed an interest relating to Fly Tipping in the Bradford District, item 8 (Minute 27), as her son was a Neighbourhood Warden for Bradford Council.

During the course of the meeting, Councillor Kamran Hussain disclosed an interest relating to Update on the Review of the Housing Strategy and the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy (Minute 25) as he was a private landlord.

ACTION: City Solicitor

22. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meetings held on 16 April and 9 July 2019 be signed as correct records.

23. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

24. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no referrals to the Committee.

25. UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE HOUSING STRATEGY AND THE HOMELESSNESS & ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY

The current Housing and Homelessness Strategy, A Place to Call Home, 2014-2019, was undergoing a review with a shift towards producing two separate strategies.

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “M”**) provided an update on progress and set out consultation outcomes.

The Head of Service, Housing Access and the Access to Housing Manager were both in attendance, and with the invitation of the Chair, introduced the report to the Committee.

Following introduction, a question and answer session ensued:

- How were housing issues being resolved and provided for the most vulnerable in society?
 - In order to resolve differing issues, services would be merging into one service delivery project into a more community accessible level. The service was working with single status service users including vulnerable young;
- What options were available to a Councillor in advising a homeless person who had no money or a place to live?
 - The service had an emergency contact point where a team was accessible to assist homeless people in emergencies. Contact details for a emergency hostel service were available on the Council's website. Following initial contact by a homeless person, an assessment would be made over the phone/face to face then through circumstances, a specific need would be progressed for the individual;
- What was being undertaken to maintain the current housing stock?
 - The council was focused on regenerating all poor housing stock and to improve the quality and energy efficiency of our existing housing stock, particularly in the private sector, and effectively manage the neighbourhood environment including open spaces.

During the discussion, the following points were stated:

- The rough sleeper initiative had been very engaging with excellent responses;
- In relation to the listed buildings review, there was an ongoing issue of people living in such buildings and more should be actioned on changing restrictions for listed buildings; and,

- In response to comment, the status of listed buildings was protected by the Industrial Heritage Buildings policy and was difficult to undertake the task of amending. Equally Bradford had one of the poorest communities and a significant amount of buildings and land was in need of development.
- The work of the housing team was praiseworthy due to the significant difference it had made to the homeless.

Resolved –

- (1) **As part of the consultation exercise, officers liaise with the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to arrange an informal session with Members to discuss the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategies.**
- (2) **That the final Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategies be presented to the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the November meeting.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

26. SEDBERGH SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE AND SPORTS FACILITIES INVESTMENT PLAN

Following previous reports to the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and subsequent to the meeting of the 3rd July 2018, this report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “N”**) provided Members with an update on progress made to date at Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre, and set out the future direction of the Sports Facilities Investment Plan.

The report introduction commenced with a PowerPoint presentation, which highlighted the stages in the history of the £28 million development of the two new facilities in Bradford for Sedbergh and Squire Lane.

A question and answer session ensued –

- An update on Squire Lane was requested.
 - At last discussion of the Squire Lane project was last reported to committee that the Council had been approached by Well North Enterprises WNE and advised that the site could involve further aspirations as opposed to only having a sports facility. Therefore to progress the development of a sports facility on the site, the appointment of the design team had been put on hold, as the Council then began working alongside WNE in order to develop wider plans for the site. The aim was to explore opportunities to co-locate additional services onto the site, to provide a more holistic health, wellbeing community and enterprise centre on the site and, to ultimately provide a far greater spread of facilities for the local population;
- Would WNE bring additional funding for the sports facility?
 - The company had a history of assisting in finding suitable opportunities to serve to wider communities. WNE would take a

- proportion of the project for investors as the Council was in need of methods of locating sources of funding for other sports sites; and,
- Could the Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre project be perceived as being an excessively enormous size and complex in terms of its facility?
 - Not at all as there were plans of other services to be provided from within the facility. There were ongoing conversations with the NHS, in regards to relocating some vital services from the hospital into the new facility.

During the discussion the following points were covered –

The proposed project was an enormous facility that would benefit many communities. Some car park space would be an added value to the facility and the community but it was paramount that more space not be allocated for further car park usage as it was the Council's goal to encourage people to use public transport.

Resolved –

- (1) **That officers be thanked for the work undertaken on the Sedbergh Sports and Leisure Centre and Sports Facilities Investment Plan.**
- (2) **That proposals relating to the development of the Squire Lane project be presented to this Committee in 6 months time or sooner, if any significant developments are made.**

Strategic Director, Place

27. FLY TIPPING IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “O”**) provided an update from the Environmental Enforcement Team with regards to flytipping including information of new structural arrangements, strategies to deal with flytipping and information on numbers of notices and prosecutions in 2018/19. The report also provided an update on the numbers of flytips reported to the Council, the tonnage of fly tips and analysis of relevant waste data.

The Shipley Area Co-ordinator, the Environmental Services & Enforcement Manager and the Systems and Information Officer were present and with the invitation of the Chair, gave a joint presentation of the report.

A question and answer session ensued –

- Flytipping was a huge problem in the district and following expressing concerns to Environmental Services with discussions of community led solutions, it was disappointing to find a lack of information on previous discussions. Therefore a brief synopsis of any work that had been undertaken as discussed would be appreciated?
 - The service did not have a experienced officer to assist in environment community behaviour changes and therefore a new position, a 'Behavioural Change Officer' had been created and advertised. The post would be filled in the near future to assist in changing the behaviour and attitude of communities towards

positive cleaner environmental advantages. Furthermore recruitment exercises had been undertaken to recruit volunteers to participate in community led solutions but this of course was not a final problem solver;

- There were continuous issues around the area of collection points of waste and due to negative attitudes of people, many individuals were leaving contaminated household waste on the pavement. The bins were also full of contaminated household waste. What was the cause of overfull waste collection points?
 - Many Wards were non operational and lacked efficiency in terms of operational coverage of environment cleansing but there was a need for significant funding in order to tackle all environmental issues on an operational level. However the matter of collection points had been discussed between officers and there were plans to take an operational review of collection points for future environmental needs;
- There were many businesses that were clearing waste disposal outside of their business premises but what was being done in regards to a select number of businesses that were not participating in a cleaner environment?
 - In order to address concerns, the service required witnesses to identify perpetrators who dropped litter but witnesses were conscious of their own safety issues;
- What was the process of meeting the request of a Member wishing to have a camera installed in their respective Ward at a flytipping hotspot area?
 - The Council had active cameras and costs entailed an electric line feed and a link to a television monitor. The request for a CCTV could be made through a Ward Officer;
- An explanation of the recycling process for Bradford was sought?
 - The Portfolio Holder, Healthy People and Places responded that officers present were not employees of the waste recycling department however a video of Bradford's recycling process was on the Council's website;
- How was households of their duties towards disposing waste responsibly?
 - A social media campaign had been undertaken;
- How were perpetrators of flytipping and household illegal waste dumping identified?
 - There was only one officer working in one area at a time and therefore identifying perpetrators was not an easy process to achieve due to a lack of manpower;
- Due to a number of families that choose to live on rent, had the service engaged with letting agents? and,
 - The service was assisting landlords to work together as an association;
- In regards to waste disposing, who exactly applied for licenses?
 - Scrap metal dealers.

During the discussion, it was stated that there were a number of waste bins located in the East Bowling area of Bradford that lacked clear signage indicating the correct waste and process for disposal hence not correct waste was not being disposed in them and, it was important for the service to work with communities in order to make a positive difference.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Committee thanks the Clean Teams for the work undertaken in the District to tackle fly tipping.**
- (2) That a report be presented to the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee which focuses on –**
 - (a) the continuing actions undertaken to address fly tipping across the District**
 - (b) the approaches used to increase community led volunteers**
 - (c) work undertaken with local communities to increase environmental responsibilities**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

28. REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2019-20

Resolved –

That the Work programme 2019-20 be agreed and continues to be regularly reviewed during the year.

ACTION: Overview Scrutiny Lead

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