

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee held on Thursday, 25 February 2021 in <https://bradford.public-i.tv/core/portal/hom>

Commenced 1800
Concluded 2015

Present – Councillors

LABOUR
Ahmed
Akhtar
Amran
Engel
Kamran Hussain
Mohammed
Nazir
Thirkill

COUNCILLOR AMRAN IN THE CHAIR

50. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

That in the interests of transparency, the Chair and Asad Shah (Clerk), disclosed an interest in Minute 10 as they were both residents of Highfield Crescent.

51. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

52. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

53. AN UPDATE ON COVID-19 IN BRADFORD DISTRICT

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “C”**) provided an update on COVID-19 in Bradford District. It described the district response between March 2020 and January 2021. The latest data on cases, admissions and deaths were reported verbally.

The report further set out how the Bradford District COVID-19 response was being managed, explained the leadership role of the COVID-19 Management Group and the working groups that fed it.

Assistant Director, Neighbourhood and Customer Services was in attendance, accompanied by the Strategic Manager of Employment & Skills and the Consultant in Public Health. At the request of the Chair, a synopsis of the report commenced. The Assistant Director explained that in reference to Section 3.3 in the report, the current public health data changed on a daily basis, hence the reasons for not being able to collate information prior to this committee. In terms of hub working, there were 11 different working groups that undertook work of the hub on a weekly basis. The do focus work of the hubs working groups was driven by a public health Intelligence document. The information contained in this document captured the current infection rates, hospital admissions, deaths, location points of high incidences, high prevalence of infection and the insight data that had been returned from the community engagement work that was discussed at a weekly meeting. In response to the information received, work themes were deployed on the back of recommendations that were contained in that public health data document.

At this point, the Assistant Director gave way for the Consultant's update. She stated that public health data received this morning showed a slight increase of 208 in comparison to the previous weeks when the city had a 203 infection rate in the over 60 years old population. This was critical in terms of the area in the highest incidence of deaths which was now 132.5 per 100,000 populations. However, this figure in itself was lower than the 210 figure and therefore the impact of the vaccination programme had started to make a positive impact on the rates of infection. Work on home testing and lateral flow testing sites were being run at St. George's Hall and the Airedale Shopping Centre in Keighley, along with the mobile testing units that were run by health partners. Hospital admissions in the last seven days were 135, reduced from 158 from the previous days. The deaths in the district had increased in the last seven days, with a further 40 deaths in the district, an increase from 32 in the week prior. In overall, Bradford stood at 19 in the country out of around 350 cities on the list. Bradford had a stubborn level of continued infection across the district that proved a real challenge in terms of reducing. In terms of the vaccination and perhaps, there was slightly more optimism. 145,000 in the district had been vaccinated, which represented about 30% of the adult eligible population in district to receive a vaccine. The vaccine was now being rolled out to the over 60 s. To add, the following week would be the commencement of the administration of the second dose of the vaccine for people who were first vaccinated a few weeks ago.

The two rapid testing sites, as referred to earlier, St. George's Hall and the Keighley Shopping Centre were seeing in the region of 2,500 people a week. A further 2000 home tests a week were also being undertaken by knocking on people's houses, in particular, areas of high infection rates. Individuals who were asthmatic were being tested to establish whether they were carrying the infection. To work with businesses across the district was another major focal point which also entailed information gathering and compliance of social distancing rules through the method of mystery shopping by officers. Mystery shopping visits had been received well by businesses. Features of visits entailed So observation of

behaviours, and then engaging with business professionals in conversations to assist the safety of its staff and its customers. Broader engagement work had also been undertaken in throughout the whole district to gain further information on particular issues of concern.

In terms of young people, the Council's Covid support workers were capturing the views of young people across the district, and feeding back intelligence into the hub. This helped guide the policy setting and the direction of work that was taking place. Few days prior to this committee, a video had been produced in consultation with health professionals that answered questions that people had been asking around the vaccine, debunking myths concerning the vaccine. This video would be circulated nationwide

The Assistant Director called forth the Strategic Manager of Employment & Skills to give an update on the recruitment process for the work of Covid and support workers. Recruitment had been undertaken in partnership between Skills House colleagues, Skills Hosts and the Council's HR team. Recruitment commenced in November 2020 to support the ongoing management response to Covid. From the very outset, the key drive was to ensure that opportunities for support workers were made available to people in district. Opportunities were publicised and published and made available through the Skills, First website and the external recruitment website.

Recruitment exercise was also channelled through schools, and a range of other partners that that the Council work with in the educational sector including Facebook, Twitter, email distribution lists to different partners. Engagement had been undertaken with volunteers and community sector partners, local faith networks, various free colleges in the district, the University in communities and Jobcentre Plus. This broad exercise was intended to target young people to give them opportunities as well to come in and take advantage of significant support roles that had been advertised. The recruitment process was made accessible as possible. Since December 2020, over 500 job applications had been received, resulting over 250 interviews. This campaign recruited 139 new staff.

A question and answer session ensued:

- What information was known on the different variants of the infection?
 - As present circumstances stand, no specific alerts around new variants were received; and,
- Clarity was sought on reasons for contacting carers to come forward for vaccine during the early stages of the release of the vaccine, yet nothing had transpired following the initial contact?
 - It was known that health professionals were promoting and encouraging co-workers to come forward. It was disappointing to hear that some of the co-workers were struggling to be able to access the systems. However, if members could feed the details of the care workers and assurance would be given f customers right wants to send the details through, I'll make sure that those are fed through to this information could be passed to colleagues in health, to help ensure sure that access to the vaccines be given.

Resolved –

That the information provided in Document C be noted.

LEAD: Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Customer Services

54. AN UPDATE ON COVID-19 RELATED COMMUNICATIONS IN BRADFORD DISTRICT

The report of the Chief Executive (**Document “D”**) provided an update on COVID-19 communications in Bradford District. It described the district communications response between March 2020 and January 2021.

The report set out how the Council-led system-wide communications response to COVID-19 across the Bradford District was being managed, explained the leadership and co-ordination role of the System Communications Group, communications activities throughout the pandemic so far, and NHS-led planning for vaccinations.

The Assistant Director was in attendance and with the invitation of the Chair, gave a synopsis of the report. She explained that the report gave some indication of the communities' work that had been going on to date. There were a number of approaches which the Council had tried since the beginning of the pandemic. The communications channels had been significantly extended to reach wider audiences. Contracts had also been awarded to voluntary organisations, who had been asked to focus on community based engagement with particular groups of residents and residents across the district.
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A question and answer session ensued:

- How much money had been awarded to the organisations that had been tasked to deliver the community engagement activities?
 - In the region of £200,000 each was earmarked for the 3 organisations that had been given the contracts for the delivery of activities of engagement work;
- Out of the 3 organisations, clarity was sought on Urban Reach?
 - Urban Reach was a community interest company that undertook district wide work and that contracts had been signed by the company representative;
- It had been brought to the committee's attention that Urban Reach was a new organisation being registered by the individual who was also the President of Council for Mosques. Council for Mosques was also a faith organisation that undertook community work. Was Council management aware that the President had earlier refused the contract on behalf of Councils for Mosques as the organisation was unable to deliver the work of the Council and then, the same individual having registered a new company as Urban Reach, under his name and had accepted the Council contract to deliver the exact same engagement work that he had declined on behalf of Council for Mosques?
 - Due to a lack of information at hand on the background of the background of the organisation, the individual concerned and the basis for rewarding the community engagement work, information sought could not be provided at present. However, the community

- organisation was called Urban Reach that the and the name of the representative was for public records to view in Companies House;
- The Chair asked the committee whether any member had come across this new community organisation during their engagement activities within communities in their respective wards or ever heard of this organisation?
 - To which the answer was no; and,
 - Following a sense of confusion by the committee, the Chair raised concerns as to the authenticity of Urban Reach and how a significant amount of public funds could be given to a newly established community organisation without substantive credentials; that the committee had never come across this community organisation.
 - To add further, the Chair expressed his disappointment to the absence of the Director of Public Health at tonight's committee, as she had information on the background of the subject matter to the extent of alleviating the committee's confusion by providing a full explanation to the authenticity of Urban Reach.
 - The fact that significant amount of public funds being given to a newly formed community organisation by an individual who was the president of Council for Mosques; that this same individual had earlier refused to undertake the community engagement work as Council for Mosques was unable to deliver this work clearly painted an overall bleak picture of the use of public funds.
 - To fully grasp the nature of company selection and processes, what procedure had been applied to identify the right community organisation to deliver the community engagement work, or was the process similar to that of Central Government selection process?
 - The process was administered by Public Health and therefore clarification could not be given at present. However, this matter will most certainly be raised Public Health.

During the discussion, the following comments were made by the committee and officers:

- The work tasked to be delivered by the community organisations was a combination of direct delivery of Council work through the appointed organisations and therefore the upmost form of transparency was required;
- The work undertaken to date by the Council had been exceptional in terms of doorstep engagement, engaging with young people, the production of a video promotion and the full use of social media;
- Extensive efforts had also been focused on producing and providing information for takeaways;
- Successful communication campaign to support people with mental health during the pandemic had also been undertaken; and,
- In the region of 100,000 recipients were reached on a weekly basis on the Council's Stay Connected Bulletin. However, there was always room to reach out further. In addition to major communication means used, various other approaches were equally being utilised for the purpose of getting the right messaging out to everybody across the district
- As a city of sanctuary Bradford had given a home to many families that had arrived from other countries. Many Syrian families and other refugees and

asylum seekers that have been sent to the UK and settled in Bradford is due to significant health issues within their families. Often enough, arrivals were not connected into the standard systems of communications and other networks within the city. Therefore, it was paramount that reaching out to refugees and asylum seekers also be a major focal area during the work of communication.

- In response to comment, it was explained that work had been done through the Racial Equality Network that had a particular focus on ensuring that communication channelled out to asylum seekers and refugees.
- It was further added that in terms of refugee asylum seeking community and the city's wider community, significant support had been provided by Mears (housing and care providers to both the public and private sector). The Council was in weekly contact with Mears for the purpose of identifying the direct vaccination support the company was providing to some of the more vulnerable residents.

Resolved –

- (1) That Community Action Bradford & District (CABAD), Racial Equality Network (REN) and the Urban Reach Partnership CIC be requested to attend the first meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee in the Municipal Year 2021/22, to give a detailed presentation on their respective organisation's focus based community engagement work on COVID-19 in the Bradford West area.**
- (2) That officers be requested to examine the credentials of Urban Reach Partnership CIC and that, following this examination, Officers report the outcomes directly to the Members of the Bradford West Area Committee.**

ACTION: Assistant Director, Office of the Chief Executive

55. OBJECTIONS RECEIVED TO THE TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR WAITING RESTRICTIONS ON VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BRADFORD WEST CONSTITUENCY

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document "E"**) considered objections to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order on various roads in the Bradford West Constituency.

The Chair opened the discussion by bringing the committee's attention to the presence of members of the public who wished to express sentiments on their respective highway matters concerning Highfield Crescent and Great Horton Road.

However, as a matter of custom, he first invited the Principal Engineer to give a synopsis of the report to the committee.

During the introduction of the report, it was explained that the report presented objections to Bradford West's various traffic regulation orders. The proposals were approved by the committee last year as part of the current year's several roads programme. The scheme was primarily for waiting restrictions at various locations in Bradford West. Proposals were advertised earlier this year and as a result, objections in respect of four of the sites.

Following the introduction of the report, the Chair invited the public to address their matters of views to the committee.

Highfield Crescent:

A resident of Highfield Crescent expressed his strong support in favour of the proposed parking restrictions. However, he expressed concerns as to whether the restrictions went too far as it was important for allowance to be made for some parking spaces; the implementation of the full extent of the proposed traffic measures could possibly instigate the misuse of parking restrictions by residents' parking their vehicles very late at night to avoid enforcement action; motorists were parking in the cup-de-sac, eating takeaway food and discarding their rubbish on to the street before driving away. The consideration for the allowance would alleviate unexpected problems or congestion in the tight cup-de-sac.

In response to the resident's concerns of enforcement, the Principal Engineer explained enforcement was relied heavily on those who were responsible to enforce restrictions and to simply have such restrictions in place was a form of deterrent in itself.

Another resident addressed the committee on her objections to the proposed waiting restrictions. She explained that if the proposal was implemented then this would result in no parking directly outside of her house. This proposal would cause detrimental impact on her family as her two children were diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); as current circumstances stood, it was extremely difficult to care for her children due to their hyperactivity movements through their impulsivity acts. The lack of parking provision would entail a greater and arduous nature of attention to her children in comparison to present status. Furthermore, with the proposed waiting instructions would result in parking in front of other properties to the extent of blocking driveways.

The committee sought clarification that further to the layout on the map. It seemed there was ample space on driveways to park vehicles and therefore had it been identified if residents' used their garages and driveways or whether they parked their vehicles on the street. In response, it was stated that this was a factor that was not taken into consideration and therefore unknown.

Great Horton Road:

The Principal Engineer gave a light synopsis on the proposed TRO on Great Horton Road. This was a proposal for no waiting any time restrictions. Waiting restrictions was initially proposed and also approved by this committee at a previous meeting. The TRO was promoted early last year and objections had been received during the time the area committee was not sitting. The non-sitting was due to the cancellation of the Bradford West Area Committee at the time at

the time of lockdown; a temporary alternative decision making process to ensure that items were not overly delayed was put in place. In accordance with the Council's constitution, Area Committees acted on an Executive delegated function. As such Executive, acting through the respective portfolio holder, considered the petition. It was resolved that the objections be overruled and the proposed pedestrian island be implemented. However, it was now a matter for this committee as the associated Traffic Regulation Order formally advertised with any valid objections to the Order being reported to the Bradford West Area Committee.

The Chair then requested the business owner who was in attendance to put his objections to the proposal to the committee. He explained that his business had been operating for nearly a decade. The front of the business was in the region of 24 meters in length. A big part of the decision to take this restaurant business was due to the ample parking spaces and various access points to the restaurant which was a key to the its business operations including deliveries. The proposal for yellow lines all the way around, including the opposite end was a great concern as such waiting instructions would have detrimental impact on the operations of the busy restaurant. Due to the pandemic lockdown the restaurant had suffered financial losses and a significant money was owed in tax. The business employed the local community as a contribution towards giving back to the community. Evidence to substantiate the proposal was requested from the Principal Engineer and following evaluation of the information, no basis for the proposed waiting restrictions had been evidenced. The recommendation of the report was prejudicial towards the business operations of the restaurant as they need for access to refrigerated trucks would be impacted daily; parking and access was already an issue and this proposal would clearly exacerbate it. No evidence had been substantiated for such draconian measures to be implemented. In addition, the four accidents out of the five were in the last five years' period.

In response to the concerns outlined by the objector, the Principal Engineer explained that Great Horton Road was a public highway and it was preferred by residents to park directly outside of their houses. Ultimately, the consideration towards highway safety on public highways in terms of collisions was paramount feature during the contemplation of such schemes. The report was devised beginning of 2020 when we consideration of the island was formulated. In regards to traffic collisions, there were a total of six in five years, five of which involved pedestrians and three led to series injury. There had been one further collision since then, which involved a cyclist. So this feature was of primary concern. In relation to some waiting restriction features was detailed in a document which is called the lens for concern, and this report had been produced by the experts at the Leeds Accident Studies Team. The lens for concern ranks lengths of roads in any district in terms of their severity of issues with collisions. Great Horton Road ranked number two on the list. The produced report specifically detailed the lack of pedestrian facilities as an issue. Furthermore, the proposal was not only about the island, but to address concerns to the side road movements. The objector had referred to an alternative scheme; this was looked at in detail but not referred as the favourite scheme for this location.

The committee sought information on if residents' parking permit schemes existed in the neighbouring streets or not, would people be able to park in other places

rather than Great Horton Road or even directly outside of the restaurant. It was reported that there would be residents parking adjacent to the houses from 1 to 15 on Gathorne Street and the remaining spaces open be open for everybody.

During the discussion the committee stated that the importance of such schemes was to save lives and stopping injuries which was significantly paramount than any other aspect on busy public highways; and, most restaurant trading would be during the times when residents were at home so there would be no availability of parking on the streets.

The Chair concluded this discussion by stating that as ward councillors, the committee was grateful for this scheme, that had been designed and proposed by officers on the basis of factual data and statistics. The scale of this scheme was on a level of improving road safety for pedestrians and residents in the area. As a committee it is important to acknowledge for communities, public safety must always preside over profits for the fact that one accident is one accident too many for any area.

The Committee echoed the sentiments of the Chair and therefore:

Resolved –

- (1) That the No Waiting At Any Time restrictions proposed for the area between Sandsend Close and Neville Grove be removed from the draft Order, and the remaining objections be overruled and the Traffic Regulation Order be sealed and implemented as otherwise advertised.**
- (2) That the objectors be informed accordingly.**

ACTION: Strategic Director, Place

56. WASTE SERVICES - BRADFORD WEST SERVICE PROVISION - UPDATE

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “F”**) updated the committee on actions from the previous brief in November 2020 with regards to the additional demands and operational difficulties encountered due to the Covid pandemic and its effects within Bradford West and the wider District.

Following an invitation by the Chair, the Contract and Procurement Manager gave a synopsis of the report.

He explained that waste management representatives had met in January to discuss areas of concern and joint working which could be closely co-ordinated in order to make an impact on issues relating to low recycling rates and side waste.

It was then agreed to increase co-ordination between Ward Officers, Wardens and Recycling Officers with stronger communication links and expectations, as this would be advantageous, increased sharing of data from collection routes in the west area would also be closely scrutinised to identify early priority locations.

He mentioned other streams of work being undertaken, summarised as follows:

- A six weeks plan to visit prioritised areas and not exceeding 3 hours per visit;
- Teams to visit entire wards of Bradford West;
- There would be further visits to businesses and residents by recycling officers to check for contamination and general engagement activities;
- To follow up on targeted communication from a neighbourhood team via social media and other network platforms;
- Challenges remained the same the in terms of recycling contamination as this stood at 30% during ore Covid and currently between 45 and 50%;
- Various recent analysis had been undertaken using different third parties to analyse the raw material effects at curb sides. Due to Covid, contamination ranged from 13% to 50% in some areas.
- During the winter period, there were issues with snow and ice which caused significant lost days of collection;
- The service was about to develop a new strategy which will impact on services to the Council and residents. The strategy would be in line with the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and government guidelines;
- The contamination levels were currently around 1500 tonnes per month in recycling. This was costing up to £260,000 a month;
- The cost towards Covid impact was £200,000 per month with no sign of ease;
- The service was currently looking at a Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) at Bowling Back Lane. MRF had the potential to service significant amount of waste a year and would assist the Council becoming more efficient in waste management services;
 - *The function of MRF at Bowling Back Lane is to maximise the quantity of recyclables processed, while producing materials that will generate the highest possible revenues in the market.*
- The role of 6 Recycling Advisors undertaking engagement activities with residents. However, with Covid efforts had been curtailed; and,
- In between the two Covid lockdown restrictions, the advisors had hand delivered leaflets and stickers. In the region of 20,000 stickers and leaflets had been delivered.

A question and answer session ensued:

- Due to more people remaining in their homes during lockdown restrictions, additional waste was not to be collected which was very concerning. What was the reason behind the missed collections of waste?
 - The slow pace of work was solely attributed by lockdown restrictions which fell under government guidelines. Collection services were unable to undertake routine activities of waste collection; in addition, unable to knock on house doors too. However, in compensation, the time had been resourced towards messaging residents through active leafleting through their letterboxes;
- In which specific wards had the 20,000 leaflets been delivered?
 - Areas of high incident contamination were first targeted for leafleting and more areas were to be covered; and,
- How likely was it to empty the grey bins sooner than later as they contained the most contaminated materials?

- Waste collection services was eagerly waiting to get out on into the wards and try to remove contaminated waste as swiftly as possible.

Resolved –

- (1) **That a report be presented to the first meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee in the Municipal Year 2021/22 that focuses on the Waste Services delivery plan that had been designed in consultation with Ward Officers.**
- (2) **That an online training session be arranged for elected Members of the Bradford West area that wish to help the community in its Waste Services.**

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