

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 3 December 2020 at 4.00 pm in Remote Virtual Meeting

Commenced 4.00pm
Concluded 5.30pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT AND INDEPENDENT GROUP
Azam D Green Watson Tait	Bibby Riaz Sullivan	Griffiths

Councillor Azam in the Chair

Apologies: None.

115. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

Cllr Sullivan for Cllr Goodall.

116. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

117. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted to review decisions to restrict documents.

118. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no referrals to the Committee.

119. ADVANCED FUEL CENTRE FOR BRADFORD

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the intention to undertake a procurement in excess of £2m to design and build, maintain and operate a compressed gas refuelling facility at Bowling Back Lane in accordance with the requirements of Contract Standing Order 4.7.4.

Bradford Council officers also explained that the Council had also submitted its Final Business Case to the Government for the Bradford Clean Air Plan, to

achieve compliance with nitrogen dioxide legal limits in the shortest possible timeframe.

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee members were keen to explore the funding projections and viewed the projections as being vague and were keen to explore this further.

In response, Officers stated that the funding was for a period of 10 years and would be paid back based on the gas sales over the 10 years. Officers also highlighted to the Committee that they were also considering Prudential Borrowing, which would be based on the interest rates. As well as this, Councillors also heard that the project plan had been completed and the finances for this procurement project has been considered by the Executive. Bradford Councils Legal services had also been involved with this Procurement project.

Furthermore, members were keen to understand why the timeline for this Procurement exercise was challenging.

Officers indicated that this was due to preliminary work that needed to be undertaken to the site, which had been acquired. Moreover, members also heard that it would take a year for construction to take place on site and it would also take approximately nine months for the delivery of the gas vehicles.

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee members did welcome the scheme particularly in relation to its environmental benefits, however members did feel that finances and of this scheme should have been brought to this committee much earlier.

Continuing on from this, Councillors also wanted clarification in relation to the travelling community that was on site, with regards to the consultation that had been undertaken.

Bradford Council officers highlighted here that they had liaised with the Travellers Liaison Service, with a view to determining the best manner in consulting with the travelling community on site.

Resolved-

- (1) That the comments made by this Committee be considered as part of the procurement exercise for the Advanced Fuel Centre for Bradford.**
- (2) That future procurement reports should include the full financial information, to enable members to consider relevant information relating to financial management of the contract.**

Action: Strategic Director, Place

(Andrew Whittles – 07584 058868)

120. PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK UNDERTAKEN BY IMPOWER AND THE COUNCIL

This report focused on the progress made by the Council in partnership with IMPOWER, since the commencement of the new IMPOWER contract on 1 September 2020.

As previously requested by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee members, the report also included:

- A summary of the projects developed and being progressed which commenced in September 2020;
- Progress and benefits realisation, projects progress to date and the current and expected impact;
- Building capacity and resilience, the impact of work undertaken together on skills and expertise in the Council;
- Next steps.

Councillors were keen to know, if there were any plans to actually talk to the service users and if that was a part of the IMPOWER process.

In response, Bradford Council officers stated that IMPOWER were not directly impacting with people, but that Council employees were. However, IMPOWER did assist in project planning and part of their work was to pass on their skills. For instance, IMPOWER had been training Social Workers and Commissioners in Health and Social Care.

Furthermore, Councillors indicated that they understood the costs associated with this work, but that this work should really be about outcomes for the service users and were keen to explore how outcomes would be measured.

Bradford Council Officers responded by saying that they would be engaging with service users about outcomes and the improvements that the work undertaken as part of IMPOWER that have been made.

Resolved-

That a further progress report be presented to the Committee in March 2021, focusing specifically on outcomes from the work being delivered by IMPOWER.

Action: Strategic Director, Corporate Resources

(Ian MacBeath – 01274 432900)

121. WORK PROGRAMME

The report included the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2020-21, as well as the list of unscheduled topics.

The work programme also contained details of the scrutiny reviews, that the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee, is currently undertaking.

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee members discussed and made amendments to the work programme.

As well as this, members also discussed the ongoing Hate Crime and Domestic Violence Scrutiny Reviews, along with the work the Committee is undertaking in relation to Gambling.

Resolved-

Members considered and agreed to keep an overview of the work programme.

(Mustansir Butt – 01274 432574)

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

THIS AGENDA AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER