

## Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee held remotely on Wednesday, 17 March 2021

Commenced 6.00 pm  
Concluded 7.27 pm

### Present – Councillors

<b>LABOUR</b> Amran (Chair) A Hussain (alt) Engel Mohammed Nazir Shaheen (alt) Thirkill
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Apologies: Councillor Sameena Akhtar and Councillor Beverley Mullaney

### Councillor Amran in the Chair

#### 1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor Sinead Engel declared an interest as a former student of Huddersfield University (minute 7)

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

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

#### 3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

#### 4. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE NON-CLASSIFIED ROADS AND SURFACE DRESSING ALLOCATION FOR BRADFORD WEST - 2021/22

The Interim Strategic Director, Place presented a report (**Document “G”**) that provided Members with details of the allocation of the capital highway maintenance budget to the non-classified road network and surface dressing sites for 2021/22 in Bradford West.

It was essential that highway maintenance continued to be a priority with surveys carried out to selected sites which were in the greatest need of repairs and supplemented by roads which had further deteriorated due to age or as a result of recent winter weather.

Members were provided with the relevant financial information in relation to schemes both in Bradford West and for the District as a whole. Officers also provided a list of sites which were earmarked for works to be carried out and a substitute list which Members had the opportunity to request for inclusion in order to meet local highway maintenance concerns.

Members were then given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions, the details of which, and the responses given, are as below:

A Member raised the issue of uneven footpaths in Lower Grange and whether they would be looked at with a view to repairs. Officers advised that this would be carried out.

A Member commented on funding which needed to be transferred from Bradford East as it falls under Bradford West. Officers stated that this would be looked into accordingly.

**Resolved –**

**That the Bradford West Area Committee approved the proposed programme of works for as shown in Appendix 1 and 2 of Document “G”**

***Action: Interim Strategic Director, Place***

## **5. THE SMART STREET LIGHTING PROJECT UPDATE TO AREA COMMITTEE ON PROGRESS AND SCHEDULE**

The report of the Interim Strategic Director, Place (**Document “H”**) was presented to the Committee to provide Members with a progress report on the Smart Street Lighting Project. The report also contained an explanation of some of the processes and activities still to be completed and the positive and significant benefits that the project would produce.

Members were provided with Ward specific data to help them evaluate the benefit to their local areas.

The main aim of the project was to significantly reduce energy usage, maintenance costs and a reduction in the district’s carbon output. The majority of the work would be carried out by an external contractor who would be carrying out surveys of all the existing street lighting assets within the District. Surveys would also assist the Council in identifying upgrade works to lighting assets.

The delivery contractor had also pledged to fulfil a number of targets which had social value (e.g. apprenticeships, local suppliers and Duke of Edinburgh enrolment for employees under 23 years and 6 months of age). These would contribute benefits in the region of £3.8M.

It was intended to set up a webpage and designated email address for enquiries. Lantern by lantern energy savings would be available to view and would also enable regular reporting of energy savings and carbon usage reductions.

Members were then given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions, the details of which, and the responses given, are as below:

- A Member stated that complaints were being received that the scheme was taking longer and that lights were not being replaced
  - Officers advised that repairs were not part of the project and wiring for conversion takes longer. In the appendices of the report provided to members were details of arranged replacements, which depended on the reason for removal
- In terms of an Equality Impact Assessment, was gender taken into account i.e women being able to go out?
  - Officers advised that community safety formed part of their assessment but gender was not taken into account
- Could it be included in assessment recommendations?
  - Officers advised that they would look at the impact and pointed to £45m funding for Communities Safety but this related more to footpaths but could be reviewed for potential impacts
- Twenty three cut-downs had taken place in Clayton ward on the same walking route, when would the programme start?
  - Officers advised that the appendix to the report contained the outline timescale for installations to commence which was due in October 2021. Members were encouraged to contact Officers if any areas were impacted disproportionately
- Work was due to start in November 2021 in the ward, why were there so many emergency cut-downs? Assurances had been given that these would be addressed. How much of the project would benefit Bradford West?
  - Officers advised that specific details were not known at present and the cluster of cut down columns could be due to age or type. The Council's own officers were carrying out additional assessments following the contract survey
- Who was making the decision on lighting?
  - Officers stated that replacements were being made for 'life-expired' assets and old for new replacements were being carried out but there was no additional lighting
- Could the programme in Bradford West go ahead before Bradford South?
  - Officers advised that the project was being led by the contractor, starting in the south and working northwards. If cut-downs were an issue, Officers would look into the matter to see if they could assist. It was further clarified that only dangerous columns were being cut

down

- A Member also commented that claims could be made against the Council and the start date was not early enough. Officers stated that there was a significant cost premium to pay if installations were not part of the planned programme

**Resolved –**

- (1) That Members acknowledged the progress of the Smart Street Lighting project and welcome annual updates.**
- (2) That Members endorsed the project as a positive investment across the Bradford District bringing significant benefits overall.**

***Action: Interim Strategic Director, Place***

## **6. PROTECTING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS AT RISK OF EXPLOITATION**

The report of the Chief Executive's Office (**Document "I"**) was presented to the Committee to provide and update to the report previously presented to the Area Committee regarding the issue of Child Exploitation. The Bradford Partnership (TBP) scrutinised the District responses to this and provided professional challenge to those responses.

The report also focused on the strategic response to all forms of exploitation to children and adults and how partners were contributing to improve service provision across the District. Through collaborative working, awareness and understanding had been improved to enable professionals to recognise and respond to wider types of exploitation.

TBP partners have recognised the emergence of wider safeguarding themes within TBP Strategic Plan 2019/20 and the Risk and Vulnerabilities in Complex Safeguarding sub group have agreed on a district strategic response to exploitation under the following six headings.

- (1) Identify and understand the nature and scale of the themes involved.
- (2) Prevention, Education and Awareness
- (3) Safeguarding vulnerable people, groups and communities
- (4) Effective leadership and governance
- (5) Disrupt and Prosecute.
- (6) Communication, Engagement and Empowerment

Officers advised that partners finalised a strategic response to CE and to Risk and Vulnerabilities in Complex Safeguarding, publishing an Exploitation Protocol and a Risk Assessment tool. Front door arrangements within Children's Social Care were extended to address wider exploitation utilising new multi-agency processes. Training was continually provided by the Bradford District Police Cyber Team and other partners relating to exploitation and online safety.

The report provided details of the partner organisations involved and how

changes in legislation affected and guided Governance and Infrastructure. It also detailed the various categories of exploitation and how the partnership was working to tackle the issues raised. The report contained links guidance documents and to real life accounts of abuse plus a summary of the position in terms of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) within the District, how they were categorised and what they entailed.

Members were then given an opportunity to make comments and ask questions, the details of which and the responses given, are as below:

- Had the serious case review from the report been published and if so, where?
- Reference page 37 of the report, The Bradford Safeguarding Advisory Board, who had been commissioned?
- The work on the 'On the Buses' project had been paused due to Covid, when would be starting again?
- There had been a significant rise in the number of children removed from school roll since September. How were the authority staying on top of the situation and measuring this issue?
- From point 2.25 of the report, what organisations were involved and how was the Board made up?
  - Officers advised that commissions were not external but were undertaken by multi-agency partner boards (task and finish groups). The 'On the Buses' project arose out of work by the Adult group around Hate Crime and that bus drivers were being trained to help vulnerable adults who may be getting bullied. Education was high on the agenda with weekly information on non-attendance of vulnerable children being monitored by the Child Protection Board. It was not a statutory requirement for parents/carers to send children to school so assessments were carried out and support offered as legislation was significantly limited. Going forward children educated at home would not continue to receive the same level of school support as remote learning would not continue to be made available to them. Officers were already looking into the barriers against children returning to school. The authority was also working with the NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team)
- The numbers of children at risk per ten thousand was very high in two wards in particular, were these two wards being targeted for support?
  - Officers advised that there were areas based youth work teams who were working with the NPT to enforce and educate and tackle the issue of young people on the streets
- The data for Heaton showed that the number of children flagged as at risk went down in October 2020. Why was this, had the pandemic caused issues to be highlighted?
  - Officers stated that there was a growing concern with online vulnerability and disclosures may only rise once children were back with people they could trust. Children were invisible whilst at home during the pandemic making some risks difficult to detect. The 'MO' had changed with less use of public transport. Risks existed both

inside and outside families and offences had increased with children being at home

- How proactive were we and our partners being? More information should be made available to empower and raise awareness in young people
  - Officers stated that this was a consequence of children being at home as they were harder to reach. PCSO's were working in primary schools and training was offered to parents/carers. Secondary schools had the a choice to opt in to work jointly with Police who could support the curriculum work for keeping safe online
- A Member asked what kind of work was being done around children who were not attending school as they are vulnerable.
  - Officers advised that children who were not in school were already known to them and that youth working teams were engaging with them. Support started on the streets and would take them back to school or onto other opportunities.
- Was there any link between off rolling and child exploitation and how did the situation in wards in Bradford West compare with others in the District?
  - Officers advised that a huge amount of work had been carried out to ensure that schools were compliant had schools encouraging elective home education were dealt with. All children were identified and proactively followed up. Not all were in full time education but off rolling was not a huge issue.
- Members wanted to know what was being done to deter those off roll from engaging in criminal activity and were advised that there was a zero tolerance to off rolling and that schools were being held to account. There was a daily risk assessment meeting held and a very clear escalation process was in place when there was a risk of exploitation. Schools were also encouraging children back into school
- What happened with children who were on roll but not allowed into school (this was mainly in academies)?
  - The Education Safeguarding Team supported children doing transition. Schools were challenged around transition and children not being allowed into school but there were usually mitigating circumstances involved

**Resolved –**

- (1) That The Area Committee was invited to consider the contents of this report and how members can support local activity.**
- (2) That The Area Committee would receive a further update on the progress of the response to exploitation in 12 months' time.**
- (3) That Partners would seek further funding opportunities from Government funding streams to enable to continuation of**

**service provision as outlined in this report.**

***Action: Chief Executive***

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