

Minutes of a meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 11 January 2022 in City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 6.30 pm
Concluded 7.32 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Mohammed Kamran Hussain Cunningham Dearden Hussain	Heseltine Herd	Ahmed

Observers: Councillor Ross-Shaw

Apologies: Councillor Bob Felstead and Councillor Rachel Sunderland

Councillor Kamran Hussain in the Chair

73. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest received for matters under consideration.

74. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no referrals to the Committee.

75. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

76. FLY TIPPING IN THE BRADFORD DISTRICT

The report of the Strategic Director, Place (**Document “Q”**) was submitted to the Committee to provide an update on the work carried out by the Environmental Enforcement Team in relation to fly tipping, including the number of incidents and relevant waste data analysis.

The report detailed the area of responsibility in the context of waste management and how the Enforcement Team and associated workforce was structured and located. The report provided details of initiatives to raise awareness of recycling and to promote the bulky waste collection service. It covered a number of activities undertaken throughout the year and how problems around waste were being addressed.

Investment in CCTV – the Environmental Enforcement Team was allocated funding to allow proactive targeting of fly tippers in hotspots to deter and detect offenders. CCTV was also deployed to detect fly tipping on and around bonfire night, these included commercial dumping of toxic and hazardous waste which were all subject to investigation.

Capital funding had been allocated to remove waste and undertake works to defend land that was historically targeted for fly tipping.

A Police led initiative aimed at tackling vehicle crime named ‘Operation Steerside’ included multi agency collaboration to stop and search vehicles to check for compliance with the law. This has assisted in identifying vehicles illegally carrying waste with notices to produce waste carriers licences and waste transfer notes being issued.

In addition, the teams from Operation Steerside had worked together to seize vehicles involved in fly tipping. Four of the five vehicles seized this year were crushed as they were of no commercial resale value or were not roadworthy. Publicity was provided by local media receiving local and national coverage and encouragement from the public who welcomed the action being taken against environmental criminals.

The disposal of waste from cannabis farms had also contributed to the problem of fly tipping and a partnership approach with the Police was being explored to ensure that landlords disposed of the waste legally after Police had removed any evidence items from sites raided. A statutory notice would be issued that obligated the landlord to provide waste transfer notes or receipts to show that the waste from any farm had been legally disposed of and not simply dumped as commercial waste.

As part of the funding given to the Council to aid Covid recovery, an Environmental Task Force would operate for a period of 18 months to respond to environmental quality issues, litter and fly tipping and would also be involved to improve environmental quality across the District.

Officers also confirmed that a ‘Caught on Camera’ facility was being investigated and the matter had been referred to the legal team to check compliance with GDPR.

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

Members asked how the decision was made where to deploy CCTV camera and were advised that information was acted upon from a number of sources e.g. officers, street cleansing and councillors and could only be deployed on a

lamppost as it was needed as a power source. There were four types of camera in use and testing was underway using mobile phone technology. Officers were happy to receive proposals for more sites.

Members asked if there was any feedback on how well the cameras were capturing fly tipping incidents and what the source of the problem was, were people coming from outside the District for example. Members said that more information would be beneficial to alleviate concern.

Members asked what happened to tyres recovered in Worth Valley and whether they were recycled. Officers advised that they were stored and disposed of separately or recycled where possible. They also stated that it was often more expensive to recycle and it was a government led process in charging for disposal.

A Member queried the placement and number of cameras in a particular area as there was a particular problem with littering. Officers stated that there was a high turnover of staff but would be happy to discuss individual issues outside the meeting.

Fly tipping across the District amounted to small quantities and Members asked if it was possible to do something about it and whether the resources were available to tackle it. Members also wanted to know whether queues were deterring the use of HWRC's. Officers advised that the reduced number of bays available had likely contributed to formation of queues and this could have impacted on fly-tipping. Wardens encouraged residents to use the recycling centres and to make use of the bulky waste service.

The difficulty with tackling fly tipping was that evidence had to be completely secure and beyond doubt and it was difficult to identify where it was coming from. There was a householder duty of care which could result in a fine if not using a registered company to dispose of waste but the origin of the waste had to be beyond doubt. 'cowboy' operators were being targeted via social media to try and tackle the problem from another perspective. Taking cash for bulky collections was just one of the methods being tried also.

A Member asked if working with companies who already worked with the Council to do joint enforcement work and were advised that it had been tried previously to tackle litter but the team feel that the service could do it better themselves.

The role and effectiveness of Wardens was briefly discussed with Officers stating the Environmental Task Force would add resource to encourage behaviour changes and be more proactive. The team were looking at best practice and were due to attend the 'Keep Britain Tidy' conference to support their efforts and initiatives. Communications work had been carried out in targeted areas for which a formal report would be drafted but the impact was difficult to measure in the transient private rental sector.

The amount charged for fines was discussed and Members asked how the money was used. Officers advised that some went back into environmental work such as cameras. However, fines went to the Ministry of Justice. A report would be presented to show how and where any funds from fines had been re-invested.

Resolved –

That a report be presented annually to this Committee.

Action: Strategic Director, Place

77. PROCUREMENT OF THE MANAGED MIGRATION RESETTLEMENT SERVICE CONTRACT

The report of the Assistant Director (**Document "R"**) was submitted to the Committee to advise Members regarding a forthcoming tender opportunity in compliance with Contracts Standing Orders as the value exceeded £2 million.

Bradford participated in contracts to resettle refugees on a voluntary basis and all costs were met by central Government. The existing contract was due to end on 31 July 2022. The report included the details of people who had been resettled by the Council between 2016-2021 which totalled 704 in all.

The tender would include taking into account the government's resettlement commitment and would consist of five elements including housing, wrap around support, English language lessons (ESOL) and Employment support . There would be other additional elements that would be contracted out including school places, healthcare, therapeutic support, social care needs and early help support. For clarification the report included the definition of what is meant by asylum seeker and refugee and the differences between them. It also covered the legal and financial implications so that Members would be informed in relation to all implications of the contract.

Officers further advised that the government was committed to resettling 20,000 Afghan citizens by 2025.

Members were then given the opportunity to comment or ask questions, the details of which and the replies received are as below:

In relation to ESOL classes, how would Officers ensure that people attended them? Officers responded that participation was generally high in this particular group and there was a focus on women and children.

Resolved –

That the comments made by Members be considered as part of the procurement process.

Action: Assistant Director, Place

78. WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Chair (**Document "S"**) was submitted to provide Members with the work plan for the current municipal year for review and comment.

Resolved –

That the Work Programme continued to be regularly reviewed during the year.

Action: Overview and 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