

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee held on Thursday, 1 December 2022 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 6.00 pm
Concluded 7.35 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR
D Green
S Khan
Dodds
Tait
Walsh

Apologies: Councillor Matt Edwards

Councillor D Green in the Chair

30. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

In the interest of transparency Members declared an interest in the following items:

- (i) In relation to the Update on the Work of the Libraries Service (Minute 35) Councillor Green (Chair) stated that his partner worked in the Library Service.
- (ii) In relation to the Neighbourhood Wardens & Environmental Enforcement Offices (Minute 36) Councillor Dodds stated that her son was employed as a Council Warden.

ACTION: Director of Legal & Governance

31. **INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

32. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions submitted by the public.

33. **BRADFORD OPPORTUNITY AREA: BRADFORD SOUTH**

The Opportunity Area Programme (2017 – 2022) focused on supporting

disadvantaged children and young people, and utilised the DfE's investment through education to improve social mobility. Close to £15m has been invested in Bradford by the end of the programme which ceased in July 2022.

The Programme Director (former Bradford Opportunity Area) submitted a report (**Document "M"**) which sets out activity focused on the Bradford South Area.

It was explained that in 2018 the Bradford Opportunity Area programme was allocated £5.6m (part of the £15m) in funding from DfE to deliver a range of extra-curricular activities that develop non-cognitive abilities, collectively named 'essential life skills' (ELS).

The programme invested in a wide range of activity aimed at tackling social mobility through the lens of education. Appendix 1 summarised activity focused on the Bradford South Area.

The DfE's Bradford Opportunity Area Programme has now formally come to an end and the DfE are in the process of transitioning to the new Priority Area work and also building a legacy through an 'Education Alliance for Life Chances'.

DfE's Priority Area's programme identified 55 Education Investment Areas (EIAs) through the Levelling Up White Paper (Feb 2022). The Schools White Paper (Mar 2022), then identified 24 Priority Areas which will see more intensive investment and a package of measures to drive school improvement and improve pupil outcomes. They are a subset of EIAs, and comprise of the 12 former DfE Opportunity Areas and 12 other EIAs that have particularly low attainment and high rates of disadvantage. Bradford is identified as one of these Priority Areas. The focus for this work is to be confirmed and will be overseen by an independent Partnership Board.

During the discussion a member ascertained how the work undertaken under the initiative would continue to be supported into the future and what impact Covid had had during the delivery of the Programme. In response it was stated that a system had been in place with schools during the pandemic, with regular meetings held to ensure programme delivery and it was envisaged that these links will be maintained into the future. One of the issues that had come to light during delivery of the Programme was the digital inequalities that exist and measures had been put in place to address this deficit.

The Chair ascertained if there was an easy read version of the document available, so that parents and other interested parties could learn lessons and glean some information from the work undertaken. In response it was stated that some of the key messages were being disseminated so it resonated with communities. The Chair suggested that libraries, community organisations as well as Councillors would be a good point of contact going forward.

In response to a question regarding a future programme and what work the DfE were undertaking to disseminate the work done so far, it was stated that a new DfE programme was being envisaged and subject to the funding, links can be made with the existing programme, stressing that there was a focus

not to try and reinvent the wheel with any new programme that came on stream.

A Member commented that it was important that the work undertaken so far under the Opportunity Area banner continues and that the Partnership Board should further develop the legacy, with wider representation from the community and voluntary sector. In respect of locality working more work needed to be done to get a better understanding of the data sets.

The Chair stated that an opportunity might have been missed by choosing to only work in three wards, as there were other areas with huge educational /health challenges. In response it was acknowledged that the ambition should be to work across all areas, and how this can be achieved will be looked at.

Resolved –

- (1) That the programme investment and progress be noted for information including the lessons learned and recommendations from the evaluation report.**
- (2) That the Partnership Board considers extending its activities to other parts of the Bradford district as soon as possible in consultation with Ward Councillors and community organisations.**
- (3) That a report be submitted in 12 months' time from the Partnership Board on the delivery of the new programme**

ACTION: The Programme Director

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Children's Services

34. BEACON ROAD - REVIEW OF TRAFFIC CONDITIONS

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document "K"**) which reviewed current traffic conditions on Beacon Road including traffic collisions and survey data and considered potential options for interventions.

The Principal Highways Engineer stated that following a discussion at the July meeting, a request was made to bring a report back to the Area Committee on traffic conditions on the road and possible interventions.

A Ward Councillor and Member of this Committee stated that residents had raised concerns with her regarding the issues on Beacon Road including vehicle speed and pedestrian injuries, so any scheme needed to address these issues. In response it was stated the measures could be considered as part of the Safe Roads Programme.

In response to a question regarding the times and duration of the speed survey and the criteria for installing speed cameras, it was stressed that the traffic survey was undertaken over a five day period including part of a weekend to give a reasonable picture of the volume and speed of traffic. In relation to the criteria for installing speed enforcement cameras, collisions and recorded speeds and

evidence that speed was a factor in those collisions were the criteria used.

The Chair highlighted that instead of just showing average speeds it would be important to see what the range of speed of vehicles using Beacons Road, in order to give a better picture. He stressed that planning development in an area generally added to highway safety concerns, and therefore more emphasis needs to be placed on this aspect through the planning process.

Resolved -

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.**
- (2) That the addition of items for Traffic Calming, a 20mph speed limit and/or additional pedestrian facilities be added to the waiting list for Safe Roads measures.**
- (3) That in light of the requests for highway safety measures following development or change of use granted by planning, that the Assistant Director Transportation, Design and Planning be requested to review current planning policy in light of subsequent evidence that there are serious highways implication arising from planning decisions.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Place / Assistant Director Transportation Design & Planning

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Regeneration & Environment

35. UPDATE ON THE WORK OF LIBRARIES IN BRADFORD SOUTH

The Strategic Director Place submitted a report (**Document “L”**) which provided an update on Bradford Libraries Service since the previous report to this Committee about Libraries, in January 2022. It summarised overall developments in the Service since then, as well as a more detailed update on libraries in the South area.

During the discussion, a Member commended the excellent engagement work undertaken at Brackenhill and that community libraries benefitted from this innovative programme.

In response to a question regarding engagement work with schools, it was stressed that this work was progressing in earnest. In addition there was an effort to engage more with the community and voluntary sector, as well as the youth service and improve links with Libraries.

A Member suggested that the link between Libraries and the wider services being provided in communities needed to be made stronger and be better integrated. In response it was stated that this was a crucial area of development to understand better what Libraries were being used for, and how additional services could be co-located, where beneficial and appropriate for the community.

Resolved –

- (1) That the progress that has been made since the previous report to this Committee and ways in which local libraries can contribute to the priorities in the Local Area Plan be noted.**

- (2) That Libraries continue to work closely with local Councillors and Neighbourhood Teams on the development of local library plans.

ACTION: Strategic Director Place

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Healthy People & Places

36. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS & ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The Bradford South Area Coordinator submitted a report (**Document “N”**) which provided information on the work of the Neighbourhood Wardens and Environmental Enforcement Officers in Bradford South.

During the discussion, a number of Members raised issues around NS admin and that all queries regardless of it being from a Councillor were dealt with in accordance with the normal response deadlines. In response the way queries were dealt and actioned was explained, and it was stressed that NS admin was principally an inbox for the enforcement team, and Members were advised that a separate email should also be sent to the relevant officer, so that an appropriate response can be provided.

Resolved –

- (1) That the progress made of the Environmental Enforcement & Neighbourhood Warden Service since the last report in December 2021 be noted.
- (2) That a further report is brought to the Area Committee in 12 months' time.

ACTION: Bradford South Area Coordinator

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Corporate/Regeneration and Environment

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Bradford South Area Committee.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER