

Minutes of a meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday, 21 February 2023 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.35 pm
Concluded 7.40 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	GREEN	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Mohammed K Hussain Cunningham Dearden M Hussain Rowe	Herd	Watson	Elahi

Observers: Cllr Brendan Stubbs, Cllr Nazam Azam, Cllr Joe Wheatley
Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw – Portfolio Holder Regeneration, Planning and Transport
Cllr Sarah Ferriby – Portfolio Holder Healthy People and Places

Councillor K Hussain in the Chair

61. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

62. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Although Councillor Stubbs attended as an observer only, he declared in the interests of transparency that his wife had received some funding from City of Culture for work as a dance artist.

63. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 be held as a correct record.

64. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

65. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Resolved –

That the review on Private Rented Housing across Bradford be added to the Committee's Work Programme.

66. AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF ACTIVE BRADFORD'S JU:MP PROGRAMME

A detailed report was presented that provided Members with an update on the progress made by the JU:MP Programme in Bradford. The report incorporated information in response to questions that had been posed by Members at a previous meeting of the Committee. The report described the highlights of the programme such as eight local JU:MP Action Groups, the creation of Active Schools as well as the research that was taking place simultaneously.

Following the report, the Committee posed several questions the details of which and the responses given are as below.

A Member asked how the programme would help build activity into the normal day, whether it would tie in with active travel and active neighbourhoods and how such a joined-up approach would work. Officers stated that active travel was important and that they were working with two active travel advisors to promote it. Officers also informed the Committee that they worked with several Mosques and Madrassahs throughout Bradford to promote physical activity.

A Member questioned how physical activity might be maintained once the project ends and whether it would leave a sustainable legacy. Officers advised Members that they encouraged sustainable habits wherever possible so they can continue after the project ends. Officers noted the progress made on changing behaviour habits to make people more active not just during the programme but in the long term. Officers also acknowledged that consultation was underway with Sport England to see if a longer-term project was possible.

The Committee sought further information regarding the investment of £11 million and whether sustainability had been built into the funding in relation to the upkeep of parks that had been developed. Officers advised Members that maintenance costs were not included in the funding received from Sport England however they

worked closely with the Parks and Recreation Team to address this challenge. Peel Park was provided as an example of sustainable development. Officers highlighted the earth mounds and nature play that made the site more robust and required less upkeep.

Members asked how the programme occurred, which bodies were involved in the early stages of the programme and whether it would be expanded further. In response Members were informed that the programme could be rolled out further across the district. Officers then explained the process of the programme, they detailed the opportunity for Tier 3 funding from Sport England and the subsequent application that was submitted by Active Bradford on behalf of the local authority. Officers stated that numerous bodies worked together and were involved, in the early stages and the bid, such as Yorkshire Sports Foundation, Active Bradford, Born in Bradford.

Members inquired about the funding (£10,000) given to schools, how it had been spent and if any case studies were available to show the impact it had. Officers told Members that in-depth research was underway, and the aim was to embed active lifestyles into the school. The research would include an audit of the school day which would demonstrate how and where active learning had taken place. Officers also advised that the approach was sustainable as the funding allocated to schools would allow staff to be trained to deliver active learning so a long-term impact would be seen. The Committee were informed that case studies would be shared in the future.

Members queried the role of the Bradford Youth Development Programme as well as the BYDP: Jump Connector, and what they had delivered in exchange for the investment given (£93,000) and (£95,000) respectively. Officers told the Committee that all Jump Connectors provided information on the number of children they have worked with and the work they carried out. Officers noted that impact could be followed up on in future reports to give information on the changes in activity and where the changes had occurred.

A Member sought clarity in relation to a statistic in the report that detailed a 3% increase since the start of COVID in the number of inactive adults. Officers acknowledged the challenges that COVID brought and informed the Committee that a reduction in physical activity levels was observed nationally during this period. Officers noted the work done during COVID to promote exercise and physical activity at home.

The Committee asked whether a timescale of further expansion across the district was available. Officers told Members that they were keen to keep momentum and aim to roll the programme out further. It was noted that the programme was funded up to June 2024, but officers hoped to extend the programme.

A Member queried a figure in relation to how many families had joined the JU:MP Programme due to conflicting figures on the report and on the social marketing website MAGPIE. Officers informed the Committee that the report contained the most up to date figures and data.

Members asked about DUBIT, and the progress made on the app, in response officers informed Members that the app was still being developed by DUBIT.

Officers expressed the need to develop things whilst the funding was available and highlighted the potential impact of the app.

Resolved –

- 1. That the progress made by the JU:MP programme be noted and that the work undertaken be commended.**
- 2. That a further progress report be presented in twelve months' time.**

Action: Strategic Director, Place

67. UK CITY OF CULTURE 2025 - PROGRESS REPORT

Officers summarised the report and gave a detailed presentation which provided the Committee with an update on the progress following Bradford's designation as UK City of Culture 2025. Officers highlighted the challenges that Bradford faced due to the geographic scale of the district, the largest UK City of Culture, as well as the impact of COVID which meant that the timeframe to deliver was shortened. Officers highlighted the need to work collaboratively. The presentation informed the Committee of the various themes that were driving the City of Culture preparations. Officers highlighted the necessity of public engagement in the build up to 2025 through various projects such as Taste:BD (food and drink festival) and BD: Is LiT (light festival). The presentation stressed the impacts that the year of culture was predicted to have such as 15.5 million visitors, roughly 7000 jobs created, and officers were optimistic about the return on investment. Officers informed Members that the recruitment of 4000 volunteers had started, and that Members would be kept updated with any further progress.

The Committee agreed with Officers regarding the potential brought by City of Culture and stressed the importance of working with the community and other partners to ensure district readiness and engagement. The Chair gave Members the opportunity to ask questions, the details of which and the responses given are as below.

A Member queried how it would be ensured that all the district feels the impact of the City of Culture and how this might happen. Officers informed the Committee that they intended to work with all 30 wards in Bradford, they would embed artists in the community to give the opportunity for engagement. Officers also noted the planned engagement from schools across the Bradford district. Further to this point Members stated that there was a need to ensure that all voices within the community are heard hence the importance to engage with communities and Councillors. Officers echoed the sentiments of the Committee and assured Members that engagement was a priority, and that Members could assist by encouraging engagement within their own wards.

A Member described the routes into the city via train and highlighted the litter accumulation and asked what could be done about this. Officers told the Committee that they were dependent on other partners, but dialogue was taking place with Network Rail to find a solution. Officers added that conversations were underway with Northern Rail to look at train schedules to ensure they will meet

the demands for inflated passenger numbers due to a predicted increase in visitors due to City of Culture.

Members asked if the City of Culture would reach beyond Bradford Central for example would it celebrate the 250-year anniversary of Five Rise Locks. Officers informed Members that conversation was underway with Canal and Rivers Trust to look at how the history of Bradford's canals might be celebrated. Officers stated that the recognition of the history of Bradford was important and had the potential to draw more visitors.

Members of the Committee asked what would factor into City of Culture and whether working men's clubs and entertainers such as Billy Pearce would be celebrated. The Creative Director of Bradford 2025 told Members that the year would embrace all sides of Bradford's culture and would include both traditional and non-traditional arts venues.

A Member asked about recruitment, specifically how many people would be needed, and officers informed Members that recruitment was going well, and the team was planned to consist of around 70-90 people, supplemented by freelance artists. Officers noted the localised approach to recruitment and that many people had been recruited from within Bradford.

A Member sought clarity regarding the impacts of greenhouse gases from the City of Culture and whether it would be possible to look at a sustainable, carbon neutral approach. Officers advised that work would take place to mitigate the impacts that increased visitor levels may have upon greenhouse gases.

The Committee asked how expectations could be managed and acknowledged that not everyone within the district would be equally engaged. Officers advised that regular dialogue would take place in relation to funding decisions which would allow for expectations to be managed. Officers added that lots of information had been learned from previous UK Cities of Culture and that a collaborative relationship between delivery and Council was essential.

Resolved –

- 1. That the content of the report be noted.**
- 2. That a further update be presented in 6 months.**

Action: Strategic Director, Place

68. DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER SQUIRE LANE HEALTH AND WELLBEING FACILITY

Officers provided the Committee with a summary of the report that provided an overview of the procurement strategy for the appointment of a contractor to construct a Leisure, Community and Wellbeing Centre on Squire Lane in Bradford. Officers told the Committee that the third option, Design & Build Contract Two Stage Tender Process, set out in the report was the preferred option. The Committee were also informed that approval to progress to Stage 3

had been received from Executive.

Members referenced inflation and asked whether officers remained confident that the project could be delivered within the proposed budget or if it would need to be updated to reflect the increased costs. Officers told the Committee that they remained confident that the project could be delivered within budget. Officers acknowledged the risk brought by inflation but assured Members that costs would be monitored closely at every stage.

Members of the Committee asked about the planned engagement process with the community and what areas it would encompass. Officers advised that the plan was to engage as widely as possible to maximise the amount of feedback. The Committee concurred with the importance of engagement and agreed that it would be beneficial to engage with not just the closest wards.

Members queried the impacts of greenhouse gases as well as the impacts of increased traffic due to people driving to the facility. Officers informed the Committee that information regarding greenhouse gases and traffic could be brought in a further report in the future. Officers told Members that attempts would be made to incentivise people to walk to the facility, but parking facilities would be necessary.

Resolved –

- 1. That the report be noted.**
- 2. That a progress update on the development of the Squire Lane health and wellbeing facility be presented to the Committee in twelve months' time.**

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

69. WORK PROGRAMME 22-23

The Work Programme was briefly discussed.

Resolved –

That a review of the Private Rented Sector across Bradford be added to the Work Programme.

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