

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford West Area Committee held on 18 March 2015 at City Hall, Bradford

Commenced	1804
Concluded	1945

PRESENT – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Sykes	Dunbar	Ahmed
	Engel	Collector
	Arshad Hussain	
	Mohammed	

Councillor Arshad Hussain in the Chair

60. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

61. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

62. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions submitted by the public.

63. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE NON-CLASSIFIED ROADS AND SURFACE DRESSING ALLOCATION FOR BRADFORD WEST - 2015/16

All Wards in Bradford West

The report of the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Culture (**Document “AH”**) provided information on Capital Highway Maintenance funding for 2014/15 – 2015/16 and made recommendations on the allocation for Non-Classified road resurfacing schemes and Surface Dressing sites in Bradford West for 2015/16.

The Principal Engineer was present and gave a synopsis of the report.



The Committee queried whether the City ward received a larger share of funding as opposed to other wards as it was being the central point of Bradford. In response, it received an equal amount with other wards but in addition, there was also a separate source of funding for the City ward which was managed separately as the ward entailed a significant amount of network roads.

The Committee commented on the fact that the specifications of surface dressing needed to be looked at further as it seemed that work was continuously delivered poorly and not lasting on a long term basis and the revisiting of schemes entailed the loss of valuable funding and resources.

Resolved –

That the proposed programme of works for 2015/16 as shown in Appendices 2 and 3, attached to Document “AH” be approved.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Environment and Waste Management

ACTION: Strategic Director, Regeneration and Culture

64. STREET LIGHTING COLUMN REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2013-2014 FINAL COSTS

All Wards in Bradford West

The report of the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Culture (**Document “AI”**) sought to advise the Area Committee regarding the final cost of the schemes completed in 2013-2014 from the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan Funding.

The Principal Engineer was present and gave a synopsis of the report.

The Chair expressed his curiosity to the overall completion of work especially in relation to aspect of costing. Dissatisfaction was expressed as to the number of columns completed for Toller Lane as there was no real value for money achieved following completion; other alternatives had to be considered even if it meant consulting with other authorities. The fact that columns were not as bright as they should be was also a significant issue for the area. He also considered that there was a lack of detailed clarity contained within the report. Another Member of the Committee highlighted that Heaton and Thornton & Allerton wards had not received any works in 2013/14.

In response the Principal Engineer confirmed that he could bring a more detailed report at future meetings. The authority was now looking into other alternatives such as LED equipment. There was a charge of around a £430 per network start up. The authority was also looking at the purchasing services from different companies who may provide a better value for money service.

Resolved –

That the information regarding the utilisation of funding be noted.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Environment and Waste Management

ACTION: Strategic Director, Regeneration and Culture

65. **ARRANGEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL AND ITS PARTNERS TO TACKLE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

All Wards in Bradford West

The report of the Strategic Director, Children's Services (**Document "AM"**) highlighted issues relevant to the Area Committee which arose from the resolution passed unanimously by Council on 21st October 2014 regarding child sexual exploitation (CSE) and from the attached detailed report accepted by the Council Executive on 13 January 2015, regarding the same issue.

The Assistant Director, Children's Specialist Services and the Bradford Safeguarding Children Board Manager were both in attendance and introduced the report. They also mentioned that today was the National Working Group's (NWG) first National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day and local authorities across the country were uniting against child sexual exploitation. It aimed to encourage everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children.

Child Sexual Exploitation was a form of sexual abuse that involved the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity. The NWG was a network dedicated to helping combat child sexual exploitation, by raising awareness and providing information and support to voluntary and statutory services.

A question and answer session ensued:

- Was the authority confident in doing enough to educate the wider community?
 - More could be done as there was not enough to just gain from one campaign and officers were working hard to achieve maximum outcome. The Police and Crime Commissioner had awarded delegated funds. Extensive work was being undertaken in schools and equally developing consistent approaches in private schools. The authority was intending to do more through further events and extensive work was being undertaken with youths. On a national level, it was about making young people confident in themselves and there were even plans of making this issue part of the curriculum in schools;
- How were new communities being educated?
 - There were cultural differences and therefore professionals in various cultures were working within this area. Nevertheless messages were being communicated across all communities;
- How much work was being invested into schools, private schools and how was the message being put across to children that were being home tutored?
 - Input in child exploitation classes were specifically devised for schools. Many schools include Pupil Referral Units were ensuring that there was additional material for students. Larger schools in the district were taking up education material and the authority was in talks with smaller schools to encourage in them taking up information. Regarding children being home tutored, it was ensured that there was at least one welfare visit a year but unfortunately the Local Authority was not always notified that children were being home tutored.
- What form of support was given to parents in relation to online grooming?
 - To train professionals to enable them to deliver training and give specialist support to parents tailored for specific interventions. The fact that many parents were not proficient in the use of ICT and therefore there were basic programmes to assist parents in their shortfall.

- How many referrals had the Police received?
 - There had been over 400 referrals. There had also been around 640 crimes committed against children this year. In relation to specifics of crimes or referrals, this was information that the Police would not share. However since April 2015 there had been a significant number of CSE, some required preventative work, some required support and some were referred to the Police due to the nature of the crime;
- Clarification was sought on how information was communicated to Mosques?
 - Bradford Safeguarding Children Board and the Council's Children's Services had a partnership with the Bradford Council for Mosques and Keighley Muslim Association to support Mosques and Madrassahs throughout the District to deliver good safeguarding children arrangements. This had provided opportunities to deliver key messages about a range of safeguarding issues, including CSE, in training events for staff and volunteers and in meetings with parents. This was being monitored continuously by the Council but there were still challenges;
- Information contained in the report stated that in addition to Asian suspects, there were also white British suspects involved in CSE and in terms of online grooming, the information contained in the public domain, the majority of suspected offenders were said to be white, middle-aged men, was this information correct?
 - There were several different models of grooming as perpetrators came from all backgrounds; and,
- Could this Committee be ensured that all groups were being supported as there was no mention of Churches, Scout Groups? It seemed that one particular ethnic group was being highlighted as the suspects and not others?
 - However misconstrued the contents of the report may seem, this report was a snapshot of CSE in the district.

The Committee and officers made comments as follows; a number of schools were buying services from elsewhere as opposed to using the authority's services; it was important to tread carefully as the media was hunting for stories in the Bradford area; a strong message had to be delivered across the district that all forms of grooming were unacceptable; there had been a higher number of prosecutions of Pakistani men than any other ethnic group; many children were networking with strangers on social media; and, it was important for the authority to support and educate parents on CSE.

Resolved –

- (1) That having considered Executive Document "AM", Bradford West Area Committee requests that its views and comments be taken into consideration during the Council's operational approach in exercising its duties to keep children safe from child sexual exploitation in the Bradford West area.**
- (2) That the Strategic Director, Children's Services be requested to submit a further report in September 2015, on the progress made in keeping children in the Bradford West area safe from child sexual exploitation.**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Children's Services
ACTION: Strategic Director, Children's Services

66. **COMMUNITY CHEST**

All Wards in Bradford West

The report of the Interim Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Customer Services (**Document “AK”**) detailed the Community Chest Grants awarded from applications received from 1st July 2014 – 31st December 2014 for the benefit of communities within Bradford West.

Resolved –

- (1) **That the wide range of applications from groups, organisations and individuals across Bradford West are noted and welcomed.**
- (2) **That the Bradford West Area Co-ordinator’s Office continue to ensure the effective allocation of the Community Chest Budget by providing appropriate advice and support to applicants.**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Corporate
LEAD: Strategic Director, Environment and Sport**

Chair

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

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