

Minutes

RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

24 January 2018



Meeting held at Committee Room 3 - Civic Centre,
High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW

	<p>Committee Members Present: Councillors Michael White (Chairman), Michael Markham (Vice-Chairman), Tony Burles, Patricia Jackson, Allan Kauffman, Brian Stead, Jazz Dhillon (in place of Kuldeep Lakhmana) and John Morse (in place of Lynne Allen)</p> <p>LBH Officers Present: Val Beale (Environmental Specialist, Planning Specialist Team), Bill Hickson (Anti-Social Behaviour and Environment Team Manager), Edward Davis (Senior ASB and Environment Officer), Steve Hajioff (Director of Public Health), Dan Kennedy (Deputy Director, Housing, Environment, Education, Health & Wellbeing and Residents Services), Gregory Pike (Finance Manager), Carolyn Stanton (Finance Business Partner) and Brian Colyer (Operations/FM and Contracts Manager)</p> <p>Also present: Ana Grossinho (Air Quality Expert)</p>
35.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Judy Kelly.</p> <p>Apologies were also received from Cllr Kuldeep Lakhmana, with Cllr Jazz Dhillon substituting and Cllr Lynne Allen, with Cllr John Morse substituting.</p>
36.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
37.	<p>TO CONFIRM THAT ALL ITEMS MARKED PART 1 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND THAT ANY ITEMS MARKED PART 2 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>It was confirmed that all items on the agenda would be considered in public.</p>
38.	<p>TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting on 21 November 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.</p>

39. **DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS REPORT FOR RESIDENTS SERVICES 2018/19**
(Agenda Item 5)

The Committee considered a report on the draft revenue budget and capital programme for the services within the remit of the Residents Policy Overview Committee 2018/19, along with indicative projections for the following four years.

Following consideration by the Cabinet on 14 December 2017, these proposals were under consultation and discussed at each Policy Overview Committee. The proposals were next due to be considered by Cabinet on 15 February 2018 and the report would include comments from the Policy Overview Committees. Following that meeting of Cabinet, full Council would meet on 22 February 2018 to agree the budgets and council tax for 2018/19.

Overall, it was reported that despite the Council continuing to operate within the constraints of Government's deficit reduction programme, in addition to continuing demographic and demand pressures, the London Borough of Hillingdon still retained healthy balances. The Council was still also able to freeze council tax for a tenth consecutive year.

The report gave details of the savings proposals to meet the budget gap and respond to the increases in costs pressures and contingency plans for development and risk. Officers gave a verbal summary of the key details.

The Council's financial performance during 2017/18 remained strong with an under spend of £980k projected across revenue budgets at Month 7 (September 2017) and £14,460k of the £15,508k savings programme either already banked or on track for delivery.

Locally raised income from council tax and business rates was expected to grow by £4,905k as a result of strength in taxbases. This would however be off-set by a reduction in government funding, necessitating the identification of savings to deliver a balanced budget

£250k of the sum for Priority Growth remained uncommitted at this stage but the remainder consisted of the following areas:

- £1,000k resources committed to meeting capital financing costs associated with the Council's flagship schools expansion programme
- £576k to support operation for a new Waste and Recycling centre
- £84k investment in a Bulky Waste Collection service for residents
- £250k per annum funding for the Metropolitan Police to continue the operation of Uxbridge Police Station
- £200k support for an expanded youth offer from the Council
- £200k additional funding for Counter Fraud Activity to ensure the Council protected its finances
- £139k further growth for the expanded Museums and Archives Service in addition to the £140k allocated in 2017/18

During Member discussion, it was reported:

- A suggested site had been identified for the Yiewsley swimming pool but had not yet been finalised or agreed.

- A suggested site had also been identified for a waste and recycling centre in the south of the borough, but the details of this had not yet been finalised.
- For both of these sites there was a budget available and also contingency plans if the budget overran.
- The government had imposed a reduction which enabled the Council's Housing Revenue Account budgets to deliver a 1% reduction in rents for existing tenants in 2018/19.
- Previous targets had been met in relation to creating 545 affordable homes for residents by 2022/23 and these figures would be circulated to Members as additional information.

Some Members indicated that further changes would be suggested at the Council budget meeting.

Overall, the Committee supported the budget but appreciated that there were some issues in financing.

RESOLVED -

- 1) The Committee agreed that there was some good work being undertaken to benefit residents in areas such as the schools expansion programme, music services and adult education. This would be good for the health and wellbeing of residents. The Committee thanked officers for their input and efforts.**
- 2) The additional information in relation to targets and affordable housing would be circulated to Members.**

40. MAJOR REVIEW 2017-18 - REVISION OF AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN FOR THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON- WITNESS SESSION AND DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS (Agenda Item 6)

The Committee heard evidence from a number of witnesses in relation to its major review.

Car parking charges

The Committee was provided with details on differential parking charges for different vehicles (diesel/petrol/electric). There were several local authorities with different schemes ranging from free parking permits for low emission vehicles to increased surcharges for diesel vehicles.

Officers outlined details of the work done in Merton Council which considered Merton's Air Quality Parking Project. Some of the changes introduced included residents or businesses being subjected to a surcharge if they were issued diesel engine vehicle permits. A reduced fee was being introduced for permits for residents that used electric vehicles.

The Committee discussed the possibility of introducing a similar system. It was acknowledged that the London Borough of Hillingdon had a number of industries that used diesel and homeowners that used diesel cars. This was national issue which needed to be implemented all over the country. There was also a concern that residents on low incomes would be affected as they may not be able to afford to replace a diesel car.

Focus areas and monitoring strategies

The Committee was provided with detailed information on air quality monitoring around the Borough. Maps were also provided at the meeting to assist Members to visualise the coverage.

Discussion took place and it was reported that the south of the Borough had the most continue monitoring. A method that could be used to monitor air quality was through the use of diffusion tubes. Focus areas were identified which included Hayes and Ruislip.

Discussion also took place around whether traffic lights and roundabouts caused more pollution. It was reported that if the speed was low emissions tended to be higher but a number of factors contributed to this. Results about air quality in focus areas were shared with the planning departments. There was a general consensus that in order to manage this issue nationally, the government and manufacturers needed to work together. There was no assumption that Hillingdon could get rid of pollution, but have strong strategies in place to manage pollution.

Public Health implications of poor air quality

The Committee was provided with information on the impacts of air pollution on health.

It was reported that there were a number of pollutants that caused air pollution, but the main ones of concerns were particulates, ground level ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide. The health impacts varied in that there could be short term and long terms effects. A number of proven effective strategies were in place to manage pollution which included the reduction of emission from coal fired power plants, banning the use of polluting fuels in urban centres and improvements to access public transportation.

Discussion took place on how the Borough could best manage this issue and it was reported that ending the sale of new concentration petrol and diesel cars could help and reducing the emissions of damaging air pollutants.

Local Authority Pollution, Prevention and Control

The Committee heard information on the industries that were regulated to reduce pollution and the relevant legislation applicable. It was reported that the permits were issued to set controls and emission standards to minimise pollution from certain industrial activities. The main source of toxic air pollutants from dry cleaners was the solvent used in the cleaning process.

Council's Fleet of vehicles and reductions in energy

The Committee was provided with information on the Council's fleet of vehicles and reductions in energy. It was informed that the Council spent approximately £500k on electricity in the civic centre. In June LED lighting was implemented in the Civic centre which replaced 1,100 fittings and was projected to save the Council £29 k per annum.

The Council was working with its energy suppliers to update its meeting infrastructure with new automatic meter reading meters. This would assist in reducing emissions from vehicles. New buildings also had to meet energy efficient requirements.

A new fleet manager had been appointed. LED streetlights were also being implemented which would reduced emissions. Overall CRC emissions had fallen by 19% since the 2014-2015 reporting year.

Recommendations

Prior to the meeting, Members were provided with ideas for suggested recommendations. The Committee discussed these ideas and made a number of recommendations. These recommendations will be refined and circulated to Members for approval in due course.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the witnesses be thanked for the evidence submitted and the information be used as part of the review.**
- 2. That a draft report be presented to the Committee at the meeting in March 2018.**

41. **FORWARD PLAN** (*Agenda Item 7*)

Members asked for further information on the Environmental Cleaning Contract.

RESOLVED-

- 1. That the forward plan be noted**
- 2. That a briefing paper be provided to the Committee on the Environmental Cleaning Contract.**

42. **WORK PROGRAMME** (*Agenda Item 8*)

The work programme was noted. The major review item final report would be prepared for the meeting on 27 March 2018.

RESOLVED - That the work programme be noted.

The meeting, which commenced at 5.30 pm, closed at 7.08 pm.

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Anisha Teji on 01895 277655. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.