

Minutes of: PRESTWICH TOWNSHIP FORUM

Date of Meeting: 12 January 2017

Venue: Longfield Suite, Prestwich

Present:

Councillors: Councillors Councillor J Black (in the Chair), N Bayley, E O'Brien, M D'Albert, T Pickstone, A Quinn and S Wright

Advisory Group

Representatives: Mr D Stanley - Prestwich Clough Centenary Group
Mr F Adam - Manchester and District Jewish Representative Council
Dr E Finch - Patients Cabinet

Public attendance: 14 members of the public were in attendance

Apologies for absence: Councillors M James and D Silbiger

PTF.455 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PTF.456 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed:

That the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 8 September 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PTF.457 POLICE UPDATE

Sergeant Wightman Love provided an update on policing matters in respect of Prestwich including providing a verbal breakdown of crimes and initiatives in the area.

It was reported that Sergeant Wightman Love was moving post and would be replaced in February by Sergeant Allinson. The Chair, Councillor Black, on behalf of the Forum, placed on record thanks and appreciation for the positive work done by Sergeant Wightman Love and his team.

It was agreed:

That the update be noted.

PTF.458 BUDGET CONSULTATION 2017/2018

Councillor Lewis, Deputy Leader of the Council and Mike Owen, Chief Executive gave a presentation on the Budget Consultation 2017 – 2020.

It was reported that Bury Council is currently in the process of setting its Budget for the 2017/18 financial year and were wishing to seek the views of the local community on the draft budget proposals and the proposed increase in the Council Tax. The meeting was informed that whilst the Council have a balanced budget, the Council's finances are under a great deal of pressure. When compared with many Councils across the country, Bury has been relatively underfunded by central government for many years. When combined with the austerity cuts of recent years, Bury has been particularly hard hit. The Authority has made cuts of £65 million since 2010, from a budget of £125 million and will need to cut a further £32 million over the next three years. As a consequence, many services will be affected, with the need to focus on essential service provision. The Council will need to cut back on non-essential services to absorb the cuts to funding and to address the increases in social care costs faced over the longer term. The implementation of the proposals outlined would involve a fundamental redesign of services via a number key service reviews and would involve more collaborative working with key partner agencies, particularly with regards to health service provision.

The presentation set out the following key issues :-

- Detailed overview of Council funding for 2016/2017
- A breakdown of the current costs of key services to residents
- A breakdown of Bury Council financial cuts since 2010
- A comparison of Bury's Settlement Funding Assessment per head of population with that of Greater Manchester and England
- A list of other key issues that the Authority must factor cost changes into the budget forecasts
- The cost of cuts anticipated for the next three years
- A summary of the planned financial cuts to each Department
- Details of the next steps needed to be taken in to move the Budget Proposals forward
- Details of how the public can view the proposals and provide any feedback as part of the consultation process

The Chair invited questions and comments from members of the public present at the meeting, and the following issues were raised:

- Rob Trueblood highlighted the broad ranging nature of the consultation which made it difficult to comment on the budget proposals.
- In response to a question concerning the level of reserves in Bury, the Chief Executive reported that Bury had between 4 and 5 £million. However, it was emphasised that reserves could only be used once and Bury's golden rules dictated that a minimum level be retained.

- Dr Finch highlighted the need for the public to contribute to the community. The Chief Executive referred to the development of neighbourhood working as a means of empowering residents to help themselves.
- In response to a question concerning plans to outsource services, the Deputy Leader stated that the outcome of service reviews could not be predicted but highlighted that often outsourcing resulted in higher costs in the long run.
- With regard to the issue of funding, the Deputy Leader explained that from 2020 Council's will have to be self funding, largely being dependent on council tax and business rates.
- Andrea Simpson enquired about the effect of not setting a legally balanced budget. The Chief Executive explained that in such a situation the Borough Treasurer would take control of finances and be supported by inspectors from Central Government.

The public consultation closes on 31 January, 2017 and until then, members of the public were invited to comment on the proposals in a number of ways – online at www.bury.gov.uk/Budget201720; via email at Budget201720@bury.gov.uk; in writing – Budget201720, Bury Council, Knowsley St, Bury, BL9 0SW; by telephone – 0161 2535696 and by completing a Township Forum Exit Survey.

It was agreed:

That the presentation be noted.

PTF.459 PERSONA – STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Kat Sowden, Manager of Persona Care and Support gave a presentation on the plans to develop the Persona Stakeholder Forum, inviting anyone with an interest in helping to develop the changing provision of social care in the area to get involved by becoming a member of the Persona Stakeholder Forum.

The meeting was informed that Persona Care and Support had been established 12 months ago as a Local Authority trading company for Bury's Social Care provision. Demand for services had continued to grow and Persona wanted to utilise the feedback it receives from current service users and from members of the local community as a whole in order to develop future service provision. This feedback will help the company be more responsive to the changing social care needs of the local community. The meeting was informed of the ways to get involved; expectations on member involvement and on what to do next if you are interested in joining the Stakeholder Forum.

The Chair invited questions and comments and representations from members of the public present at the meeting :-

- In response to a question from the Chair, it was reported that the nearest facility for Prestwich resident was Pinfold Lane in Whitefield, although an outreach facility is provided at Church Lane, Prestwich.
- In response to a question from Councillor D'Albert, it was explained that Persona did not provide domiciliary care.

It was agreed:

That Kat Sowden be thanked for her presentation.

PTF.460 TOWN PLAN UPDATE

Ruth Shedwick, Township Co-ordinator submitted an updated Township Plan. The Plan set out demographic and statistical information in respect of the Prestwich area and included a number of priority outcomes identified by the Forum.

During discussion of this item, Dr Finch questioned the relevance of the Plan in light of changes to working arrangements and the onset of neighbourhood working.

With regard to the issue of Town Centre Regeneration, Frank Adam suggested one way systems around schools and the introduction of timed traffic regulations.

In response to a question from David Stanley, the Township Co-ordinator explained that updated information in respect of base line demographic information was awaited.

It was agreed:

That the report be noted.

PTF.461 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair invited questions, comments and representations from members of the public present at the meeting. Questions were asked and comments made on the issues detailed below. The Township Forum Co-ordinator undertook to obtain a reply to matters which could not be dealt with at the meeting.

- With regard to how long the traffic calming scheme on Rectory Lane had been put on hold, Councillor Quinn undertook to provide a list of Prestwich schemes and timescales.
- Jay Lieberman raised the issue of the condition of Park View Road; the need for repainting of "Keep Clear" lines on Bury New Road/Butterstile Lane; and the need to repaint road markings near to St Anne's Road.

- David Stanley highlighted the need for enforcement to prevent illegal parking adjacent to St Mary's Flower Park.

PTF.462 FUNDING REPORT (FOR INFORMATION)

The Council has allocated £8,000 to each Township Forum to be allocated through a sub group of the Township forum four times a year in June, September, November and March. A maximum of £250 individual grant is available for formally constituted organisations.

Additionally, a borough-wide allocation of £8,000 is available for "cross-ward" applications for activity that takes place across more than one ward. The "cross-ward" applications are determined by the Council's Small Grants Panel.

A report setting out details of applications from the latest round of funding was submitted for information.

During discussion of this item, the Township Co-ordinator reported that an event would be held on 6 February to allocate monies from the Parklife Community Fund

It was agreed:

That the report be noted.

COUNCILLOR JANE BLACK

Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 8.45pm)