

Minutes of: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 4 April 2019

Present: Councillor M D'Albert (in the Chair)
Councillors R Caserta, T Cummings, M Hankey, M James,
K Leach, R Skillen, Smith and S Smith

Also in attendance:

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor N Bayley, Councillor J Harris and Councillor N Jones

OSC.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Leach declared a personal interest in any item relating the NHS as she works for Healthy Minds adults service.

OSC.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions asked under this item.

OSC.3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed:

That, the Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 13 February 2019 be approved as a correct record.

OSC.4 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE QUARTER 2

Councillor Shori, Leader of the Council presented a report providing Members with an update on performance in line with Team Bury's Single Outcomes Framework.

It was explained that under each of the single framework outcomes are a series of indicators and performance measures. These collectively contribute towards the delivery of the respective outcome.

The report and appendices detailed a number of areas where performance has improved or is at a high level and also made reference to areas of performance that were less positive.

It was explained that where performance was declining or below target or another relevant comparator, work would take place to understand what was required to improve performance. This would be done by understanding the partners involved, the true reasons as to why the data was as it was and assess what would be required to improve performance.

It was also reported that work was being carried out within several areas of the Council in relation to refreshing strategies and performance arrangements.

Those present were invited to ask questions or make comments and the following points were raised:

- Councillor Caserta referred to the average progress 8 score per pupil and the fact that Ofsted had been downgrading schools. Councillor Caserta asked what was being done to improve on this.

Councillor Shori explained that a new Ofsted framework was being introduced and the LEA would be working alongside this with schools as soon as it was known what the framework was.

Work was being carried out closely between the LEA and schools to improve. Schools were also working with each other collaboratively to bring down exclusions. Bury had had one of the highest rates of exclusions in the country in 2016/2017 and this had been turned around with no exclusions during the first term of the current academic year.

- Councillor Caserta asked whether the work that had been done around exclusions would lead to problems further down the line.

Councillor Shori explained that schools were working in collaboration with each other as well as with the Council, CCG as well as support from mental health professionals to ensure that problems weren't being moved around but were being dealt with as early as possible.

- Councillor S Smith stated that permanent exclusion was sometimes the only option and schools should be able to take this route if it was felt that was the only option. Schools offered a unique role in the community and needed to be supported.

Councillor Shori explained that the Local Care Organisation (LCO) had been launched on 1 April 2019 and was a one commissioning organisation for the borough. This was at the cutting edge of public service reform.

- Councillor L Smith asked whether there had been any increase in the number of pupils 'off rolled' from the borough schools.

Councillor Shori stated that he did not have the figures relating to this but would ensure that the Committee received them.

- Councillor L Smith asked what the Council was doing in relation to childhood obesity especially in early years'.

Councillor Shori explained that the Council were encouraging schools to take part in the Daily Mile initiative as well as supporting families with vouchers for healthy food and healthy eating lessons. It was acknowledged that obesity leads to a range of health issues so by encouraging a healthier lifestyle this would help prevent the need for medical intervention later on.

- Councillor Hankey asked how the Council could work with older young people who may not be in education or employment.

Councillor Shori explained that it was anticipated that by the time the young people left school they would already have a healthy lifestyle. The responsibility to imbue a healthy lifestyle could not be left purely to schools and should be encouraged from an early age.

- Councillor D'Albert stated that Bury was regularly compared to its GM partners in relation to performance, she stated that this should be taken further afield and the borough should be compared with other towns of a similar size across the country.

Councillor Shori explained that the Corporate Plan was being refreshed to set a vision for Council priorities. The borough was aiming to be above national average in as many areas as possible which would mean testing against statistical neighbours rather than GM neighbours.

- Councillor Caserta referred to 3.6 of the report which explained that the borough had the second lowest level of 16 – 19 year olds who were not in education, employment or training and that this was partly related to the entrepreneurial nature of the borough. Councillor Caserta asked whether there were any statistics to back this statement up.

Councillor Shori stated that the Council were looking to produce smarter data analysis in the future, he did however report that there had been 8000 new business start-ups in 2017 which was a higher figure than any other borough in GM.

- Councillor Hankey asked whether a breakdown of the types of businesses would be available and how many of these were employers.

Councillor Shori stated that the Council would need to know this information and he would look to provide it to the Committee.

- Councillor Skillen referred to the Council apprenticeship scheme and whether they were considering mature apprenticeships.

Councillor Shori explained that the Council were keen to look at all opportunities in relation to apprenticeships. There had been a report published recently which referred to the 50+ offer which he would share with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- Councillor S Smithe made reference to the recycling figures set out in the report and the fact that recycling figures had dropped. She asked whether the reasons behind this were known and whether it was time to have another promotional push.

Councillor Alan Quinn explained that this was a national trend and Bury's figures were still high when comparing to the rest of GM. Councillor Quinn explained that communal bins were an area where work should be done. The message around plastic recycling was also an issue due to the different types of plastics.

It was agreed:

1. That the information provided be noted.
2. That Councillor Shori be thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

OSC.5 CAR PARKING UPDATE

Councillor Quinn and Dave Giblin attended the meeting to give an update on the shortfalls in income relating to off street parking.

It was explained that some factors that contributed to the overspend of £270, 000 included the suspension of parking for events, an uptake in the staff parking permit scheme, a decrease in the number of Council's off street parking and an increase in privately operated car parks, unrestricted road space on the town's outskirts, parking in Radcliffe and using the Metrolink to Bury, asset condition and private car parks.

Work was being carried out to improve the income from car parks and this included smarter parking enforcement, asset renewal and town centre car parking strategy.

Those present were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments and the following points were raised:

- Councillor Caserta asked whether there would be any possibility of agreeing a better deal with NSL?

It was explained that NSL worked with 9 out of the 10 GM authorities and had a good track record, they had a good working relationship with the Council and were very proactive. The NSL contract had another year left to run and at this point the Council would look to renegotiate with NSL and have discussions with other providers.

Dave explained that there were two strands to parking, free parking to help local businesses and charging as an income. There were also issues to consider such as time restricted parking which helped local businesses

- Councillor Leach asked who absorbed lost charges when parking was suspended.

Dave explained that it was his service that absorbed the losses but it was felt that the events should be encouraged to promote the town in general.

Councillor Quinn stated that during the Parklife weekend Manchester City Council would pay for NSL officers to attend the local area and carry out enforcement and the income from this was paid to Bury Council.

- Councillor James referred to the reference made to district parking and asked if this was a realistic option.

Dave stated that it was always an option but was not a likely one.

- Councillor L Smith referred to the current climate of change, when air quality was a major environmental issue and asked whether the provision of car parking was at odds with this as we should be encouraging walking and green public transport.

Councillor Quinn agreed that a culture change was needed and the GM Clean Air Plan was looking at this with the promotion of cleaner, greener public transport and electric vehicles.

Dave reported that the Council would need to update car parks and provide charging points to promote the use of electric vehicles and this was something that was being reviewed as a way forward.

It was agreed:

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That Councillor Quinn and Dave Giblin be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

OSC.6 SAFEGUARDING SUB GROUP

Councillor Susan Southworth, Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Overview Project Group attended the meeting to update the Committee on the work of the project group.

Councillor Southworth thanked Julie Gallagher, Democratic Services for the quick turnaround in producing the report following the last meeting of the Sub Group which had been held on 2 April 2019.

It was explained that the group had been established to review services available to Bury residents to ensure that those services were meeting the needs and requirements of their users and future users.

The group was made up of a number of Councillors who each had their own knowledge in relation to safeguarding from being ex police, teacher or school governors and working first hand in children's services.

During the 2018/2019 Municipal Year the focus of the group included the following:-

- Child Sexual Exploitation – Receive briefing on the work of the team across Greater Manchester with focus on the awareness raising work undertaken and areas of concern within the Borough.
- Ofsted – Overview of the inspection findings as well as plans in place to address the issues raised.
- Healthy Young Minds and SEND update – Karen Whitehead attended the meeting to provide an update on the Healthy Young Minds safeguarding process.

- Performance Monitoring – the group continued to receive quarterly monitoring reports in relation to safeguarding children.
- Troubled Families - Examination of the support and early intervention provided by the team.
- Care Leavers – Sue Harris attended the meeting to provide an update on the work being undertaken to address those children reported as Missing from Home.

It was explained that the group had met on four occasions, interviewed 18 different Council Officers and had visited the Multi Agency hub as part of its ongoing work.

It had been recognised by Ofsted that the expertise and knowledge of the group was one of its strengths but that attendance at every meeting was a basic requirement.

Councillor Southworth explained that Member attendance at the meetings had been an issue and she hoped that for the next municipal year the Membership would be more available to attend the 5.30pm meetings.

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions and the following points were raised:-

- Councillor Caserta thanked Councillor Southworth for the excellent job she had done in chairing the meetings of the group.
- Councillor Caserta referred to the Oasis Team and asked Councillor Southworth whether the Sub Group would be revisiting the work of the team in the future.

Councillor Southworth stated that the Oasis Group would be included on the next years' work programme.

- Councillor James referred to the growing issue of knife crime amongst young people and asked whether the group would be able to have role in this issue.

Councillor Southworth explained that over the past few years' emphasis had changed in relation to what happened at home and children who were living in and amongst domestic violence and abuse. It had led to the fact that further support and provision was required as these children were more likely to go missing from home and become involved in violence, drugs and CSE.

- Councillor Leach asked if there was any known timescale on when 16 – 18 year olds would transfer back into Healthy Young Minds from Health Minds – Adults.

Councillor Southworth stated that she was aware of this but didn't have any information on a timeframe. Councillor Southworth reported that unless in crisis, it

could not take up to 8 weeks for a young person to be seen by Healthy Young Minds.

Councillor Southworth explained that she had asked that the meetings be included within the Council's Municipal Diary so that Members had as much notice of the meetings as possible.

It was agreed:

That Councillor Southworth be thanked for the update

OSC.7 RECORD OF THANKS

Councillor Hankey explained that this was the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting for the 2018/2019 and therefore the last meeting that Councillor D'Albert would be chairing.

The Members of the Committee thanked Councillor D'Albert for her hard work throughout the year and wished her well in her retirement from the Council.

COUNCILLOR M D'ALBERT

Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.35 pm)

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