

## Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 13th September, 2021.

**Present:** Cllr Chris Barlow (Chairman), Cllr Mohammed Javed (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Hilary Vickers.

**Officers:** Simon Milner, Ian Raine, Jane Edmonds, John Dixon, Antony Phillips, Judy Trainer, Abbie Wild.

**Also in attendance:** Kay Glew, David Ripley

**Apologies:** None.

**PLA  
13/21**      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**PLA  
14/21**      **Minutes**

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**PLA  
15/21**      **Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations: Action Plan -  
Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision**

The Select Committee were presented with the Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the Review of Burial Provision would be implemented and target dates for completion.

- A new burial site for the central or western areas of the Borough
- That officers undertake further surveys and investigations of potential burial sites to determine suitability
- A consideration for an additional smaller burial site in the south of the Borough. Officers to consult with Ward members and Parish Councils to determine how this could be facilitated.

AGREED that the Action Plan be approved.

**PLA  
16/21**      **Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations: Progress Update -  
Scrutiny Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group**

The Select Committee considered a progress update including assessments of progress following implementation of the recommendations from the Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group.

- Members were pleased with the progress of Thirteen Housing Group review and praised officers for their work.

AGREED that: Recommendations are fully achieved.

**PLA**      **Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations: Progress Update -**

## **17/21 Scrutiny Review of Asylum Seeker Services**

The Select Committee considered a progress update including assessments of progress following implementation of the recommendations from the Review of Asylum Seekers Services.

- The contract for asylum seeker dispersal accommodation is the Home Offices, the new contract (in place since 2019) was awarded to Mears, since this time Mears have operated no room sharing for asylum seekers coming into the borough.
- The Home Office contract does allow room sharing, however as noted Mears do not currently operate Asylum Seekers room sharing.
- Members were pleased with the outcome of no room sharing within the borough.

AGREED that:

- 1) the Progress Update be noted and the assessments of progress be confirmed fully achieved.

## **PLA 18/21 Scrutiny Review of Highways Asset Management (inc. Potholes & Flooding)**

The Select Committee received a presentation regarding the following Key Lines of Enquiry from the review scope:

- How is funding allocated for highways infrastructure asset management? How has this funding changed over previous years? What is the projected condition of the highway if the budget remains the same over the next five years?
- What could be done if SBC were provided with additional funding to repair/maintain highway infrastructure assets? What are the opportunities for 'invest to save'?
- What are the highway infrastructure asset priorities moving forward and how can the Committee help to deliver on them through their recommendations?

The presentation covered:

- Queries raised from previous meeting, 19th July 2021
- How capital funding is allocated?
- How has capital funding changed?
- Projected Condition – Existing Budget
- Projected Condition – Budget Increase
- Potential Invest to Save Opportunities
- Highway Infrastructure Priorities & Committee Recommendations
- Summary

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Queries relating to the process of ordering equipment for the gully cleaning
- The use of alternative methods for potholes, using waste tyres to add in with the mixture when filling potholes
- Discussion from members regarding the amount of core funding available and what can be done to attain extra funding to stabilise road conditions
- Queries around the use of drones as an alternative method to assess potholes, possibility of privacy issue if flying over a residential area.

The Committee requested the following further information:

- To see the previous five years of progression of funding and how this had affected the road conditions
- To identify the difference in types of roads (A road, B road, C road, Unclassified road)

AGREED that:

- 1) the information be noted.
- 2) the further information be provided as requested.

**PLA 19/21 Work Programme 2021-22**

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

**PLA 20/21 Chair's Update**

There was no update

AGREED that the Chair's Update be noted.