

PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12th September 2022.

PRESENT-Councillor Taylor, in the chair, Councillors Fielding, Hussain, Sidat, Khan, Z, and Khan, S. Marrow,

Also present-

Quasar Hussain, Executive Member, Growth and Development

Martin Eden, Strategic Director, Place.

Paul Conlon, Democratic Services.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The chair welcomed those present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Baldwin

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2022.

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2022.

Resolved- That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

3. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

4. Flooding in the Borough.

The Committee looked at the issue of Flooding and how the Council seeks to mitigate the risks to residents and businesses through their work.

The Committee were informed that the Council, as the Highways Authority, were responsible for the maintenance of 30,000 gullies and had a statutory duty to maintain these. The highways drainage was designed to drain a 1in 5year rainfall event however this was becoming more frequent. The Committee were informed that the Council was also responsible for 52 debris screens and how these were checked when an alert trigger was issued.

The Committee were informed that over 21,000 residents and 2,159 homes were within the areas of flood risk with 12.58km of highways and 47.32 ha of agricultural land at risk.

The Committee were looked at the trigger mechanisms and warnings that the Council received that led to actions being taken to seek to minimise risk of flooding. Early weather warnings were received from the Met Office and these were detailed to specific areas and times when weather could be These actions included checking on debris screens, looking at potential areas of flooding and drains in that area to ensure that they were functioning efficiently. The

Council would also seek to give assistance to owners and partners where flooding occurred and assist with access properties where necessary.

The Committee looked at how the borough had been affected by flooding in recent years and how this had shaped delivery of services. Critical drains in flooding areas were identified and were maintained twice a year and inspected during weather warnings and heavy rain forecast. Following flood events the Council would investigate all reported flooding and carry out repair work to adopted drainage assets where required. Members looked at the way that work had been funded and how the Council accessed grants for this. The issue of the size of drains was discussed and how increasing the size of drains would be extremely expensive. Members were informed that whilst flooding occurred in a number of places this flooding receded in a very short period of time.

Members drew attention to areas where they felt that work needed to be carried out and how individual drains that were blocked and had not been cleared. The Director drew attention to the work carried out on critical drains and how critical drains were the ones that mattered in terms of flooding. The issues relating to access to drains such as parked cars was raised and how by working with local members this may be improved. Members also drew attention to the level of service that was accessible and questioned whether this was enough to meet demand.

The Committee were informed that discussions were to take place with community tidy groups about the picking up of leaves that could affect drainage and water dispersal. It was hoped that this would assist in the issues in the borough.

RESOLVED-

1. That the work to ensure that the borough could tackle floods be noted
2. That the work to mitigate the risk of flooding in the borough be noted.
3. That the discussions with Tidy Groups to ensure that grids are kept free from leaves and debris be noted and that the outcome of these discussions be reported to the committee in due course.

5. Update on Household Recycling Centre and New Sites for Burials in the Borough.

The Committee were updated on the issues that they had identified as part of their work programme. The Executive Board at its meeting in September had agreed that the proposals for the new Household Recycling Centre had put on hold as the cost identified had escalated to exceed the budgetary provision due to the economic climate.

Members were informed that the work on the new burial sites was progressing and tests were still being carried out on the water table and would be complete in the near future. Water table measurements had to take place for a full year to ensure that land identified was suitable and reports would be submitted to the Executive board when these were completed.

RESOLVED- That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be kept informed when possible on the development of the new sites for burials in the borough.

Work Programme for the Committee.

Members were reminded that as part of their work programme for the year they had agreed to look at the economic benefits that were obtained in the borough through redevelopment and attracting industry to the area. The Committee were also keen to look at the issue of accessibility and transport to sites where employment opportunities were available.

Resolved-

That the work programme for the next meeting of the Committee be agreed.

Chair at the meeting where the minutes were signed.....

Date.....