

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of a Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne, on Friday 7th September 2018 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor S. Peake in the Chair

Councillors J.E. Bennett, C.R. Moesby, T. Munro, P. Smith (from Minute No 0261) and K.F. Walker.

Officers:- K. Hanson (Strategic Director – Place), V. Dawson (Team Manager – Legal), A. Bashir (Improvement Officer) (to Minute No. 0263), J. Wilson (Scrutiny & Elections Officer) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

0257. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors T. Cannon, J.A. Clifton and Mrs P.A. Cooper.

Also in attendance at the meeting was Councillors H.J. Gilmour (Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety), M.J. Dooley (Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Transformation) (to Minute No. 0263) and B.R. Murray-Carr (Portfolio Holder for Streetscene).

0258. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

0259. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

0260. MINUTES – 27TH JULY 2018

Moved by Councillor K.F. Walker and seconded by Councillor C.R. Moesby
RESOLVED that the Minutes of a Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 27th July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

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0261. LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Committee considered the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document.

Moved by Councillor C. Moesby and seconded by Councillor S. Peake
RESOLVED that the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document be noted.

0262. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE; APRIL 2018 TO JUNE 2018 (QUARTER 1 – 2018/19)

Committee considered a report which provided performance outturns for the period April 2018 to June 2018 in relation to Corporate Plan Targets under the Committee's remit of 'supporting our communities to be healthier, safer, cleaner and greener'.

17 targets sat under the Committee's remit. 5 targets had been previously achieved. Ten targets were on track, 1 had been completed in the quarter and 1 had been withdrawn previously.

With regard to 6 of the performance targets, queries had been raised at the Scrutiny pre meeting by the Chair and Vice Chair and responses to those queries were circulated at the meeting as follows;

H07 – Assist partners in reducing crime by delivering 12 Crime Cracking events in the community each year.

What other events are currently planned for 2018/19? (It would be useful if the commentary made reference to future events i.e. the next quarter).

Officer response;

Six crime cracking events would be held in Quarter 2; three in South Normanton, 1 in Pinxton and 2 in Shirebrook. Four were proposed for Quarter 3 in Bolsover, Clowne, Shirebrook and South Normanton. Reference to future events would be made in the commentary when known. However, the Community Safety Partnership only attended crime cracking events when invited to do so and invitations were often received at short notice.

H09 – Achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of 49% by March 2019.

Members note that the status is to be reviewed – what does this mean? Is the target unachievable? Does the target relate solely to household waste or is it a combination of household and trade? Members are aware of a number of issues with collection of side recycling waste i.e. cardboard, with contractors refusing to take the waste despite the leaflet stating it will be collected.

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Officer response;

We only have an estimate for Quarter 1 so we have left this on track, however, we need to assess at Quarter 2 whether this target was on track to achieve the target by March 2019 or whether it needs to be put on 'alert'.

It is unlikely that we will achieve a 50% combined recycling target by 2020 as recycling appears to have plateaued at 42% to 43%. We are participating in a piece of work lead by DCC which is exploring how greater levels of organic (i.e. food waste) may be diverted from residual (black bin) to organic (green bin) waste streams. This will form a wider piece of work to inform future Corporate Plan targets/priorities.

The EU Circular Economy which the UK is likely to adopt will set future recycling targets at 65% by 2030. It will also make separate food waste collection a requirement by 2023. Details of this are at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm

H 10 - Sustain standards of litter cleanliness to ensure 96% of streets each year meet an acceptable level as assessed by Local Environment Quality Surveys (LEQS).

H 11 - Sustain standards of dog fouling cleanliness to ensure 98% of streets each year meet an acceptable level as assessed by Local Environment Quality Surveys (LEQS).

Which areas have been surveyed during Quarter 1 (Wards)? This is a recommendation from the recent Review which is about to go through Executive.

Officer response;

See attached spreadsheet.

The Scrutiny and Elections Officer advised the meeting that she would email the spreadsheet to Members as it contained too much detail to print out in way of a full breakdown of all the areas which had been surveyed in Quarter 1.

H 12 - Annually undertake 10 local environmental enforcement and educational initiatives in targeted areas to deal with dog fouling, littering or fly tipping.

What else is planned for 2018/19? Are local Ward Members informed prior to attendance at events, so they can support/encourage attendance?

Officer response;

Events are scheduled on request to support community requests and events.

1. 25th October 2018 - The Hub, South Normanton, PDSA educational event (responsible dog ownership, dog microchipping, littering and fly tipping awareness)
2. Fortnightly enforcement patrols in main towns to deal with littering and dog fouling offences via issue of Fixed Penalty Notices.

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3. Waste enforcement visits to business premises.
4. Chewing gum initiative in autumn (location to be decided)
5. Visits to schools with Streetscene Recycling officers.

Environmental Health would arrange for ward Members to be informed where appropriate and welcomed the support from Members.

H 17 - To deliver the Building Resilience Programme by September 2019

When is the next update planned to Council?

Officer response;

Mid-term evaluation has just been received in draft form (August 2018). Once we have had chance to digest and agree a final version this will be presented to Executive Board (6 September 2018) alongside plans for the next round of Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) which we are bidding for on 1 October 2018.

In relation to Corporate Plan Target H07, a Member felt that the Crime Cracking events needed to be publicised more widely and suggested that this be done via all parish council clerks and by use of posters. In response to the Member's comment regarding recycling and compostable bags for food and waste, the Portfolio Holder for Streetscene advised the meeting that these were being looked into with a view to being trialled, however, the overall costs and benefits would need to be taken into consideration.

Further to a lengthy discussion regarding Corporate Plan Target H10, Members agreed that litter continued to be a problem in significant parts of the District especially cigarette butts in the main shopping areas around pubs, bus shelters and betting shops. A Member suggested that the Head of Housing and Community Safety attend a future meeting of the Committee to explain what was being done to encourage shop owners in the District to keep the areas around their premises clean.

A Member noted that some councils publicised the fines they issued for littering in local newspapers and suggested that this should be considered by the Council to help as a deterrent. Members agreed that prosecution was necessary for prevention and enforcement was key and that a performance target should be set for enforcement.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer referred to the Committee's Review of Enforcement which would be presented to Executive on 10th September and suggested that the Chair raise as part of the presentation of the Review that although Members were aware of existing approaches to enforcement, the recommendation also related to businesses and not just the general public and Executive should consider how the educational element of the recommendation was carried out with businesses in the District.

The Strategic Director – Place supported Members concerns and noted that much could be done around enforcement. Keep Britain Tidy did a fantastic amount of work on initiatives and the Council could pick up resources from that, for example, posters and campaigns etc. All Council employees could be Eyes and Ears and trained to act as professional witnesses by reporting incidences so fixed penalty notices could be issued and also the possible use of other third parties. In relation to Corporate Plan Target H09, the Strategic Director – Place noted that the target was a European legislation

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target and post Brexit, would need to be reviewed along with Members input as part of the Corporate Plan refresh.

A Member felt that an action plan with milestones should be in place for each quarter for Corporate Plan Target H09 so Members could see what was being done to help deliver the target throughout the year. With regard to Corporate Plan Targets H10 and H11, the Member queried what was being done in relation to the 2% that was not meeting the standard and where the areas in the District were that the 2% referred to.

The Portfolio Holder for Streetscene agreed with the Member and stated that these consistently failing areas needed targeting - he suggested that the Streetscene & Waste Services Manager be invited to a future meeting to explain to Members how this affected the Committee's Review.

A Member advised the meeting that she was concerned with regard to the numerous complaints being received from residents that cardboard left as side waste next to burgundy bins was not being collected by the new contractor and that this could affect the Council's recycling targets. The Portfolio Holder for Streetscene noted that Members had been previously assured that side waste would be collected by the new contractor and he would raise Members concerns with the Head of Streetscene.

Moved by Councillor S. Peake and seconded by Councillor C. Moesby
RESOLVED that the report be received.

The Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Transformation and the Improvement Officer left the meeting.

0263. JOINT CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Committee considered a draft Joint Corporate Enforcement Policy which set out overarching principles for enforcement activities across the Council.

The Council was responsible for ensuring that a wide range of legislation was properly complied with by both businesses and individuals to protect the rights and safety of the District's residents, workers, visitors and local environment.

The preparation and publishing of the Policy was not in itself a legal requirement. However, the Regulators' Compliance Code, issued in accordance with section 22 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, required regulators to have regard to the Code, which came into statutory effect on 6 April 2014.

Whilst there were service specific enforcement policies, it was considered good practice to have an overarching Corporate Enforcement Policy, which set out the broad principles to be adopted by all departments and officers when exercising any enforcement functions on behalf of both councils. This would ensure that the Council operated with fairness, openness and consistency in the enforcement action it took.

Members welcomed the report.

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In response to Members' questions regarding the wording of paragraph 4.1 – No Action and 4.12 – Simple Cautions, the Team Manager – Legal, referred to the public interest test and agreed to add clarity to the wording of the paragraphs.

In response to a Member's question relating to the paragraph in the Policy regarding training, the Team Manager – Legal, noted that the statement was an overarching statement. In terms of all enforcement activity, officers received relevant training on the service specific enforcement policy they worked under.

Moved by Councillor K.F. Walker and seconded by Councillor T. Munro

RECOMMENDED that the Council be recommended to approve and adopt the Joint Corporate Enforcement Policy.

(Team Manager – Legal)

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety and the Portfolio Holder for Streetscene left the meeting.

0264. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

Committee considered their Work Programme for 2018/19.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer presented the scoping document in relation to the Committee's Review of the Authority's Perception of Young People.

Moved by Councillor T. Munro and seconded by Councillor P. Smith

RESOLVED that (1) the Work Programme be noted,

(2) the Scoping document for the Committee's Review of the Authority's Perception of Young People be approved.

The formal meeting concluded at 1120 hours and Members then met as a working party to continue their review work. The working party concluded at 1125 hours.