

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee held in the Council Chamber, the Arc, High Street, Clowne on Friday 1st March 2019 at 1300 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor S. Peake in the Chair

Councillors J.E. Bennett, J.A. Clifton, Mrs P.A. Cooper, C.R. Moesby, P. Smith and K.F. Walker.

Officers A. Bashir (Improvement Officer) (to Minute No (1G)), S. Gillott (Environmental Health Manager)(to Minute No (1H)), T. Rush (Environmental Enforcement Team Leader) (to Minute No (1H)), J. Wilson (Scrutiny & Elections Officer) and A. Bluff (Governance Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting was Councillor H.J. Gilmour, Portfolio Holder – Housing and Community Safety (to Minute No (1H)) and Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr, Portfolio Holder – Streetscene (to Minute No (1G)).

(1A) . APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors T. Cannon and T. Munro.

(1B). URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

(1C). DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

(1D). MINUTES – 25TH JANUARY 2019

Moved by Councillor C.R. Moesby and seconded by Councillor K.F. Walker

RESOLVED that the Minutes of a Healthy Safe Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 25th January 2019 be approved as a correct record.

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(1E). 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 C.R. Moesby and seconded by Councillor S. Peake.

RESOLVED that the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document be noted.

(1F). CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – OCTOBER 2018 TO DECEMBER 2018 (QUARTER 3 OF 2018/19)

Committee considered the Quarter 3 (October 2018 to December 2018) performance outturn for Corporate Plan targets, which sat under the 'supporting our communities to be healthier, safer, cleaner and greener' corporate aim, as of 31st December 2018.

Out of the 17 targets, 8 were on track, 6 had been achieved previously; H05, H06, H08, H13, H14 and H16. One had been withdrawn previously; H15, 1 suspended previously; H04 and 1 had been flagged as an 'alert'; **H09** - *Achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of 49% by March 2019*, due to it being unlikely that it would achieve its intended outcome by March 2019:

A Member queried if there was evidence available of the outcomes for target H07 - *Assist partners in reducing crime by delivering 12 Crime Cracking events in the community each year*. The Improvement Officer replied that he would speak to the Lead Officer regarding this and report back to Members via the Scrutiny and Elections Officer.

A Member queried why the target for H03 - *Deliver a health intervention programme which provides 900 adults per year with a personal exercise plan via the exercise referral scheme* had been reduced. The Improvement Officer advised the meeting that this was because Derbyshire County Council had reduced the funding half way through the programme being delivered.

With regard to H09 - *Achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of 49% by March 2019*, a query had been raised at the Scrutiny pre meeting by the Chair and Vice Chair and a response to that query was circulated at the meeting as follows;

We are aware from previous information received of the issues with this target. We acknowledge the issues with the In-Vessel facility and hope to see an increase in the tonnage composted in due course. In relation to the trend data, do officers have any further information to explain the downward trend in figures? Are there specific local issues causing an impact? Is this mirrored nationally and likely influenced by changes to packaging/sanctions on businesses?

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Officer Response;

The predominant influence affecting the combined recycling rate is seasonal variation which either increase or reduces green bin (garden) waste levels. To illustrate this, garden (green bin) and dry recycling (burgundy bin) performance as reported quarterly (statutorily) to Defra is summarised below.

2018/19 43.4% (Green Bin = 22.76% and Burgundy Bin = 20.63%)

2017/18 46.2% (Green Bin = 18.22% and Burgundy Bin = 27.97%)

2016/17 49.5% (Green Bin = 29.51% and Burgundy Bin = 19.86%)

Burgundy bin performance across the 3 year periods remains relatively constant with average variations of 1% (approx.); however, you will note how green bin performance varies significantly; which, in regard to Q2-2018\19, is greatly affected by the extended cold\winter period (Beast from the East) in the early part of 2018 and the extended hot summer period all of which affected green (garden) waste levels (see tables below).

A waste (black bin) composition analysis undertaken by DCC in 2017\18, identified that 38% of residual (black bin) is food waste and based on 20,000tonnes (approx.) is equivalent to 7,500tonnes which can be composted and could increase the Council combined recycling rate by 22% to 25%.

Therefore, encouraging greater food waste diversion to green bins is the area which presents greatest stepped change potential in landfill diversion and recycling\ composting performance.

With regard to H10 - *Sustain standards of litter cleanliness to ensure 96% of streets each year meet an acceptable level as assessed by Local Environment Quality Surveys (LEQS)*. A discussion took place and Members agreed that they felt that litter and flytipping in the District was becoming an epidemic.

In response to a Member's query regarding pubs, which provided smoking shelters, the Environmental Enforcement Team Leader advised the meeting that Enforcement officers did not have the power to force landlords to make sure that their customers who smoked used the shelters.

The Scrutiny and Elections Officer advised the meeting that she would email Members the full break down of the streets that were assessed in quarter 3.

Councillor Peake left the meeting.

Councillor C.R. Moesby in the Chair

Moved by Councillor J.A. Clifton and seconded by Councillor C.R. Moesby
RESOLVED that (1) the report be noted,

(2) with regard to Performance Target H10, the Scrutiny and Elections Officer to email the full break down to Members of the areas that were assessed in Quarter 3.

(Scrutiny and Elections Officer)

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The Improvement Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Streetscene left the meeting.

(1G). POST SCRUTINY MONITORING; REVIEW OF ENFORCEMENT ACTION UNDERTAKEN BY BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT ACROSS THE DISTRICT – INTERIM REPORT

Committee considered an interim post-scrutiny monitoring report in relation to their recent Review undertaken of Enforcement Action.

The report acknowledged progress to date by officers who were implementing the recommendations made by Committee to assist in looking at potential service improvements to enforcement action undertaken by the Authority to improve the quality of the environment across the District

To date 13 out of 19 recommendations had been achieved; 5 were on track and 1 had been extended but would still complete within the original twelve month monitoring period.

A Member noted and welcomed the clear and precise format of the appendices to the report.

The Environmental Enforcement Team Leader provided a detailed slide presentation to the meeting in relation to service requests/complaints and achievements made by the Enforcement Team between April 2018 and March 2019. These included, fly tipping and litter enforcement, abandoned vehicles, stray dogs & micro chipping, dog fouling enforcement, education and enforcement initiatives.

Service requests came from the public, staff and colleagues, Elected Members, parish councils and other agencies and organisations. On average, all of Environmental Health received 9k service requests each year. This year to date, the Enforcement Team had received over 1,730 requests.

A new legislation introduced in January 2019, Householder Duty of Care, meant that anyone handing over waste to a waste collector who then went on to flytip the waste, could also be issued a fixed penalty notice. This was publicised by the Enforcement Team.

Members thanked the Environmental Health Manager and the Environmental Enforcement Team Leader for an informative presentation and it was suggested that the presentation be provided to all Members at a future Council meeting.

Moved by Councillor J.A. Clifton and seconded by Councillor P. Smith

RESOLVED that (1) the progress against the review recommendation be noted,

(2) the findings from the report be made public in accordance with Part 4.5.17(3) of the Council's Constitution,

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(3) officers continue to implement the recommendations and submit a final report in six months' time highlighting any exceptions to delivery,

(4) Scrutiny Members submit this report to Executive for information, as per Recommendation HSCGC17/18 1.19 within the original report,

(5) the presentation be provided to a future meeting of Council.

(Scrutiny and Elections Officer/ Environmental Enforcement Team Leader)

Councillor H.J. Gilmour, the Environmental Health Manager and the Environmental Enforcement Team Leader left the meeting.

(1H). SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

Committee considered their Work Programme for the remainder of 2018/19.

The Scrutiny and Elections Officer advised Committee that at the meeting on 18th March, representatives from the Derbyshire Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire would be attending.

The meeting concluded at 1500 hours.