

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 7th February 2020, at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor David Downes in the Chair

Councillors Dexter Bullock, Anne Clarke, Natalie Hoy, Evonne Parkin and Janet Tait.

Officers:- Matt Broughton (Head of Partnership and Transformation) (to Minute H), Amar Bashir (Improvement Officer) (to Minute H), Joanne Wilson (Scrutiny & Elections Officer) and Alison Bluff (Governance Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting to Minute G were Councillors Deborah Watson (Portfolio Holder for Streetscene and Environmental Health) and Sandra Peake, (Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety).

A. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Pat Cooper, Tom Munro and Peter Roberts.

B. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

C. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

D. MINUTES – 15TH NOVEMBER 2019

Moved by Councillor Anne Clarke and seconded by Councillor Evonne Parkin
RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of Councillor Janet Tait's apologies, the Minutes of a Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 15th November 2019, be approved as a correct record.

E. 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. Members were advised that the item in relation to 'Appointment of a contractor to the 4 year new build framework – Bolsover Homes', had now been deferred to a future meeting of the Executive.

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Moved by Councillor David Downes and seconded by Councillor Evonne Parkin
RESOLVED that the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document be noted.

F. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2019 (QUARTER 3 – 2019/20)

Committee considered a report with regard to the Council's Corporate Plan Targets Performance Update for the Quarter 3 period of 2019/20 (October to December 2019).

The report provided outturns for the Corporate Plan 2019-2020 targets which sat beneath the 'supporting our communities to be healthier, safer, cleaner and greener' corporate aim as of 31st December 2019.

There were 8 targets in total. Seven targets were on track and 1 was on alert.

H09 - Achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of 47% by March 2019, was on alert as it wasn't expected to reach its target by 31st March 2020. The Quarter 3 estimate was 36.9%. The combined Q1, Q2 & Q3 performance was estimated at 43.75%. It was noted that the figure was affected by the seasonal collection of green bin waste. The Portfolio Holder for Streetscene and Environmental Health noted that new regulations were awaited with regard to disposal of food waste which may affect the future scheduled collection of green bins.

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

A Member queried how the assessments were carried out in relation 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)**, as she received many complaints regarding dog fouling in her ward. The Scrutiny & Elections Officer would email a spreadsheet to Members which set out the areas in the District that Streetscene had assessed in Quarter 3 and how they had come to grade them. The Joint Head of Partnership and Transformation requested that Members encouraged their residents to report issues such as dog fouling through the self-service portal on the Council's website as this would not only raise awareness corporately of the hotspots in the District but may also change the baseline data that was being monitored.

A Member noted that residents with large gardens were permitted to have 2 green bins, however, the Council would carry out an assessment of a resident's garden before a second bin was issued. The Chair requested that clarification be sought regarding this and also if a second green bin would need to be purchased by a resident.

Moved by Councillor David Downes and seconded by Councillor Natalie Hoy
RESOLVED that (1) the report be noted,

(2) clarification be sought on whether residents with large gardens were permitted to have 2 green bins and if a second green bin would need to be purchased by a resident.

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G. DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT THE VISION FOR 2019 TO 2023

Committee considered a report which gave Scrutiny the opportunity to help develop a new performance framework to support the Council's ambition statement for 2019 – 2023.

Committee suggested that the following additions, highlighted in bold, be added to the Aims and Values;

Aims

We will focus on:

- Our Customers by providing excellent services.
- Our Economy by driving growth, promoting the District and being business friendly - ***Include a reference to tourism.***
- Our Environment by protecting the quality of life for residents and businesses and meeting environmental challenges - ***Include a reference to biodiversity e.g. wildlife, habitat.***

Values

We:

- Will show respect, honesty and openness in everything we do – ***add in transparency.***
- Will challenge ourselves and change for the better.
- Are proud, ***comparing and compassionate*** ~~and passionate about what we do~~
- Will ***continue to*** work with partners to provide quality services

Priorities - Customers:

- Prepare a Customer Satisfaction Survey for members of the public attending Planning Committee for implementation by May 2020

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Partnership and Transformation felt that in relation to this priority, the Council should hear people's views.

- Achieve an overall annual satisfaction rate of 80% or above for leisure, recreation and cultural activities and services

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Partnership and Transformation advised that 80% was industry standard for this priority.

- Improve the overall performance and usability of the website by achieving a maximum score of 4 on 'Better Connect website report' by Dec 2022

Member's agreed that the Council's website was not user friendly. A Member also raised concern regarding the tone of letters sent to customers in relation to the payment kiosk in the Contact Centre which had failed during December 2019 - a number of customers who had made payments for rent and council tax had received late payment letters and this had upset some elderly customers. The Scrutiny &

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Elections Officer noted that Scrutiny should be able to contribute to the revision of letters sent out to customers when this was being looked at in the future.

- Ensure that at least 50% of transactions are made through digital channels by December 2024

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Partnership and Transformation advised that customers had always been encouraged to direct their enquiries to departments through the Contact Centres and the number of these enquiries had been monitored. However, other departments such as Revenues and Benefits, Environmental Health and Leisure also received enquiries directly from customers and this had been estimated to be around 10%.

A Member raised concern at the lack of confidentiality in the contact centres for customers speaking to a customer service advisor. The Head of Partnership and Transformation replied that signs were posted in all 4 contact centres advising customers that they could request a meeting room if they wished to speak in confidence.

- Provide an electronic Single Person Discount form for Council Tax by XX (date to be provided)

A Member queried if the Council would make more use of social media going forward as this could also be used to promote the 25% single occupier discount form for Council Tax. The Head of Partnership and Transformation replied that currently the Council only used Twitter and Instagram. In relation to Facebook, this would need consideration as the Council wouldn't be able to respond to customer queries straight away.

- Prevent homelessness for more than 50% of people who are facing homelessness each year

In response to a Member's query, the Scrutiny & Elections Officer noted that this target had not previously been on alert at any time and was also operating above target as the outturn at Quarter 3 (April - December 2019) was 65%. The Chair felt that the target should be increased.

- Reduce average relet times for standard voids (Council properties) to 20 calendar days by March 2021 and maintain thereafter

Members had previously raised concern regarding this target as it had not been met for a long time.

A Member queried why an outgoing tenant's decor was removed from a void property if it was fit for purpose for a new tenant who was happy with it as leaving the décor in these circumstances would reduce the relet time of a property. The Member noted that this was also the case with outgoing tenants' greenhouses, sheds and conservatories which were left behind. The Scrutiny & Elections Officer agreed to make enquiries regarding this and would also feedback to the Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee who were currently undertaking a review of Re-letting of Council properties.

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Priorities - Economy

Members were advised that the Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee had previously identified that 'education and skills' should be added under this priority.

- Work with partners to deliver an average of 20 units of affordable homes each year

A Member queried how the Council could ensure that good quality builders were used to deliver this priority. The Head of Partnership and Transformation advised that the Council could only carry out enforcement up to building regulations standards.

- Through the Bolsover Business Growth Fund (BGF) support at least 18 businesses to grow by October 2021

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer would query the end date of 2021 for this and also the number of businesses.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer also advised the meeting that Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee had felt there were some gaps in this part of the framework and had identified the following;

- No mention of B@Home (Bolsover Homes) or Dragonfly and how this would be taken forward, however, this may be presented to Members differently,
- Current Growth Strategy – not mentioned, will it be refreshed, do we still need it, or will this document be all encompassing and it will be enough to do the Housing Strategy, or is it a gap?
- Investment Strategy – not mentioned - how do we become more commercial?
- A few of the targets are SMART i.e., an end date but not a lot of detail of how these will be measured, e.g., local skills base should be more detailed – lower level/higher level?
- Local labour clauses – do we want a minimum number secured? Does there need to be another level to show we've made progress?

The Head of Partnership and Transformation advised Committee that once the basis for each Key Performance Indicator was agreed; who owned them, how they would be measured and ensuring they were SMART would be confirmed to Members.

- Through the Derbyshire Business Rates Retention Pilot grant scheme improve 40 shops fronts in Shirebrook town centre by 2023

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer advised the meeting that this Shop Front refurbishment linked in with the Building Resilience Programme which was why this item was specific to Shirebrook.

Priorities - Environment

A Member felt that tree planting, green infrastructure, hedgerows etc and reducing single use plastic all needed to be included in the high level strap line priorities.

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It was noted that 'reuse, reduce, recycle' and 'enforcement' should be included in the priorities.

- Achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of 50% by March 2023

Members were advised that 50% was statutory for this Performance Indicator.

- Remove 95% of non-hazardous Fly Tipping within 5 working days of being reported

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer felt this indicator was a better measurement of how the removal of flytipping was measured.

- Place 2 recycling promotions with In Touch annually

A Member felt that the Council's In Touch magazine should include a recycling promotion in each edition and not just 2 editions each year. The Head of Partnership and Transformation replied that the Council would have a Carbon Reduction Target for an Environment Specific Communication Strategy and that recycling could be promoted more through that. He also added that the Council needed to lead the community on recycling. A Member noted that many people were still unsure of what they could or could not be put into their recycling bins and she suggested that an information sheet also be included in the In Touch magazine alongside the recycling promotions.

- Reduce the District Council's carbon emissions by - 100 tonnes CO2 in 20/21 - 125 tonnes CO2 in 21/22 - 200 tonnes CO2 in 22/23 - 300 tonnes CO2 in 23/24

Members were informed that this target was not based on Government guidelines but based on the Council's own trends in recent years and what was felt was achievable.

- Co-ordinate and facilitate car parking patrols outside schools within the District, working with Derbyshire County Council, Police and Education partners by 31st June 2020

The Head of Partnership and Transformation advised Members that a pilot scheme regarding car parking outside schools was currently being carried out in the District by Derbyshire County Council and Environmental Health.

- Increase the number of fixed penalty notices issued for litter and dog fouling offences by 20% per year.

A Member queried who could issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling. The Scrutiny & Elections Officer replied that the CAN Rangers and all Environmental Health Officers had powers to do this.

- Measure % of all reports of fly-tipping referred for investigation to be responded to within 3 working days (set baseline in 19/20 for 20/21 onwards) and set a baseline for assessment against in 2020/21 and beyond

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The Head of Partnership and Transformation advised Members that this target differed from the previous target regarding flytipping as it was about waste referred for investigation.

Members were advised that from 1st April 2020, the coloured status keys in Appendix 5 would be used when monitoring targets and indicators. Service Indicator reports would also be presented to Members providing additional information in relation to the targets.

The Head of Partnership and Transformation and the Improvement Officer left the meeting.

H. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/2020

Committee considered their Work Programme for 2019/20.

The Scrutiny Officer advised Members that if they had any suggestions for their 2020/21 Work Programme they could email these to her.

Members were reminded that they had previously agreed to carry out a second review topic in relation to Air Pollution, however, Members were advised that the focus of this may need to be altered due to similar work now being carried out by other officers in the Authority since the topic was originally identified. A Member raised the issue of 'idling' cars outside schools. Further to a short discussion, it was felt that Committee should receive a briefing after the pilot had been carried out to decide whether Members wanted to go ahead with the review of air pollution.

Moved by Councillor David Downes and seconded by Councillor Natalie Hoy **RESOLVED** that the Work Programme 2019/20 be noted.

The meeting concluded at 1130 hours.