

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, High Street, Clowne on Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor David Downes in the Chair

Councillors Rose Bowler, Dexter Bullock, Anne Clarke, Evonne Parkin, Peter Roberts and Janet Tait.

Officers:- Steve Brunt (Joint Head of Streetscene), Steve Jowett (Streetscene Manager), Amar Bashir (Improvement Officer), Joanne Wilson (Scrutiny & Elections Officer) and Alison Bluff (Governance Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting was Councillors Sandra Peake, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Mary Dooley, Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Leisure, Deborah Watson, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Licensing and Nick Clarke, Portfolio Holder for Carbon Reduction Efficiencies.

HEA1-20/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Natalie Hoy and Tom Munro.

HEA2-20/21 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

HEA3-20/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

HEA4-20/21. MINUTES – 6TH MARCH 2020

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer provided the following update in relation to Minute 0718 from the meeting held on 6th March 2020.

As a result of a post scrutiny monitoring report from a previous review undertaken by the Committee regarding the Authority's Perception of Young People, an additional recommendation was agreed at the last meeting in relation to community leisure provision;

the Portfolio Holder - Partnerships & Transformation be asked to consider additional funding to offer incentive/taster sessions for parish councils in

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

order to increase the coverage of community leisure provision in the District, as outlined at 5.1.1 of the report.

This recommendation had been passed on to the relevant Portfolio Holder and officers for implementation. While the concept had been acknowledged as a good way forward, Committee was advised that this recommendation be put on hold as the Council was not currently in a position to deliver community sports activities in the District due to Covid 19. Also, the Council needed to make further savings because of Covid 19 and it may no longer be possible to offer additional funding when activities restarted. However, the service was looking forward to restarting sessions, which were heavily reliant on the involvement of parish councils and in some cases the provision of their venues. Officers were advising parish councils accordingly and aiming to reschedule activities for spring /summer next year. A further update on the recommendation would be provided to Committee early next year.

Moved by Councillor David Downes and seconded by Councillor Anne Clarke

RESOLVED that the Minutes of a Healthy Safe Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 6th March 2020 be approved as a correct record.

HEA5-20/21 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 David Downes and seconded by Councillor Peter Roberts

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

HEA6-20/21 CORPORATE AMBITIONS PERFORMANCE UPDATE – APRIL TO JUNE 2020 (QUARTER 1 – 2020/21)

Committee considered a report in relation to the Quarter 1 outturns (April to June 2020) for the Council's Ambition Performance Framework 2020-2024 targets and relevant supporting service indicators.

Eleven targets supported the service areas covered by Committee. Seven targets were on track and 1 target had been achieved.

ENV.10 - Develop a wild planting policy for parks and public open spaces where appropriate by March 2021.

This target was reported as being achieved.

The Council's Streetscene Policy now included a statement (4.1.7) setting out the Council's consideration in establishing wild flora and/or diverse vegetative planted areas.

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The following 3 targets had been affected by Covid 19;

ENV.06 - Increase the number of fixed penalty notices issued for litter and dog fouling offences by 20% per year.

Face to face issuing of fixed penalties was suspended due to Covid 19, therefore no fixed penalties were issued for these offences in Q1. A new dog warden had started in post and this would enable an increase in the number of fixed penalty notices issued.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Licensing commented that the Council was currently arranging a dog Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the District and it was hoped that this would be in place by 1st October 2020. All parish councils would be informed with regard to the signage for their area. The PSPO should increase the number of fixed penalty notices for dog fouling as this would give the Council powers to issue instant fixed penalty notices for anyone walking dogs and not carrying dog poo bags and also if they were walking more dogs than allowed for in that area.

CUS.09 - Increase participation/attendances in leisure, sport, recreation, health, physical and cultural activity by 3,000 per year.

All activities have been suspended since the lockdown due to Coronavirus. The Go Active facility will reopen on Saturday 25th July 2020 with limited access to the gym, swimming pool and exercise classes.

CUS.10 - Deliver a health intervention programme which provides * adults per year with a personal exercise plan via the exercise referral scheme.**

The health referral programme had been suspended due to the lockdown and closure of the leisure facilities due to Coronavirus. It was not anticipated that the programme would resume when the Go Active facility reopened on 25th July 2020 as the majority of clients would be classed as at risk. The situation would be monitored and the programme reintroduced when advice and guidance allowed for it to be done safely.

Service Indicators

There were 12 indicators in total. Six indicators had positive outturns, 4 indicators had been affected by Covid 19 and 2 indicators had a negative outturn. Details were provided in the appendix to the report for those indicators at exception including Covid 19 affected.

The following query had been raised at the Scrutiny pre meeting by the Chair and Vice Chair and a response circulated to Members as follows;

SS 05 Amount of residual household waste disposed of by way of landfill (Quarterly)

Is there a reason that this is not shown as a % as per recycling?

Officer response;

The method of measurement is kilograms and is reported in line with Defra's statutory reporting requirement so we are not able to change it.

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ENV.01 - Develop an externally facing climate change communication strategy targeting communities and stakeholders by October 2020 and deliver an annual action plan.

This target was reported as being on track.

The Communications Strategy was currently being written and a draft would be ready for circulation by the end of August 2020.

The following query had been raised at the Scrutiny pre meeting by the Chair and Vice Chair and a response circulated to Members as follows;

Is this likely to be circulated to Committee at any point prior to completion?

Officer response;

We have a draft communication strategy for the Carbon Reduction Plan. It will be presented to the Low Carbon Thematic Group in September for discussion. The Chair of the group will direct where the plan will go for approval.

It is not a formal strategy rather a communication action plan that forms part of the wider already approved Carbon Reduction Plan.

ENV.02 - Reduce the District Council's carbon emissions by - 100 tonnes CO2 in 20/21 - Reduce the District Council's carbon emissions by - 100 tonnes CO2 in 20/21.

This target was reported as being on track.

The most substantial impact on the Council's 20/21 Carbon reduction target was lockdown measures and Working from Home. April to June 2020 saw a significant reduction of travel to work and in work travel supported by virtual meetings. Work was ongoing to understand the full impact but from staff surveys and payroll data it was estimated that CO2 emissions reduced by 50 Tonnes. Work was now ongoing to embed some of these working practices in an effort to secure a 100 Tonne per annum ongoing reduction.

ENV.03 - Achieve a combined recycling and composting rate of 50% by March 2023.

This target was reported as being on track.

Performance was estimated based on Q1 2019/20 Waste Data Flow figures at 4268.65 recyclable materials collected, this equated to a combined recycling and composting rate of 46.8%. This would be updated when the actual figures become available from WDF at the end of September '20.

The following query had been raised at the Scrutiny pre meeting by the Chair and Vice Chair and a response circulated to Members as follows;

Confused by the reference to the service being ceased/limited when considering the detail that was circulated by the Leader's Updates.

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Aware that staff were supporting businesses who could remain open but appreciate that compliance due to Covid-19 is very different to previous compliance expectations. Are there spot checks to ensure relevant PPE etc. is being followed?

Are checks being carried out as businesses re-open?

Officer response;

EH03 is affected directly by the Food Standards Agency suspending the food hygiene intervention programme nationally at the beginning of April. This was to ensure that only essential and food safety incident related interventions took place so as to not overburden to food production and retail industry during the crisis, considering the well-publicised logistical and opening challenges they faced early on, and also to prevent the spread of the virus in the community. This was the case with health and safety interventions and environmental regulatory activity.

Throughout Q1, officers continued to monitor businesses where there were high risk issues, other outbreaks of food borne infectious disease, and of course supporting business in managing the COVID-19 risks inherent in remaining open during lockdown, and enforcing the lockdown business closures.

This was followed in Q2 by re-opening advice, supporting business to understand and meet the new and regularly changing guidance.

September and Q3 onwards will see a revised food intervention programme being delivered following Food Standards Agency requirements and a revised Food Service plan is due to be published ahead of that on 31st September 2020. The programme will be more focussed on high risk premises than previous years as per FSA and HSE guidance to enable local authority environmental health staff to assist in managing local COVID-19 outbreaks, and also prevent the community spread through large scale intervention programmes.

Spot checks on businesses regarding social distancing management are only taking place where there are high levels of risk with a business or where they are failing to satisfy the council that they have systems in place. If a visit is required due to a lack of confidence in the management of the premises, it will, however the vast majority of business take on board the guidance, our recommendations and are working well to prevent spread within their premises.

2019/20 - We completed 510 food safety interventions in the year, including 100% of those overdue (233 of these were overdue from previous years).

ENV.04 - Sustain standards of litter cleanliness to ensure 96% of streets each year meet an acceptable level as assessed by Local Environment Quality Surveys (LEQS).

This target was reported as being on track.

LEQS's established 0% of streets and relevant land surveyed fell below grade B cleanliness standards and within the 4% target standard set.

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Improvement Officer provided an update to Committee and noted that 100% had been achieved.

A Member requested if local voluntary litter picking groups could be supported by the Council's Streetscene service in relation to purchasing equipment at a discounted rate.

The Joint Head of Streetscene advised Committee that Streetscene supported local litter picking groups on an ongoing basis. Streetscene supplied all necessary clothing and equipment free of charge and picked up the collected waste afterwards. PR advertising for this free service was carried out through social media etc and a recent promotion was 'Keep Britain Tidy National Initiative Summer Clean Event'. There were established regular litter picking groups in the District as well as individuals, and smaller groups via the parish, town councils and local schools - all these groups enhanced the work of Streetscene. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19 only small groups were currently being encouraged to work. The Portfolio Holder noted that this was an excellent service provided by the Streetscene department.

In response to a Member's query regarding Streetscene supplying additional dog bins in identified hotspots, the Joint Head of Streetscene confirmed that consideration would always be given to this and noted that some under-utilised bins could be moved to hotspot areas. The Portfolio Holder for Housing noted that parish and town councils would also provide dog bins in some areas.

ENV.05 - 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).

This target was reported as being on track.

LEQS's established 0% of streets and relevant land surveyed fell below grade B cleanliness standards and within the 2% target standard set.

The Improvement Officer provided an update to Committee and noted that 100% had been achieved.

ENV.09 - Increase the use of organic herbicide treatments within the StreetScene Service by 2023.

This target was reported as being on track.

Glyphosate herbicide based treatments reviewed in favour of adopting organic (i.e. Acetic Acid) herbicide treatments, which found that approach presented increased risks to staff applying organic alternatives due to their toxicity and not offering the same environmental, effectivity, control and performance of Glyphosate. On reviewing Glyphosate products, no scientific evidence for was found to support some concerns reported and further to consulting with DCC (BDC Highways Agency Client) were comfortable with continued use of Glyphosate products and reducing its usage where possible in the interim of its license review and/or other like performing products and systems identified. **This target was to be withdrawn.**

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ENV.11 - Resolve successfully 60% of cases following the issuing of a Community Protection Warning by date to be confirmed.

This target was reported as being on track.

Since 1st April 2020 5 Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) had been served. One has successfully resolved a situation, 3 were currently within their monitoring period and 1 had not had the required effect. This had been progressed to a Community Protection Notice being served. Current success rate was 80%. (Awaiting confirmation of target date).

A Member queried if it was acceptable for a number of beehives to be kept in a garden in a residential area and where this would fit in with a CPW. The Improvement Officer felt that this would be an environmental health query which he would raise with them and provide a response to the Member.

Moved by Councillor David Downes and seconded by Councillor Rose Bowler
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing, the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships and Leisure and the Improvement Officer left the meeting.

HEA7-20/21 IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Committee considered a report in relation to the impact of Covid 19 on waste collection services.

The Joint Head of Streetscene advised the meeting that the black and burgundy bin waste collection services had been maintained since the start of the Covid 19 lockdown. Green bin collection had been sustained for a number of weeks. The grounds maintenance service was resumed from late May, early June and was operating at normal levels along with street cleansing. However, there had been some challenges to meet with regard to social distancing - staff had been moved around on waste collection services due to some staff who were shielding or isolating. A table in the agenda pack provided information on control measures if there were a second wave of Covid 19 in the near future.

The Portfolio Holder for Carbon Efficiencies noted that there had been many complaints in July regarding the burgundy bin collection service. The Joint Head of Streetscene replied that the company who collected the burgundy bins for the Council, had encountered some resourcing issues and a vehicle breakdown but they had been reminded of their responsibility to the Council in collecting the bins and there had been no further issues. He added that between April 2019 and August 2020, there had been 185 complaints/queries raised of which 59 related to the burgundy bin collection (mainly regarding contamination), 126 related to black/green bins, including bulky waste, commercial and clinical waste collections. Therefore, based on the 3 bin system, each had incurred an average of 60 complaints each.

In response to a Member's query, the Joint Head of Streetscene advised Committee that a refuse operative should leave a bin where it had been collected from after it had been emptied and not leave it blocking a pavement etc., however, it was accepted that in some

HEALTHY, SAFE, CLEAN AND GREEN COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

areas pavements were narrower than normal and in these circumstances, residents were encouraged to inform the Council of any issues. The Streetscene Manager noted that a further exception was regarding where there was no access due to parked cars etc.

Moved by Councillor David Downes and seconded by Councillor Anne Clarke
RESOLVED that the update be noted.

The Joint Head of Streetscene, the Streetscene Manager and the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Licensing left the meeting.

HEA8-20/21 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

Committee considered their Work Programme 2020/21.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer advised Committee that officers from Leisure Services would be providing information to Committee's next meeting in relation to the impact of Covid 19 on Go Active and the Leisure Centre, community provision and how the Leisure team had been supporting other areas of work during the early stages of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer was currently looking at review work and ideas that had come forward for review topics.

In response to a Member's query, the Scrutiny & Elections Officer noted that the *Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Monitoring update and impact of Covid 19* report, which would be presented to the November meeting would include safety practices put in place for staff coming into work at the Arc and also the types of support for staff who were working from home.

Moved by Councillor David Downes and seconded by Councillor Janet Tait
RESOLVED that the Work Programme 2020/21 be noted.

The meeting concluded at 1052 hours.