

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,**

**on Monday, 11th September, 2017 at 6.30 pm**

**Present:** Councillor Lee Anderson in the Chair;

Councillors Christian Chapman, Helen Hollis,  
John Knight, Cathy Mason, Christine Quinn-  
Wilcox, Paul Roberts and Phil Rostance.

**Officers Present:** Sam Dennis, Mike Joy and Alan Maher.

### **OS.07 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non-Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests**

No Declarations of Interest were received.

### **OS.08 To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 June 2017 and 26 July 2017**

The Minutes of the meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 27 June 2017 and 26 July 2017, were approved as a true record.

### **OS.09 Introduction to Scrutiny Review of Fly-Tipping**

Members were reminded that the Committee had discussed fly tipping at its meeting in June 2017. Members had learned that the number of fly tipping incidents recorded in the District exceeded the performance target set by the Council.

Although the Committee had accepted that fly tipping in Ashfield formed part of a wider, national, problem, Members felt that this should not obscure the need to take action locally. They also felt that Scrutiny could play an important role in helping to identify possible ways forward. Consequently, the Committee agreed that a specific review on fly tipping be included in the 2017-18 work programme, with a focus on how it could be reduced across the District.

The report to Committee set out the draft terms of reference for this review. The Committee discussed these extensively. It was assisted by the Council's Service Lead – Waste and Environment, Mrs Sam Dennis.

The Committee heard from the Service Lead – Waste and Environment that much of the fly tipping in Ashfield consists of old furniture and cookers etc. Household often use people who they find on Facebook, to take the items

away for them. Unfortunately, these people frequently turn out to be unlicensed, rogue, collectors, who simply dump the waste rather than dispose of it properly.

Mrs Dennis told Members that the Council is trying to get across the message to householders that they have a legal responsibility to make sure their bulky and other waste is disposed of in a correct way. In particular, it has launched the 'Crime Not to Care' campaign in conjunction with the environmental charity 'Keep Britain Tidy'.

One of the main goals of the campaign is to make it clear to householders that they too could be at risk of prosecution if they use rogue collectors, who take away their rubbish and then dump it illegally. If found guilty, they could end up with a large fine and a criminal record. Moreover the Committee heard that the Council would soon have new powers to impose larger fines, so that the potential risks to householders found guilty of fly tipping would be even greater.

The Committee supported the 'Crime Not to Care' campaign. Members also welcomed moves to gather evidence from householders about rogue collectors, so that they can be successfully prosecuted. This was seen as a sensible approach.

Members agreed that the review ought to look at the reasons why people fly tip. They also thought that it should identify the physical reasons why locations can become vulnerable to fly tipping; and especially whether it is more likely to occur in those places which are untidy or badly maintained. Members were keen that the problem be should be reduced across the District as a whole; and not to be tackled in certain communities only for it to reappear in less protected or more vulnerable places.

The Committee felt that local people could play an important part in helping to make their areas seem less attractive to fly tippers by getting involved in maintaining them. Members thought that ways of empowering communities to do this ought to be looked at as part of the review.

The Committee discussed whether people are using communal waste disposal facilities improperly to dispose of their domestic waste and whether this is contributing to fly tipping. Members were told of instances of people using public street bins for household rubbish. The Committee agreed that the review should look at the reasons for this and what could be done to prevent it.

There was agreement that in addition to trying to combat fly tipping the review should also look at how people can be positively encouraged to dispose of their waste properly.

The Committee was reminded that the Council has its own large items collection service for bulky waste. The Committee wanted to find out why householders are not using this more and relying instead on rogue collectors? Members heard that rogue collectors advertising on Facebook usually charge more than the Council would have charged to use its large items collection service.

The Committee considered the reasons for this. It was generally felt that householders may simply not know about the Council's service or how to access it.

Members thought that with better publicity more householders might be persuaded to use the service. As part of this, they thought it would be helpful to explore how it was promoted and how it might be delivered in more customer friendly ways - such as easier ways of making and paying for bookings.

The Committee further discussed some of the ways in which the service might be promoted. One of the suggestions, which Members endorsed, would be to simply put stickers on household bins explaining what the service could do, what it would cost to take away specific items and how to make a booking. The Committee also thought that Councillors should use their own networks of contacts in local communities to help promote the service. As a first step, it was agreed to send the relevant information about charges etc. to all Members.

The Committee wanted to ensure that any expansion in the service would be financially viable, rather than run at a loss to the Council. Members asked that the relevant information on this be made available for the review.

#### RESOLVED

- a) That the Committee agrees the terms of reference for the review into fly tipping as set out in the report;
- b) That the review also considers the impact on the fly tipping problem of the use of public bins for disposing of household waste;
- c) That the review also considers the financial viability of expanding the Council's large item waste service and the ways in which the service could be more effectively promoted and delivered to ensure its greater use.

#### Reasons

Fly-tipping was identified and approved as a topic in 2017 following consultation on the Scrutiny Work Plan.

#### **OS.10 Scrutiny Workplan 2017-18**

The Committee considered the latest position on the Scrutiny Workplan. Members heard that since two new topics for the Workplan had been suggested. The first of these was on the use of Closed Circuit Television in the District. The second was on the operation of the Police '101' contact number for the public to report non-emergency incidents.

The Committee discussed both of these suggestions and agreed to include them as topics the Scrutiny Workplan. Members also agreed to inform the Scrutiny Manager of any additional topics that they wished to include in the plan.

## RESOLVED

- a) That the Committee notes the current position on the Scrutiny Workplan for 2017/18;
- b) That a review into Closed Circuit Television be incorporated into the Workplan;
- c) That the Scrutiny Manager be informed on any suggested topics to be included in the Workplan.

### Reasons

Consulting, reviewing and agreeing items for the Scrutiny Workplan 2017/18 provides guidance and direction for the work undertaken by Scrutiny in the coming year.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Chairman.