

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



Council Offices,
Urban Road,
Kirkby in Ashfield
Nottingham
NG17 8DA

Agenda

Scrutiny Panel A

Date: **Tuesday, 12th September, 2017**

Time: **6.30 pm**

Venue: **Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield**

For any further information please contact:

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SCRUTINY PANEL A

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Jim Aspinall

Vice-Chairman: Councillor John Knight

Councillors:

Tony Brewer

Joanne Donnelly

Lachlan Morrison

Helen-Ann Smith

Steve Carroll

Cathy Mason

Kevin Rostance

FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

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SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel A to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



R. Mitchell
Chief Executive

AGENDA

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1. To receive apologies for absence, if any.
2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests.**
3. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 11th July, 2017. 5 - 8
4. Introduction to Scrutiny Review of Membership of Outside Bodies. 9 - 14

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SCRUTINY PANEL A

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

on Tuesday, 11th July, 2017 at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Jim Aspinall in the Chair;

Councillors John Knight, Rachel Madden
(substitute for Tony Brewer), Cathy Mason and
Helen-Ann Smith.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Tony Brewer and Steve Carroll.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Edd de Coverly, Sam Dennis and
Mike Joy.

In Attendance: Councillor Paul Roberts

SA.1 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests.

There were no declarations of interest made.

SA.2 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 7th March, 2017, be received and approved.

SA.3 Waste and Recycling - Scrutiny Introduction

The Scrutiny Manager informed the Panel that both Garden Waste and Fly Tipping were topics that had been added to the Scrutiny Workplan 2017 for consideration. The Items were added following the introduction of the Garden Waste Project in 2016. Members wanted to explore the impact of this following its initial 12 months of implementation.

The Chairman welcomed Edd de Coverly, Director of Place and Communities and Sam Dennis, Service Lead for Waste and Environment, to the meeting.

The Service Lead undertook a presentation to the Panel to enable Members to consider how the changes to the Council's waste collection service have been implemented and the initial outcomes and performance of the service over the previous 12 months.

The main points were considered as follows:-

The Challenge

The Council were aiming to increase recycling rates to 65% by 2030 from the current rate of 34%, which had not particularly increased since the previous introduction of the twin bin scheme.

The Reality

In reality up to 20% of recyclable material was still being put into the residual bins including dry recyclables and garden waste.

Where Should the Waste Go?

Members were reminded that garden waste was composted for reuse, dry recyclables were cleaned, sorted into batches and turned into other things and residual waste usually ended up in landfill or sent abroad to become someone else's problem.

The Project Plan

Deliveries took place of over 50,000 red 180 litre bins for residual waste and the black lidded bins were repurposed into garden waste bins. Residents were informed of the new waste collection service via road shows, leaflets and social media. Support was provided to residents by a Waste Advisor and Keep Britain Tidy.

Recognition of Success

Recognition was given to staff who worked tirelessly to implement the new service taking up to 400 calls a day during the implementation period. The Waste Services Team were awarded a Chairman's Special Recognition Certificate for their hard work and made finalists of the Keep Britain Tidy Network Award 2017.

Evaluation of Data

Following 12 month's implementation the Council's recycling rate had increased by 9.26% up to a total of 41% for 2016/17. The total tonnage of residual waste collected had reduced by 10.86% and garden waste collected and available for composting had increased by 97.72%.

Nottinghamshire Position – 2016/16 End of Year

The Panel were advised that the Council were now in third place overall in relation to the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting. This was a pleasing result and was to be welcomed by the Council.

Estimated Disposal Costs 2016/17

Following implementation of the scheme, the overall cost of disposing of residual waste, dry recyclables and garden waste had resulted in a saving of £208,778.92.

Unintended Consequences

Although implementation of the new waste service had been successful, some unintended consequences of the change had resulted in bin thefts, contamination and only a minimum increase in dry recycling. The public had also linked the changes to an increase in fly tipping and the implementation of

the scheme has coincided with HWRC implementing a permit scheme which had caused some initial confusion regarding waste disposal.

Glass Recycling

Glass recycling had increased by 4.23% in 2016/17.

Next Steps

Members were informed that the Council was due to revisit the 'Waste Sort' which enabled officers to review the locations of different categories of waste and to establish any hotspots and trends to inform future service provision. Recycling videos had been produced and school education was continuing. Litter campaigns were ongoing and there was due to be a re-introduction of the garden waste charge in 2018.

Campaigns

Litter and 'Crime not to Care' campaigns were running and a Community Protection Enforcement Officer was now working with the Waste Teams to ascertain the size of the fly tipping issue and to work with offenders and vulnerable people in relation to general waste management.

The Enforcement officer has had a successful few months on the District and had issued notices and both verbal and written warnings. He had conducted interviews to issue cautions and had delivered blanket warning letters within hotspot areas. Development was underway to begin the use of covert cameras (taking into account relevant RIPA legislation) and creating a presence on social media in relation to waste disposal. Promotional roadshows were taking place and videos in relation to the 'Crime not to Care' campaign had been sent out to schools.

Garden Waste Charge

The garden waste charge was due to be re-implemented in April 2018 with a £28 reduced cost for direct debit holders and a £34 charge for non-direct debit payments. Following a modelling exercise, it had been estimated that the Council would achieve 22,000 subscribers taking into account an increase of 6,000 from current levels. The Council's proposed charges still remained one of the lowest in Nottinghamshire.

Following the presentation a lengthy debate ensued whereby Members discussed the following:-

- concerns regarding the increase in fly tipping and acknowledgement that the increase had resulted in additional tipping of large items (i.e. furniture and carpets) and not household waste as initially feared;
- acknowledgement that the increase in fly tipping was a national trend rather than a local issue;
- the possibility of a link between levels of deprivation and waste management with the District;
- the cost set by the Council for removing bulky items and the timescales for completing collections;

- the different elements of waste contamination within bins and how these ongoing issues were addressed by the Council;
- the interpretation of the modelling used to estimate the level of subscribers to the garden waste scheme after the re-introduction of charges in 2018 and the level at which the service would become untenable should subscriptions to the service be disappointing ;
- the operational set up of the vehicles and crews responsible for collection garden waste;
- slight concerns regarding the small number of staff dedicated to assisting residents with their waste disposal requirements;
- the support service and guidance offered by the Council's Waste Advisor to assist residents struggling with their waste disposal needs;
- the ongoing problem of residents depositing household waste in the Council's litter bins, enforcements methods (i.e. stickers on bins) and acknowledgement that these incidents were recorded as fly tipping and included within relevant data;
- opportunities for the Council to endorse businesses with good waste disposal standards and reputable waste collections services holding the correct transfer licences;
- the Council's current position regarding the collection of side waste from bins; acknowledging the occasional acceptance of additional recycling waste but not residual waste from the red-lidded bins.

RESOLVED that

- a) the progress report and presentation regarding the initial outcomes and performance of the service following 12 months' implementation, be received and noted;
- b) a further progress report be submitted to the Panel in 12 months following the re-introduction of the garden waste charge collection charge in April 2018.

(During consideration of this item, Councillors Helen-Ann Smith and Cathy Mason left the room at 7.15 p.m. and 8.33 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 7.17 p.m. and 8.35 p.m. respectively.)

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm

Chairman.

Report To:	SCRUTINY PANEL A	Date:	12 SEPTEMBER 2017
Heading:	INTRODUCTION TO SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF OUTSIDE BODIES		
Portfolio Holder:			
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject To Call-In:	NO		

Purpose Of Report

In July 2017 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved a review on membership of outside bodies be undertaken to establish what value is provided to these organisations, the Council and the local community by appointing Council representatives to sit on outside bodies.

This report outlines the Council's current process for appointing to outside bodies, number of outside bodies and consideration of key issues that have been identified for Councillors to consider following its addition to the workplan.

Recommendation(s)

- Note the information contained in this report
- Agree a clear terms of reference, with anticipated value of the review
- Identify any further information required to carry out the review

Reasons For Recommendation(s)

Membership of Outside Bodies was identified and approved as a topic in 2017 following consultation on the Scrutiny Workplan.

Alternative Options Considered (With Reasons Why Not Adopted)

None at this stage. Consideration of this topic is aimed at understanding and discussing current appointments to outside bodies.

Detailed Information

In addition to attending Council Meetings and other constituency work, Councillors are required to sit as representatives of the Council on other organisations and agencies. These organisations and agencies are known as outside bodies. The Council appoints Elected Members to represent it on a range of outside bodies. Such appointments ensure that the Council's interests and therefore citizens of the Ashfield are represented within key agencies.

The Council recognises the value and contribution outside bodies make to the wider community. Members also welcome the opportunity for the Council to be represented on outside organisations which operate within Ashfield.

Ashfield District Council currently appoints to 40 outside bodies (Appendix A). However questions have been raised as to how we know as a Council that these appointments are made with a clear recognition of the potential benefits to the Council or to the relevant body.

An "outside body" is an organisation that has a separate governance structure to that of the Council.

Reporting Framework

The Council currently do not have a reporting framework for members appointed to outside organisations. Therefore, it is difficult to assess the added value of appointments easily. Members may wish to consider as part of this review whether in order to help develop and improve the profile of the work of outside bodies, a member feedback system should be implemented.

This could help share information about each organisation's work between members, and also provide the opportunity for all members to ask questions and seek clarification where necessary. Some Councils have introduced such reporting frameworks which require appointed members to complete a quarterly or annual report on the work of the organisation they have been appointed to, outlining the benefits to the Council and the community of the work of the organisation, information on activities and achievements, the number of meetings attended and whether member support should continue to be provided.

Once completed these would then be filed and held for members of the Council to view. This approach ensures members have the opportunity to express their views as to the value of the outside organisation. It also enables members to confirm on an annual basis if they have the time to continue to devote to the role or even whether member support should continue to be provided.

If the annual consultation with members identifies that the outside body no longer represents value to the Council then a recommendation is made to Cabinet suggesting the organisation is removed from the list and therefore no longer requires representation from the Council. This approach ensures the list of outside bodies is subject to ongoing review and is manageable in terms of the representation requirements.

Aim and Objective of the Review

The aim of the review is broadly to investigate the appropriateness and effectiveness of Member representation in promoting community leadership and working successfully with strategic bodies and community groups and consider how best to improve the monitoring and reporting of such appointments to groups.

Possible Terms of Reference for the Review

- to identify the criteria to be applied in determining whether or not the Council will appoint a representative to serve on an outside body;
- to establish in what capacity representatives serve on each outside body;
- to identify appropriate arrangements for managing the risks associated with serving on outside bodies;
- to identify appropriate arrangements to ensure that information is passed between the Council and the outside body through the Council's representative; and
- to ensure that a proper records management system is in place for Outside Body activity

Research

- Reviewing the current data held by the Council regarding Representatives on Outside Bodies.
- Examining practices of other local authorities.
- Conducting interviews of representatives on outside bodies.
- Co-ordinating liaison with the outside bodies.
- Developing effective reporting frameworks

Investigation

A review of information kept on Outside Bodies is currently underway and will be reported to the Panel at the meeting. Contact has also been made with several local authorities to seek best practice and a questionnaire is being prepared to facilitate face to face or telephone interviews with Member representatives. The views of officers, will also be sought where appropriate if they support or attend meetings of these Outside Bodies.

Classification of Relationships with Ashfield District Council

Members will also need to consider whether a broad classification of Outside Bodies should be adopted To define the relationship between the Outside Body and the Council as this will help with determining which outside bodies appointments should be made in future. There are three broad categories of involvement:

- Strategic/Regional
- Statutory
- Community/Citizenship

It is recognised that the District Council has supported some of these bodies for many years and Members in some cases have developed strong relationships with these Outside Bodies particularly if it serves their Ward or if it is an area where they can bring specific expertise.

Relationships between Members' and officers regarding Outside Bodies are generally informal with officer support provided if requested by the Member. Again Members will need to consider whether clearer arrangements are required.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

It is essential that the Council has an understanding of the value of appointing to outside bodies to better understand engagement, partnership working and Councillor Development.

Legal:

None arising directly from this report.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Human Resources / Equality and Diversity:

None arising directly from this report.

Other Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Reason(s) for Urgency (if applicable):

None

Exempt Report:

None

Report Author and Contact Officer

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Ruth Dennis
Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Appendix A - OUTSIDE BODIES 2017/18

<u>No.</u>	<u>Body</u>
1.	Ageing Well Network
2.	Ashfield Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee
3.	Ashfield Community Safety Partnership Joint Strategic Group
4.	Ashfield Homes Limited
5.	Association for Public Service Excellence
6.	Beauvale Charity – Hucknall
7.	Byron Charity – Hucknall
8.	Cahn Memorial Homes – Hucknall
9.	Citizens' Reference Panel (NHS)
10.	Campaign to Protect Rural England (Nottinghamshire Branch)
11.	D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership Board
12.	East Midlands Councils
13.	Economic Prosperity Committee
14.	George and Ada Shepherd and Moss and Plumb's Charity
15.	Greater Nottingham Joint Planning Advisory Board
16.	Greenwood Community Forest Steering Group
17.	Groundwork Cresswell, Ashfield & Mansfield
18.	Health and Wellbeing Board (County Council)
19.	Historic England
20.	Hucknall & District Voluntary Partnership (Under One Roof Project)
21.	Hucknall Partnership Group
22.	Hucknall Relief in Need Charity
23.	The Industrial Communities Alliance
24.	LGA District Council's Network
25.	Mansfield & Ashfield Economic Development Partnership (MAEDP)

26.	Mansfield & District Crematorium Joint Committee
27.	Market Traders Consultative Committee
28.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ashfield District Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council And Nottingham County Council Sponsor's Board
29.	NET Partnership Group
30.	N.I.D.A.S
31.	Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust
32.	Nottinghamshire Joint Waste Management Committee
33.	Nottinghamshire Local Government Leaders' Group
34.	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
35.	Our Centre
36.	PATROL: Adjudication Joint Committee
37.	Police and Crime Commissioner Panel
38.	Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
39.	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
40.	Teversal Grange Advisory Committee