

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

on Wednesday, 7th November, 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Lee Anderson in the Chair;

Councillors Amanda Brown, Jackie James,
Cathy Mason (Substitute for John Knight),
Glenys Maxwell, Lachlan Morrison and
Christine Quinn-Wilcox.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor John Knight.

Officers Present: Sarah Daniel, Sam Dennis, Martin Elliott,
Theresa Hodgkinson, Mike Joy and
Christos Zannettou.

In Attendance: Councillor Helen-Ann Smith and Councillor
Jason Zadrozny

OS11 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests.

Cllr Christine Quinn-Wilcox declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 4, (Play Strategy for Rural Areas/Green Space Projects).

OS12 To receive and approve as correct records the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 26th September and 17th October, 2018.

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meetings held on 26 September and 17 October 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

OS13 Play Strategy for the Rural Areas/Green Space Projects.

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Outward Focus), the Interim Director of Place and Communities, the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Environment and the Place Team Leader attended the meeting to provide further information, as requested by the committee on the Play Strategy for the rural areas and green space projects following the call-in meeting of the Cabinet decision (Minute No. OS10 2018/19).

The officer's report provided additional information on, and details of the status

of the Car Parking Strategy 2016 – 21, the Public Open Space Strategy 2016 – 26 and the Ashfield District Council Play Strategy. It was noted that the Ashfield District Council Play Strategy was a plan of action, rather than an adopted document, which aimed to provide continued improvements to play facilities over a four-year period using additional funding streams.

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Outward Focus) advised that the Public Open Space Strategy had been adopted by the Council in 2016 and set out the catchment for play areas across the district. The Deputy Leader noted that the Rural area had seen significantly less investment in play areas due to lack of funding in the past, namely from lower amounts received from Section 106 agreement.

The Committee was advised that the emerging play strategy would address this lower level of investment by providing £120,000 of funding in the current financial year for Rural area projects, and that Kirkby, Hucknall and Sutton-in-Ashfield would receive the same amount of funding in subsequent years. It was noted that projects would be prioritised using information gathered from a recent stock condition survey.

The Deputy Leader advised that play area improvements funded through Section 106 contributions and grant funding were continuing this year and through into 2019 and that these included improvements at West Park and Morven Park, Kirkby, Sutton Lawn and Roundhills Recreation Ground, Sutton and Broomhill Park in Hucknall. It was also noted two new play areas had been opened in the current year which had been provided as part of developments at Papplewick in Hucknall, and at Larwood Park in Kirkby.

With regards to the Car Parking Strategy Members were informed that the Car Parking Strategy was due for an annual review. This review would be completed by end March 2019, but noted that Brand Lane would not be covered by the strategy which focused on parking need and demand in town centres and the Rural area rather than very localised parking issues across the district.

It was noted however that Brand Lane had been identified as a key project in the corporate plan refresh and that the issues surrounding it would receive full consideration as part of that project.

Councillor Morrison enquired as to whether improvements to play areas would be carried out on basis of need or on a schedule determined by location. The Deputy Leader advised that improvements made under the emerging play strategy would be carried out on a schedule determined by location but assured the committee that any required maintenance to any play area would be carried out as required as the extra funding identified in the emerging play strategy was for new play areas.

Members of the committee expressed concern regarding the parking situation at Brand Lane and on how any Section 106 monies would be spent to relieve parking and traffic issues in the Brand Lane area created as a consequence of housing development in the area. Members agreed that it would be beneficial for Cabinet to look at the terms of the Section 106 agreement with regard to Brand Lane to ensure the agreement adequately met the needs of the area.

RESOLVED

That it be recommended to Cabinet that:

- a) the proposed schedule of work for investing in play areas, as detailed in the emerging Play Strategy be informed by specific needs for investment, and that these needs be recorded, rather than investment being determined solely on a schedule and list of areas.
- b) Cabinet's response to a) above be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- c) Cabinet looks again at the Section 106 agreement for Brand Lane in order to ensure that the agreement meets the requirements of the area in mitigating the impact of further housing development.

OS14 Ashfield Spring Clean 2018/19

The Deputy Leader of the Council (Outward Focus), the Interim Director of Place and Communities, the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods and Environment and the Service Performance Officer attended the meeting to answer the committee's questions, and to seek the committee's feedback regarding the Big Ashfield Spring Clean 2018,

The Big Ashfield Spring Clean had been added to the Scrutiny Workplan in September 2018 to enable the committee to review the project and to make recommendations to Cabinet for any proposed future schemes. It was noted that the district wide clean-up campaign had been delivered over a three-week period between 19 May and 9 June 2018 and the officer's report set out details regarding the cost of delivery, the impact the scheme made, as well as details on lessons learned.

It was noted that the campaign was rolled out geographically across the District over a three-week period, with Sutton week one, Kirkby and the Rurals week two and Hucknall week three. The campaign was comprised of three distinct offers for residents with static skips being placed at various locations across the District, complemented by "flying skip" bin lorries which collected waste at pre-determined routes over the weekends (excluding the Bank Holiday weekend) as well as free bulky waste collections for residents who needed door to door collection or additional support.

The report presented to the Committee contained a full evaluation of the scheme including information on the amount of waste collected, the type of waste collected and the costs associated with the disposal of the waste collected.

Members were informed that any future scheme would utilise the "flying skips" more widely and engage with local community groups more as initial assumptions made around the community self-policing of the skips and skip sites had not been fully realised.

Members of the committee noted with approval the positive outcome of the scheme in that it had resulted in the collection of large amounts of waste from the district, but did express concerns that some commercial and hazardous waste, including a small amount of asbestos that had been placed into the static skips.

The Deputy Leader advised that the reduction of the number of static skips for 2019, and an increased number of “flying skips” would help prevent this problem from reoccurring in future years. The Committee were also reassured that AB Waste, the contractor employed by the Council to process the waste deposited in the skips, had dealt with asbestos deposited in a manner that complied with all waste disposal and environmental regulations.

Councillor Morrison noted his concerns regarding the health and safety of the residents who subsequently deposited waste in a skip that contained asbestos and requested that an investigation be carried out into how the asbestos was deposited in the skip and how it was processed by the Council’s contractor, AB Waste. The Leader noted that the dumping of hazardous waste was a problem but hoped that the Big Spring Clean had flushed a lot of it out of the district which had ensured that the waste had been dealt with and disposed of responsibly. The Leader also advised that the Council had used its powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act to prosecute those who illegally dumped waste and that it was essential that the Council sent out a clear message that the dumping of waste, hazardous or otherwise was not acceptable.

Councillor Mason asked several specific questions about the amount of waste collected and the associated costs that had been involved with its’ disposal. The Interim Director of Place and Communities advised that Councillor Mason would be sent a detailed written response to her questions. Members of the committee also asked several questions regarding how the scheme had been funded. The Leader advised that the cost of the Big Ashfield Spring Clean had been met from existing budgets and the savings generated by the restructure of the Council’s Cabinet.

The Chairman noted that the Big Ashfield Spring Clean 2018 had generated many positive outcomes and hoped that the analysis and evaluation of the scheme, along with the recommendations made by the committee would make the scheme and even greater success in 2019.

RESOLVED

that it be recommended to Cabinet that:

- a) both flying skips and static skips used in the Ashfield Spring Clean 2019 be staffed at all times
- b) a policy and procedure be developed for dealing with any hazardous waste deposited in skips during the Big Ashfield Spring Clean 2019.
- c) the Council’s contractor used for the processing of waste collected from skips during the Ashfield Spring Clean 2018 be contacted for further

information on how asbestos deposited in skips was processed as part of an investigation of how the incident of asbestos being deposited in a skip was dealt with.

- d) a detailed written response on the written questions submitted by Councillor Mason in advance of the meeting regarding specific details of Big Ashfield Spring Clean 2018 be provided to Councillor Mason by the Interim Director of Place and Communities.
- e) full costings for all aspects of the Ashfield Spring Clean 2019 be made available in advance of the decision being made by Cabinet regarding the details and implementation of the Big Ashfield Spring Clean 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Chairman.