

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



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

Agenda

Scrutiny Panel A

Date: **Thursday, 9th February, 2023**

Time: **7.00 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

Lynn Cain

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Scrutiny Panel A

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Dave Shaw
Vice-Chairman: Councillor Caroline Wilkinson

Councillors:
Dale Grounds Trevor Locke
Lauren Mitchell Warren Nuttall
David Walters

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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.



Theresa Hodgkinson
Chief Executive

AGENDA

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1. To receive apologies for absence, if any.
2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and/or Non-Registrable Interests.**
3. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 6 October 2022. 5 - 8
4. **Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling.** 9 - 18

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SCRUTINY PANEL A

Meeting held in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,
on Thursday, 6th October, 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Dave Shaw in the Chair;
Councillors Dale Grounds, Trevor Locke,
Lauren Mitchell and Caroline Wilkinson.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Warren Nuttall and David Walters.

Officers Present: Lynn Cain, Mike Joy and Shane Wright.

SA.4 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and/or Non-Registrable Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

SA.5 Minutes

RESOLVED
that the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 14 July 2022, be received
and approved as a correct record.

SA.6 Scrutiny Review: Gambling Harm

The Chairman introduced the report and advised Members that the Government had recently announced a further delay on the publication of the Gambling Reform White Paper. The White Paper was originally due to be published in Spring 2022 but had faced four delays including the resignation of the then Gambling Minister on 7 July 2022 and the subsequent change in Prime Minister.

The Scrutiny Research Officer presented his update and gave a synopsis of the review's progress to date. Alleged proposals in relation to the content of the first draft of the White Paper were released and these included:

Affordability

- A requirement for 'passive' automatic background affordability assessments
- A net loss of £125 a month or £500 in a year triggering automatic restrictions
- Affordability assessments to be conducted by established credit agencies
- Potential for mandatory deposit limits

Stake Limits

- ‘Smart stake’ limit of between £2 to £5 for online slots
- Customers who wish to stake more would need to pass further checks

Free Bets and Bonuses

- A potential ban on VIP schemes ran by betting companies
- This could include schemes such as free bets based on a customer’s spend or losses.

The Government also announced in July 2022 that loot boxes would not be contained within the scope of UK gambling regulation.

With so many unknowns still on the table, the Panel were asked to consider holding the review in abeyance until the White Paper had been published and Members could then hold informed discussions about potential implications for the Council and its residents following sight of the content.

Members debated the suggestion and acknowledged that the review could not progress satisfactorily until more detail was known. Disappointment was expressed that the Government had seen fit to remove loot boxes from their gambling reform proposals and felt that a lack of regulation in respect of this particular gambling format would fail to protect younger people from possible harm in the future.

The Service Manager for Scrutiny and Democratic Services spoke about how the Council was often left to pick up the pieces for individuals (and families) subjected to gambling addiction in the form of housing and homelessness issues, anti-social behaviour problems, debt complications and employment difficulties. He suggested that the Panel might wish to understand and evaluate the scale of the problem in Ashfield and how the Council might want to address this.

Education was also an important issue for tackling gambling addiction at an earlier stage, as evidence was showing that people were becoming victims to gambling addiction at a far younger age mainly through modern betting platforms on smart phones, gaming devices and television.

The discussion also touched upon how the Panel could start to address the issue whilst waiting for publication of the White Paper. It was agreed that a clear and instructive signposting page on the Council’s website in respect of help and support for people struggling with a gambling addiction would be a good starting point.

RESOLVED that

- a) it be agreed to hold the Gambling Harm review in abeyance until the Gambling Reform White Paper is published by Government;
- b) an interim recommendation be submitted to Cabinet requesting that the Council looks to providing a page on its website providing signposting details for help and support to those struggling with gambling addiction.

SA.7 Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling

The Scrutiny Research Officer introduced the new topic of Waste and Recycling and reminded Members that it had been added to the Scrutiny Work Programme in June 2022. The Panel were being asked to consider the terms of reference and parameters for the review and Members acknowledged the importance of establishing a specific topic for examination, due to the Council's waste and recycling service covering many areas and facets within the District.

Members were informed of the Council's legislative requirements for collecting household waste and recycling. The Council did have a Waste Strategy from 2013 published on its website and a Waste Collection Policy for 2022. The Garden Waste collection service was available to residents for an annual payment of £28 which was operational from March to November each year.

In respect of garden waste collections, it was acknowledged by the Panel that the Government had undertaken a consultation exercise in respect of this service being provided for free by local authorities but no outcomes to the exercise had yet been resolved or published.

Members discussed the new topic and considered the following:

- the potential to focus the review on asbestos within the District; how it is handled and removed and the costs to the Authority
- the success or otherwise of the garden waste collection scheme and whether the Council is making a profit on its delivery
- problems with household waste being strewn on estates for long periods of time before being removed by the Council
- current regulations for disposing of used paint receptacles
- the negative impacts of 'naming and shaming' residents being prosecuted for leaving waste in gardens etc. who often having underlying difficulties and are then subject to further online abuse
- current guidelines for disposing of fats, oils and greases and outcomes from a previous review, in conjunction with Severn Trent Water, regarding blockages from disposals within drains
- the importance of the Council providing clear instructions for residents regarding disposal of different types of household waste across its media platforms.

RESOLVED

that the Scrutiny Research Officer be requested to undertake the following in readiness for the next meeting of the Panel:

- a) to check the Council's current policy for 'naming and shaming' residents who have been prosecuted for incidences of environmental crime;

- b) to request an update on the continued appropriateness of the Council's Waste Strategy document for 2013 and how the Council is responding to the Government's Waste Strategy and refining its local approach accordingly;
- c) to examine the Council's current instructions/guidelines for disposing of different types of household waste on its website;
- d) to obtain up-to-date figures in relation to delivery of the Council's Garden Waste Collection Scheme and the income generated since its inception.

The meeting closed at 7.57 pm

Chairman.



Report To:	SCRUTINY PANEL A
Date:	9 FEBRUARY 2023
Heading:	SCRUTINY REVIEW: WASTE AND RECYCLING
Executive Lead Member:	NOT APPLICABLE
Ward/s:	ALL
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present further information regarding the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling to Members of Scrutiny Panel A.

Recommendation(s)

Members of Scrutiny Panel A are recommended to:

- a. Note the information contained within this report.
- b. Decide the next steps for the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Waste and Recycling was added to the scrutiny work programme in June 2022 by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered at this stage of the review process. Any alternative options considered by Members will be outlined in a final report to Cabinet.

Detailed Information

REFRESHER – SCRUTINY PANEL A OCTOBER 2022

Scrutiny Panel A Members have held one previous meeting on this topic in October 2022. The following introductory information was considered by Panel Members.

Local Authority Responsibilities

Local authorities have a duty to arrange for the collection of household waste, and if requested, of commercial and industrial waste. A 'waste collection authority' has a duty to collect 'household waste' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Household Waste

The term 'household waste' is defined within the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as being waste from:

- Domestic property, a building or self-contained part of a building which is used wholly for the purposes of living accommodation
- A caravan
- A residential home
- Premises forming part of a university or school or other educational establishment
- Premises forming part of a hospital or nursing home which are used to provide a care home service

The Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 extend the circumstances in which waste should be treated as household waste to further sources, including places of worship, among others.

There can be exceptions to this duty, including where the premises are "so isolated or inaccessible that the cost of collecting it would be unreasonably high".

Local authorities can charge for the collection of household waste but only in specific circumstances. These can include:

- Household waste that is generated from certain non-domestic properties, such as universities, hospitals, and prisons
- Waste that weighs more than 25kg and cannot fit into the bin provided
- Asbestos
- Garden waste

Recycled Materials

Regulation 13 of the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 requires a waste collection authority which collects waste paper, metal, plastic, or glass to collect them separately. This duty only applies where it is both:

- Necessary to ensure that waste undergoes recovery operations in accordance with Articles 4 and 13 of the Waste Framework Directive (the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management, including definitions of waste, recycling, and recovery) and to facilitate and improve recovery

- Technically, environmentally, and economically practicable

Ashfield District Council Policy Documents

Waste Strategy

A Waste Strategy, published in 2013, is featured on the 'Bins, Waste & Recycling' section of the Council's website.

Waste Collection Policy

A 'Waste Collection Policy' revised in 2022 is included the 'Bins, Waste & Recycling' section of the Council's website.

Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023

The Council's Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023 sets out 'Cleaner and Greener' as one of the six key priorities.

The vision for the Cleaner and Greener priority is set out as:

'By 2023 we will create a cleaner and greener Ashfield, enabling communities and businesses to thrive in a clean and tidy District, minimising waste and recycling more.'

Ashfield is pro-active in encouraging more recycling, tackling environmental crime and finding innovative ways of delivering services that are responsive to the needs of our residents, visitors, and businesses.

By working with our communities and businesses, the Council is better able to understand what matters and to shape services to help people enjoy living, visiting, and working in Ashfield'.

Key projects, programmes, and initiatives are included as part of the Cleaner and Greener priority. These include, among others:

Street Cleanliness

- Deliver one Big Ashfield Spring Clean initiative annually
- Combat fly tipping through joint working and educational campaigns, enforcement, and sting operations

Environment

- Launch our Environmental Charter
- Work with and influence community volunteers and local businesses to help with the environment to encourage an increase in ownership of community open spaces

Waste and Recycling

- Respond to the government waste strategy and refine the Council's approach
- Deliver a programme of waste and recycling education in schools

Desired outcomes are also identified as part of the Cleaner and Greener priority. These include, among others:

- Improved public perception that Ashfield is a cleaner and more attractive place
- Improved recycling rates

Garden Waste Collection

Residents in Ashfield can sign up to have garden waste collected for £28 a year. Upon signing up, residents are given an extra bin with a brown or black lid. These bins are collected fortnightly between March and December. Residents can request extra garden waste bins at £14 each per year.

The following can be put in the garden waste bin:

- Grass cuttings
- Hedge trimmings
- Leaves
- Twigs
- Plants and weeds
- Cut flowers

The following should not be put in the garden waste bin:

- Soil, turf, stones, or rubble
- Garden ornaments or plant pots
- Food or animal waste
- Vacuum cleaner waste or ash
- DIY rubbish
- Timber or sawdust

In the Government's 2019 Consultation on Consistency in Household and Business Recycling Collections in England, it asked for views on whether households generating garden waste should be provided with access to a free collection service with a minimum fortnightly collection of 240 litre capacity. The July 2019 Executive summary and Government response stated that the Government would consider the costs and benefits of these measures before making a final decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Terms of Reference

At the previous meeting of the Panel, Members discussed and approved terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling.

Review Topic	Waste and Recycling
Review Group	Scrutiny Panel A
Officer Support	Scrutiny Research Officer, Service Manager – Scrutiny and Democratic Services, Democratic Services Officer

Rationale	Cleaner and Greener is one of the Council's key corporate priorities, with many different initiatives and projects underpinning the wider priority. Scrutiny Panel A Members are looking to understand the progress and success of these initiatives and identify any areas for improvement.
Purpose/Objectives	To understand the key projects and initiatives being undertaken by the Council as part of the Cleaner and Greener corporate priority. To identify any areas of improvement within the Council's waste and recycling services.
Indicators of Success	Panel Members will focus on the following key areas to achieve success through the review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal policy development • Information sharing with residents
Methodology/Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining relevant Council policy documents such as the Corporate Plan and Waste Strategy • Understanding national policies and emerging legislation that could have implications for the Council • Site visits (where appropriate)
Witnesses/Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Officers/Teams working to deliver against the Cleaner and Greener corporate priority • Executive Lead Members
Sources of Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy documents (local and national)/Statistics/Site Visits/Emerging legislation/Resident feedback
Site Visits	To be determined.
Barriers/Risks	Uncertainty regarding emerging national legislation and policy relating to waste and recycling that may have significant implications for the Council's service delivery.

Volunteering

At the previous meeting of the Panel, Members discussed the importance of the Council offering quality volunteering opportunities for those interested in Ashfield, and how this can often overlap with tackling waste and recycling related issues. Members wished to understand the Council's established procedure for volunteering, and if any data was held regarding the number of volunteer enquiries.

The Council's Place and Wellbeing Team have been contacted regarding the above and have provided the following information:

Volunteer Enquiries

Timeframe	Number of Enquiries
1 April 2022 – 16 January 2023	66
2021 – 2022	114
2020 – 2021	55
2019 – 2020	55

Volunteering Case Studies

The Place and Wellbeing Team have numerous case study examples of volunteers working in Ashfield. These case studies will be shared with Panel Members during the meeting.

Volunteers Registered

The Council currently has 19 volunteers registered after following up all known volunteers post-COVID.

Expanding Volunteering Opportunities

Members were interested in knowing if any consideration had been given to expanding the volunteering opportunities currently available at the Council.

The Council did used to offer a wider variety of different volunteering opportunities. However, a comprehensive support programme is required in management teams, and capacity is limited in this regard, meaning that Teams will often signpost to the voluntary sector and community organisations who can offer a wider range of opportunities as well as providing regular support and supervision.

Volunteering Policy

Members were looking to understand how often the Volunteering Policy is refreshed.

The Volunteering Policy is reviewed annually, and if no updates are required, the Policy is rolled over. The Place and Wellbeing Team are currently in the process of revising the approach to the Volunteering Policy and the related procedures to simplify the Council's offer with enquiries, inductions, and offering an online service following benchmarking with other local authorities.

Waste Strategy

Members requested an update on the appropriateness of the Council's Waste Strategy document for 2013 and how the Council is responding to the Government's Waste Strategy and refining the local approach accordingly.

It is understood that it is the intention for the Council's Waste Strategy to be refreshed, however, due to numerous delays in the Government publishing/implementing key policies such as the Environmental Bill 2021, the refresh of the Council's own Waste Strategy has been delayed.

Guidance for Disposal of Different Waste Types

Members previously questioned if the Council provides information to residents regarding the disposal of other waste types, such as asbestos and paint.

The Council does not currently provide this information to residents but relies on Nottinghamshire County Council to do so who have numerous resources available to residents.

These include a web page where an asbestos disposal appointment can be booked, accessible through the following link:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-disposing-of-waste/asbestos-disposal-booking>

The webpage has the following guidance included:

Eligibility

To use this service, you must:

- be a Nottinghamshire resident
- have dismantled and removed the cement bonded asbestos yourself from your own home, garage or shed
- use a car, car with trailer, minibus, motorhome or hire van up to 3.5t GVW to visit the site to dispose of the cement bonded asbestos in one load
- be able to place the cement bonded asbestos into the skips provided yourself as no assistance will be available due to social distancing measures at this time

You cannot use this service if:

- you have already used the service before to dispose of asbestos from your property
- the asbestos has not come from your property or has been fly-tipped on your land
- the asbestos originates from other outbuildings, farm buildings or forms part of conversion works
- the asbestos is not cement bonded
- you are a business or trader
- you are a landlord, and the asbestos has come from a rental property
- a trader has dismantled the structure and left you with the asbestos

You will need

- details of the vehicle you will be using to dispose of the cement bonded asbestos including registration number. If you will be using a hire van, you will need to provide details of the hire company including address and contact details
- the date and time you wish to book your appointment for
- your payment details

What will happen next

Before starting the registration form you will be asked to create an online account with us, or to log in if you already have one. Once you have created and logged in to your online account you will need to complete the form to book an asbestos disposal appointment.

Once you have completed the form, we will notify you with a booking number to confirm your appointment.

The County Council have numerous other pages providing guidance on waste disposal, such as this one for paint, accessible through the following link:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-disposing-of-waste/how-to-recycle-or-dispose-of-common-waste-items/paint>

The page provides guidance on the dangers of putting paint tins into household bins and where residents can donate surplus tins of paint to throughout Nottinghamshire.

Additionally, the page provides a list of paint that is suitable for reuse, such as gloss paint, primer, and masonry paint, and the types of paint that cannot be reused through paint reuse schemes, such as paint not in the original container, paint tins with hazardous symbols, and any paint containing lead.

Nottinghamshire County Council also have a page dedicated to Frequently Asked Questions relating to Recycling in Nottinghamshire. This page can be used by residents to find the nearest recycling centre, learn how to recycle common waste items such as plastics, paper/card, metal, and glass, and learn about the partnership with Veolia.

Ashfield District Council is currently working towards developing a new guide for residents on how to use the waste bins in Ashfield.

REVIEW NEXT STEPS

Due to 2023 being District Elections year in Ashfield, the February meeting of Scrutiny Panel A is the last scheduled meeting for the municipal year. Furthermore, this also means that the deadline for recommendations to be submitted to Cabinet before the District Elections will be missed.

In light of this, Panel Members are asked to consider the next steps for the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling. If Members feel that there is still evidence and information that needs to be gathered and considered before the review is concluded, current Panel Members could recommend that the review carry over into the new municipal year to achieve this.

If Members feel that recommendations can be formulated now, these recommendations could be made to the first meeting of Cabinet in the new municipal year.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Details of how the Scrutiny Review: Waste and Recycling aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan are included within the body of the report.

Legal:

There are no direct legal implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Finance:

There are no direct financial implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Risk:

No risks have been identified at this stage of the review process. Any risks identified by Scrutiny Panel A Members will be presented to Cabinet as part of a final report.

Human Resources:

There are no direct HR implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Environmental/Sustainability

There are no direct environmental or sustainability implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Equalities:

There are no direct equalities implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

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