

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL



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

Agenda

Scrutiny Panel B

Date: **Thursday, 20th October, 2022**

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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01623 457317

Scrutiny Panel B

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Christian Chapman

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Trevor Locke

Councillors:

Dale Grounds

David Walters

Vacancy

Warren Nuttall

Caroline Wilkinson

FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

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SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel B 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 21 July 2022. 5 - 8
4. **Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering.** 9 - 12

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SCRUTINY PANEL B

Meeting held in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,
on Thursday, 21st July, 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Christian Chapman in the Chair;
Councillors Trevor Locke, Dave Shaw,
David Walters and Caroline Wilkinson.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Jim Blagden, Melanie Darrington and Dale Grounds.

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

SB.1 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and/or Non-Registrable Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

SB.2 Minutes

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

SB.3 Dog Fouling and Littering

The Scrutiny Research Officer introduced the topic of Dog Fouling and Littering to the Panel, following its inclusion onto the 2022/23 Scrutiny Work Programme at the June 2022 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members were reminded that this particular topic had been looked at frequently over the years and had remained an important issue/priority for local residents. Following a recent increase in reported incidences of littering and dog fouling, it was a good time to revisit the issue and understand the scale of the problem within Ashfield.

Introductory evidence could be obtained in a variety of ways including speaking to Community Protection Officers, undertaking site visits or litter picks in hotspot areas and analysing fixed penalty notice data in respect of issues and/or legal proceedings over the previous few years.

Considering former scrutiny reports and subsequent Cabinet recommendations submitted during 2004 and 2010, it was apparent that the Council was continuing to do all it could to reduce incidences of littering and dog fouling.

These included:

- continuing to work with Keep Britain Tidy initiatives for incentivising action and implementing rules under Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) requiring dog owners to carry waste bags
- providing an effective network of bins in known dog walking areas and dog fouling hot-spots, capable of receiving dog waste and ensuring they are serviced and emptied regularly
- provision of a 24-hour web portal to enable residents to easily report incidences of littering and dog fouling
- provision of dog bags within all the Council's parks and open spaces
- the launch of a recent 'don't drop litter' campaign in early June 2022 which highlighted the amount of litter and dog fouling that the Council removed, with the overall aim of encouraging a positive change in behaviour and attitude towards picking up litter and dog foul.
- as part of the 'don't drop litter' campaign and to raise awareness; the creation and erection of four dog fouling trees in Brierley Forest Park, Kingsway Park, Selston Country Park, and Titchfield Park to show the effect of dog fouling and leaving dog bags discarded on trees
- facilitating regular litter picks with Council volunteers across the District
- provision of detailed information on the Council's website regarding the issue of fixed penalty notices for a number of offences, which include, amongst other things, dog fouling and littering.

Once the debate commenced it was quickly agreed that fly tipping should not be included in the review as the problems associated with it remained significant (and contentious) and would be best reviewed as a single topic at some point in the future.

Members then went on to discuss the following:

- the reasons as to why the external environmental enforcement contractor was not recommissioned by the Council following the 12 month pilot scheme
- concerns regarding recent reporting of non-Council regulated volunteers littering picking near busy roads without the necessary health and safety protection
- acknowledgment that littering and dog fouling was a perennial problem that never went away and the fact that the Council has to continually invest funding and resources to manage the problem

- why the Council no longer sells dog bags at local parks and outlets
- as a requirement for the review, to obtain up to date data regarding incidences of dog fouling and littering including hotspot locations
- the potential to engage with community service workers to support the Council's litter picking efforts across the District
- acknowledgement that incidences of littering and dog fouling always increase during the darker nights of winter and options for tackling this behaviour
- a suggestion to utilise the Council's mobile cameras to allow for surveillance of hotspot areas
- the existence of any Council data in relation to incidences of chewing gum littering.

RESOLVED that

- a) Councillors Helen-Ann Smith (Deputy Leader and Executive Lead Member for Community Safety and Crime Reduction) and Samantha Deakin (Executive Lead Member for Parks, Town Centres and Environmental Services) be invited to the next Panel meeting to give an overview of how littering and dog fouling issues are being addressed within their portfolios;
- b) a map showing dog waste bin locations across the Council's parks and open spaces (including emptying schedules) be submitted to the next meeting of the Panel for consideration;
- c) the Scrutiny Research Officer be requested to consider potential hotspot locations to facilitate a site visit and information gathering exercise as part of the review process.

SB.4 Commencement Time of Panel Meetings - Discussion

Having considered the commencement time for the Scrutiny Panel B meetings, it was agreed to keep the start time at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Chairman.

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Report To:	SCRUTINY PANEL B
Date:	20 OCTOBER 2022
Heading:	SCRUTINY REVIEW: DOG FOULING AND LITTERING
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 Scrutiny Panel B Members with further information to progress the ongoing Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering.

Recommendation(s):

Scrutiny Panel B Members are recommended to:

- a. Agree next steps for the Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Dog Fouling and Littering was added to the scrutiny work programme 2022/23 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2022.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered at this stage of the review process.

Detailed Information

BACKGROUND

Dog Fouling and Littering was added to the scrutiny work programme 2022/2023 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the June 2022 meeting. Members agreed that dog fouling and littering offences remain key issues for the Council to focus on, being the source of a high number of complaints reported to Councillors.

So far, Scrutiny Panel B has held one formal meeting reviewing the Dog Fouling and Littering topic in July 2022. At this meeting, Members had an introductory discussion on the topic, discussing:

- Previous reviews carried out into the topic in 2004 (*Effectiveness of the Dog Fouling Control Service in Ashfield*) and 2010 (*Dog Fouling Scrutiny Review*).
- How dog fouling and litter issues can be reported to the Council
- Different areas the Council has responsibility for in Ashfield
- What enforcement action the Council can take
- Previous Council campaigns such as the ‘Don’t drop litter’ campaign in June 2022

Members agreed terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering:

Review Topic	Dog Fouling and Littering
Review Group	Scrutiny Panel B
Officer Support	Scrutiny Research Officer, Service Manager – Scrutiny and Democratic Services, Democratic Services Officer
Rationale	Dog fouling and littering issues make up a large number of complaints received by Elected Members.
Purpose/Objectives	To understand the scale of dog fouling and littering issues in Ashfield, how the Council undertakes preventative and enforcement action, and to understand the success of various recent targeted dog fouling and littering campaigns.
Indicators of Success	Panel Members will focus on the following key areas to achieve success through the review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education/Responsibility/Engagement • Prevention/Enforcement
Methodology/Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining any relevant Council policy documents such as the Corporate Plan • Up-to-date statistics for dog fouling and littering enforcement action in Ashfield • Site visits across the District • Involvement in the development of any emerging policy documents relating to dog fouling and littering
Witnesses/Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Officers working to tackle dog fouling and littering issues • Executive Lead Members • Organisations that offer support to local authorities tackling these issues • Residents
Sources of Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy documents/Statistics/Hotspot maps/Site visits/National context/Legislation

Site Visits	Panel Members have indicated that following the identification of dog fouling and littering hotspot locations, several site visits may be beneficial to better understand the scale of any issues and the actions the Council is taking.
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NEXT STEPS

The Executive Lead Member for Community Safety and Crime Reduction will be in attendance at the meeting to provide Members with an overview of the Council’s strategic direction and objectives regarding dog fouling and littering, and to answer any questions Members may have.

Following this, Members are asked to identify next steps to be taken to progress the Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering. This may include arranging any relevant site visit, setting up a working group, identifying further information needed, and extending any invitations to desired attendees ahead of the next meeting of Scrutiny Panel B.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Cleaner and Greener is a key priority for the Council set out within the Corporate Plan.

Legal:

There are no direct legal implications resulting from this report.

Finance:

There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

Any risks identified by Members through the Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering will be presented to Cabinet within a final report.

Human Resources:

There are no direct HR implications resulting from this report.

Environmental/Sustainability:

There are no direct environmental and/or sustainability implications resulting from this report.

Equalities:

There are no direct equalities implications resulting from this report.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications resulting from this report.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

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