

MINUTES of the meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14th July 2011 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors James Halden (Chair), Steve Liddiard, Joy Redsell (left at 8.17pm), Clare Baldwin, Mike Stone and Pauline Tolson

In attendance: Councillor V. Morris-Cook – Portfolio Holder for Environment
Councillor A. Gaywood
Councillor B. Palmer
Councillor J. Purkiss
L. Magill – Head of Public Protection
A. Murphy – Head of Environment
J. Gilford – Waste and Recycling Manager
S. Coates – Representative of South East Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC)

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Stone declared a personal interest in relation to item 4 by virtue that he works for a company involved in the Olympics.

2. PILOT SCHEME PROPOSAL - MULTI-SKILLED STREET SERVICES ACTION TEAM

The Committee was reminded that a similar report had been brought to them in 2010 and that there was currently two options for trialling a service, namely establishing a separate pilot project (expensive) or establishing a trial from existing resources, which would require officers to ensure the current service was adequately covered.

The Committee expressed a general opinion that a small working group be established to look into the options of running a pilot scheme. Members agreed that a multi skilled team would allow the council to know the specific area costs for street cleaning and greening in each ward. It also gave residents the confidence that work was being done, as well as allowing teams to build expert knowledge in key areas of the borough, knowing where work needed to be done and at what times. Drawbacks discussed included that the teams would not be able to use specialist equipment and that the service would become responsive rather than strategic.

The portfolio holder agreed with these comments and added that a schedule of works for each ward on a weekly basis would, in fact, help

residents and Members understand what work was being undertaken and when. She also added that education needed to proceed in tandem with multi-skilled teams so they could enhance the environment rather than simply cleaning up litter.

Councillors Palmer and Purkiss were invited to speak as their ward of East Tilbury was currently being considered as the pilot area. Both councillors outlined the general issues and challenges in the ward that a multi-skilled team would remedy. They felt that a multi-skilled team would build up local knowledge of an area and would therefore be able to tackle graffiti, litter and other hotspots quicker and more efficiently. The Committee agreed that East Tilbury had the right mixture of rural and residential areas to become a good pilot.

RESOLVED: That:

i) The Committee agree to establish a working group to look further into the issue of Multi-Skilled Street Services teams

3. SEX TRAFFICKING AND THE OLYMPICS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW

Councillor Gaywood, a member of the review panel, gave a brief introduction to the report explaining that sex trafficking was not a significant problem in Thurrock but had the potential to increase with the Olympics next year. The Review Panel were very keen to ensure that a multi-agency response was in place should it be needed. A representative from SERICC added that sex trafficking was a big challenge for the Metropolitan Police and the Greater London Authority, both of whom had undertaken significant research into the issue for London boroughs. There was a concern from SERICC that the anti-sex trafficking work in London could displace the crime to Thurrock and elsewhere.

It was clarified that there were three known cases of sex trafficking in Thurrock through SERICC, although police records were unknown.

There was some discussion on the wording of the recommendations of the Panel to ensure that the right organisations were instructed with the right tasks.

RESOLVED: That:

i) Essex Police liaise with specialist Met Police officers to build knowledge and capacity in order to deal with potential cases of sex trafficking.

ii) Thurrock Council's Licensing Department provide advisory information on sex trafficking issues to sexual encounter establishments.

- iii) **The Council write to local newspapers to remind them of Section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act.**
- iv) **The Council explore options and investigate costings for advertising in local newspapers to outline the law in regards to Section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act and publish the Crimestoppers phone number as an anonymous service for those wishing to report sex trafficking. These adverts should be visible on the same page as the sex trade adverts.**
- v) **The Council undertake similar investigations to recommendation iv in relation to the short term lettings sections of local newspapers to discourage sex traffickers renting properties.**
- vi) **The Council identify key individuals in relevant departments and ensure they have a clear process of monitoring and referring suspected cases of sex trafficking.**
- vii) **Essex Police ensure Tilbury Docks and the UK Borders Agency are partners in Operation Pentameter.**
- viii) **Ask CVS, supported by SERICC and Essex Police, to work with community forums to raise the awareness of sex trafficking and the local signs it might be occurring, encouraging residents to report any cases.**
- viii) **TRUST be asked to contribute to CVS's work in this area as and when required.**
- ix) **Display anti-sex trafficking promotions in all Council buildings, ensuring the relevant freephone number is advertised.**
- x) **All Members receive a resource pack containing this promotional material.**
- xi) **The Panel reconvene in January 2012 to receive an update on the recommendations made above.**

4. POLICY FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF WHEELED BINS

The replacement of wheeled bins cost the Council £130,000 each year. The Council felt it could save £50,000 a year by charging residents and development companies for replacement bins. In the case of residents they would only be charged if the loss of their bin was their own fault.

The Committee supported this initiative but queried whether residents would blame bin men for the loss or damage of bins to avoid paying for a replacement. Officers responded that there were cameras on the bin

lorries so claims could always be checked. However, officers highlighted that the income raised from charging residents for replacement bins would only make up a very small percentage of the income raised. Officers would exercise reasonable enforcement of charges on a case by case basis. The Committee suggested that a brief outline of an enforcement procedure should be added to the policy.

Members queried the cost in the long term when bins degraded naturally and a wholesale replacement would be needed. Officers stated that there would no doubt be a new initiative in decades' time to replace all old bins.

It was clarified that the policy would return to Cabinet with the Committee's recommendations.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) **Members endorse the introduction of a policy for recovering costs from developers for new bins and residents for replacement bins.**
- ii) **The revised diversity statement be included in the policy.**

5. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the appropriateness and timing of the CCTV Car report.

RESOLVED: That:

Councillors Stone and Liddiard meet with the Transport Manager to discuss the software and policy issues surrounding the CCTV Car. Following this meeting, if these councillors feel it appropriate, a report be brought to October's meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact

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