

Minutes of the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 8 November 2017 in Committee Rooms 1 & 2 - Deanes, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council at 6.30 pm

Members of the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee in attendance: Councillor R Golding, Councillor K Carruthers, Councillor J Cousens, Councillor R Gardiner, Councillor G James, Councillor T Jones, Councillor A McCormick, Councillor C Regan, Councillor J Richards and Councillor V Rowland

Also present:

Councillor S Bound - Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety

Councillor H Eachus - Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment

John Elson - Head of Environment and Technical Services – Hart District Council

29/15 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Councillor D Taylor was replaced by Councillor R Bean

30/15 Appointment of Vice-Chair

There were no nominations received for the appointment of Vice-Chairman. This seat remains vacant.

31/15 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

32/15 Urgent matters

There were no urgent matters considered.

33/15 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2017

Councillor Cousens asked for an update on the resolution on minute item 26/17 "Oral Update on the Basingstoke Leisure Park". The Chair confirmed that the current status of Basingstoke Town Centre with regards to issues such as footfall and business premises occupancy had been scheduled onto the work programme for Economic, Planning and Housing Committee.

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 13th September 2017 were then confirmed by the committee as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34/15 **Briefing note on recycling bring bank provision**

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment introduced the briefing note which provided information on the provision of recycling bring banks in the borough and detailed the location and type of facilities currently provided by the council, and by other third parties such as Tesco and Sainsbury.

She advised that the council was currently progressing the retender of the waste collection contract which included provisions for the collection of bring bank recycling material. Any discussions on future provision of bring banks and respective materials would be subject to discussions with the successful contractor, and the third party providers, following the completion of the tender process in 2018. The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment confirmed that a report would be produced for the committee to provide future options for recycling bring banks at a suitable date in 2018.

The committee asked questions to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment and Officers which included:-

- Clarification was sought on the management of the textile banks and what happened to the items that are donated. The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment confirmed that she worked closely with the charities that supply the banks and the management would be included in the review. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety advised that he had liaised with a number of charities in the Borough and they have three grades of categorisation. The first grade would be for a local shop to keep and sell, second would be a central location to sort and sent on to other shops and the third would be the unusable textiles that would be sold by tonnage and the money would be received by the charity.
- Concern was raised with regards to fly tipping at the recycle banks and members asked for information on the costs involved to remove the items. The Head of Environmental Services advised members that he would obtain the information and email members with a response.

The Chair invited the committee to make any further comments which included:-

- Various members indicated their interest in taking part in the recyclable pilot scheme in their wards.
- The importance of reusing as well as recycling was stressed and it was suggested that message be included in the Council's next campaign.

Resolved: That

- A report presenting future options for the provision of this service will be presented to the committee following the appointment of the new waste collection contractor and corresponding review of the service in 2018.

- Members note the information provided in the briefing note.

35/15 **Parking in Residential Areas Programme**

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety introduced the report which outlined the significant progress made to date in implementing the prioritised Parking in Residential Areas Programme (PIRA), and the proposed programme for 2018/19 onwards.

The report also provided a summary of other options available to assist in managing identified parking issues where the PIRA programme was not considered to be suitable.

In addition the report updated members on the implications associated with the budget saving proposals put forward by Hampshire County Council (HCC) in respect of revised traffic management and on-street parking arrangements.

The committee asked various questions to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety and officers which included:-

- Whether the council could provide financial assistance towards dropped kerbs which may alleviate parking problems in some areas. Officers advised that they would consider dropped kerbs as part of any PIRA scheme and that the council currently subsidise the cost of dropped kerbs for disabled people.
- Members asked questions on the list of projects to be investigated from 2018/19 onwards and how would it be reviewed. Officers confirmed that they would re-examine particular roads if there had been significant changes in an area.
- Members sought further information on whether the scheme took into account future proofing such as electric car charge provisions. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety advised that they monitor future developments in vehicles but would need to be practical with regards to developing technology.
- Members asked whether there had been any discussions with the housing associations with regards to redeveloping garage blocks into useable parking spaces. The Head of Environmental Services confirmed that they had contacted the housing associations and identified that some of the garages were privately owned. He added that the possibility is still being considered under the regeneration schemes but further work would need to be undertaken with the owners.
- Concern was raised with two spaces that were temporarily used for developers in Joyce's yard. The Regulatory Services Manager advised that he would investigate and circulate a response to the committee.

The Chair invited the committee to make any further comments which included:-

- The committee acknowledged the hard work of officers in the developments that had already been made in particular wards and the increase in the schemes to improve parking issues in general.
- Residents need to be mindful of the existing parking provisions and use them sensibly.
- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council retain control of traffic regulation orders (TROs) and residential parking permit schemes.
- Members agreed that the budget was presently sufficient but would like it to be monitored and increased in due course if necessary.

Resolved: That

- The committee note the significant delivery of the PIRA programme.
- The committee recommend that representations be made to Hampshire County Council to retain the agency agreement.
- The committee recommend that an aspirational target is set to try and deliver at least two thirds of the 152 schemes within the next 10 years; and
- The Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety consider obtaining the finance to resource an additional employee to achieve the target if necessary.

36/15 Household Waste Recycling Centres

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment introduced the report which followed the changes made to the services provided by Hampshire County Council (HCC) specifically at the Wade Road Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC). Any issues and concerns that had been raised by residents and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Councillors about the HWRC service changes were the subject of a Full Council Motion and debated in October 2016.

The report provided responses from Hampshire County Council, and the work that had been done by the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Portfolio Holder in an effort to address the specific issues raised in the Full Council Motion and debate, in an effort to minimise the impact of any changes and ensure this service was maintained and, where possible, enhanced for the benefit of borough residents.

The committee asked questions to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment and officers which included:-

- Questions were asked as to whether an additional site for a HWRC would be introduced to the West of Basingstoke. The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment advised that HCC Officers are not opposed to the proposal and would look at any potential sites that was put forward.

- Concern was raised over the potential increased incidents of fly tipping due to the costs that had been introduced to dispose of certain types of building material waste and clarification was sought to identify the categories of the materials being discarded. The Head of Environmental Services advised the information could be obtained and analyzed.
- It was highlighted that HCC's response to the costs associated with the running of HWRC was commercially sensitive and therefore the information could not be supplied was queried. The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment said she would request a more detailed response from HCC. The Head of Environmental Services also added that the disposal authorities work to league tables which could be provided to Members so they could assess how HCC compared nationally.

The Chair invited the committee to make any further comments which included:-

- The committee acknowledged the work carried out by the Officers and the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment for obtaining the information and continual conversations with HCC for options for augmenting the service.
- Members expressed their disappointment that HCC declined the invitation to attend the Community, Environment and Partnership Committee.
- Members conveyed mixed views with regards to a £1.00 charge being introduced at the HWRC for the disposal of waste. However, concern was raised that once a charge was in operation the amount could continue to rise.
- Discussion took place concerning Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council managing the HWRC but concluded that at this point in time it would be very expensive and difficult to set up, maintain and dispose of waste locally.
- The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment was asked to feedback to the relevant HCC Cabinet Member that residents local to West Berkshire would be content to pay to use the facilities at Padworth.
- Members supported the ongoing discussion of relocating the HWRC from Wade Road.
- Members debated issues on the reasons and cost effects of fly tipping and asked the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment to observe, analysis and report back to the Committee in due course.

Resolved: That

The committee note the responses from Hampshire County Council provided in the report.

37/15 **Community Environment and Partnerships work programme**

On considering the Committee Work Programme the committee agreed that;

The following two items need to be timetabled:

- Recycling Bring Banks
- Improvement of the recycling rate.

In addition the Chair advised that the Community Safety Briefing that was scheduled for that evening would now be an all Member Briefing with the date and time to be confirmed by officers.

The Town Centre Health Check that had previously been scheduled to be brought to the Committee would now be timetabled on the Economic, Planning and Housing work programme.

The meeting ended at 20:30

Chairman