

**MINUTES of the meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 July 2012 at 7.00pm**

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**Present:** Councillors Steve Liddiard (Chair), Simon Wootton, Mike Stone, Clare Baldwin, Wendy Curtis and Pauline Tolson

**In attendance:** Councillor Angie Gaywood – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection  
Councillor Victoria Holloway – Portfolio Holder for Environment  
L. Magill – Head of Public Protection  
G. Dennett Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager.  
A. Murphy – Director of Environment  
J. Gilford – Waste and Recycling manager  
M. Boulter – Democratic Services Officer

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**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members discussed that they all lived close to parks mentioned in Item 7.

No interests were declared.

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 13 March 2012, were approved as a correct record.

**3. REVIEW OF CIVIC AMENITY SITES**

The Committee was informed that the Council currently had one site based in Linford. With proposed population growth and added pressures, officers requested that the Committee form a working group to look into future options.

Some of the options available to the council included:

- Keeping current provision the same,
- Re-developing the Linford site,
- Re-opening the former St. Clements Site
- Open a brand new site

Members found that the St. Clements site was closed as part of savings measures and traffic into the site had been low, mainly because it was a recycling site only. If it re-opened then it could be designed to take non-recyclable waste.

Other issues that the Committee raised and discussed were:

- Did the Linford site charge for non-Thurrock residents? (It didn't because the site was in the middle of Thurrock and therefore not feasible for non-Thurrock residents)
- Whether the council could charge business rates in future
- Logistics and road provision was important to develop alongside any new project.

During the course of debate officers explained that fly-tipping had decreased over the year and therefore, the closure of the Havering site to Thurrock Residents had not had an impact on fly tipping rates.

It was confirmed that a new civic amenity site would cost around £2 million. Upgrades to the Linford site or the re-opening of the St. Clements site would cost much less.

**RESOLVED:**

**A working group be established to prepare terms of reference and undertake a study into future civic amenity service provision in Thurrock.**

**4. APPLICATION OF THE FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME IN THURROCK**

The Council, by law, were allowed to inspect food premises and give them a rating in terms of hygiene. The Council had used the 'Scores on the Doors' scheme for some years but there was now an opportunity to join a national scheme.

The benefits of this scheme were that the Food Standards Agency (FSA) would build a national site that would have better publicity. It would also cause less confusion among consumers across the country.

The Committee discussed the use of the score on promotional literature and whether it was possible that consumers would confuse the Thurrock Council logo as a sign of the Council endorsing the restaurant.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Committee agree to replace Thurrock's Scores on the Doors Scheme with the national Food Standards Agency Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.**

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION OF DOG CONTROL ORDERS

Officers highlighted that this report was the result of the previous committee's request to pull together the views of ward Members on which areas of their ward were appropriate for dog control activity. It was added that the Council continued to serve fixed penalty notices and prosecute offenders in relation to dog control.

To establish a dog control order, the Council needed first to advertise their intention in a newspaper, then undertake an internal Council process and another advert in a newspaper to inform residents that a dog control order had been established.

The portfolio holder for Public Protection stated that she felt that a public consultation was required on this issue and it needed to include consultation on where dog friendly areas could be established too. The Committee agreed with this approach and heard that consultation would include online, community forms, press coverage and using friends of groups linked to the parks. Suggestions were also made to include housing offices and libraries.

The Committee recognised that enforcing dog orders was a large task and tricky to achieve but it was also appreciated that the majority of residents would respect orders and act appropriately. It was added that the Housing Department could make it a condition to have all dogs residing in Council property to be chipped.

The Committee recognised that fencing all play areas was expensive and required funding but also, may not be the best outcome for young people.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That a programme of consultation is undertaken throughout the whole borough to seek the views of all residents on which locations should be considered for inclusion in any scheme of Dog Control Orders and dog friendly areas.**

## 6. PROCUREMENT OF SPECIALISED HIGHWAYS WORKS CONTRACTS

The Council undertook a number of highways based jobs in-house, namely filling in potholes and winter gritting. However, some jobs were very specialised and therefore contracted out to other companies. This included bridge maintenance and line painting.

Because the contract was in excess of £750,000, the Council went to Cabinet to get agreement the day before this committee. The Committee was asked to comment on the proposed ways in which the

work would be contracted, either through the Council joining a service framework with other councils or establishing its own framework. It was stated that any contract would not include guaranteed work, so the Council was not tied into a fixed expenditure.

The Committee felt that line painting was very important and that Thurrock required some work in this area. Officers stated that refreshing all road markings would be very expensive so only essential works would be undertaken. The Portfolio holder for Public Protection stated that she would ensure faded markings would not affect parking enforcement.

A brief discussion was had on the drainage system at the Treacle Mine and it was understood that flooding was due to the ability of the drainage system to cope rather than blockages in the drains.

**Resolved: That:**

- i) **The report is noted.**
- ii) **The Committee endorses the approach laid out in the report to procuring specialist highways contracts.**

## **7. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee were made aware of the need to bring flooding reports to the committee at appropriate times.

It was noted that there were three additional meetings including November and January for Budget considerations.

It was noted Councillor Wootton had asked for the following to be added:

- Street Actions Plan
- A report on Low Energy/ Carbon Emissions.

The Chair stated that he was working on a small working group related to CCTV and would bring back a verbal update at the next meeting.

**The meeting finished at 8.06pm**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
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