

MINUTES of the meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 July 2013 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Cathy Kent (Chair), Simon Wootton, Wendy Curtis, Mike Stone and Pauline Tolson

Apologies: Councillor Gerard Rice

In attendance: Councillor Angie Gaywood
G. Dennett – Interim Head of Public Protection
G. Greatrex- Sports Officer
C. Lambert – Regeneration and Sustainability Manager
M. Boulter – Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Cleaner, Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 February 2013 were approved as a correct record.

2. URGENT ITEMS

The Committee received a written update on bin collections. The Committee generally agreed that six weeks into the new rounds, it was not good performance. The Committee registered their disappointment that the portfolio holder and officers could not be present to answer any queries as it was felt this was an important issue that the Committee wanted to engage with. The Committee noted a number of questions that they wanted to see responded to in a future report.

RESOLVED That

- i) A report on bin collection issues return to October's meeting.**
- ii) The Chief Executive be informed of no officer or portfolio holder attendance at the meeting.**

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

a) Interests

Councillor Tolson declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 5 by virtue that her husband was a member of the Pegasus Club.

b) Whipping

No interests were declared.

4. SPORTS STRATEGY

A number of projects were highlighted as having progressed since the last update in February 2013. The 'Get Healthy and Get into Sport' project had been awarded £483,000 to use across Thurrock and Barking and Dagenham. A working group had also been established to maintain the legacy and spirit of the Olympic games and local funding had been awarded to help provide a number of courses in collaboration with Impulse Leisure.

In relation to the school summer holidays officers stated that a number of activities would be going on during this period, such as the Urban Games, but a lot of activities were opportunistic and relied on when funding was available as to when they would be provided.

A number of Councillors noted the good work across this strategy including the tennis courts at Grays park and the work of Councillor Liddiard in the Olympic legacy working group. It was also noted that the environment team had maintained the Olympic Rings in Blackshots, which was to be commended.

A brief discussion took place over Thurrock Rugby Club and how it provided services to advanced players in conjunction with Impulse Leisure. Officers also confirmed they were attempting to get funding to supply services for people suffering pulmonary diseases into Belhus.

Officers highlighted that the strategy captured the community projects that were already ongoing and that there was a communications strategy being developed to reach out to those members of the community that were not involved in sport.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the progress made in relation to sports and leisure in Thurrock

5. REPORT ON THURROCK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Committee was informed that crime overall had remained static and there had been a slight decrease in anti-social behaviour figures. The new priorities for 2013/14 were highlighted and these had been informed by statistics and stakeholder engagement. The Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) had also confirmed that he would continue to fund the partnership for another year.

The committee noted the prevalence of female victims and recognised that domestic abuse in certain areas of the borough were a major contributing factor. The police were working hard to tackle this but the Committee was reminded that the higher figures could be due to an increased reporting of the crime, which was to be encouraged.

The Committee discussed residents drinking beer and alcohol in the street and the perception this gave about the area. Officers informed the Committee that a Police Grays Town team had been set up to move these drinkers on. It was hard to control the sale of alcohol to these individuals but the Council was working hard to tackle the issue through a number of initiatives including marking cans. The committee noted that Drinking Control Zones were due to be reviewed at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) The performance of the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership for the year 2012/13 be noted.**
- ii) The Committee support the recommendations within the strategic assessment for 2012.**
- iii) The Committee support the four priorities of the CSP for the year 2013/14, which are:**
 - i. Reduce anti-social behaviour**
 - ii. Tackle violence against women and girls**
 - iii. Reduce youth offending and the reoffending rates of adults and youths**
 - iv. Reduce domestic burglary and vehicle crime**
- iv) The Committee note the links that have been made to support delivery of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.**

6. CLIMATE LOCAL

The Council had agreed to set up a commitment to reduce carbon emissions in Thurrock. A cross party working group had been working to develop the commitment and the Council, although suffering some of the worst emission figures in the area, were leading on sub regional projects to reduce emissions in business and other areas. The Council believed it would reduce its emissions by 30% if it continued with its projects but had agreed a target of 35%.

The Committee recognised the significant role transport played in carbon emissions and learnt that emissions from the motorways in Thurrock were not included in the figures as they could not be affected by the Council, being a national government responsibility. The Government calculated their carbon emissions figures from motorways using a complex calculation of fuel purchased in the area to traffic flow counting and business fuel consumption.

It was explained that air quality was not the same as carbon emissions and that some carbon emission friendly initiatives actually polluted the air further. Carbon emissions related to the pollution of the atmosphere further up in the air.

The Council had been working hard to retrofit filter systems and this had been successful in a big business and also in taxi firms. A local bus company was also using hybrid buses. There were two electric car charging stations but officers agreed to revisit the future of the one in Stanford Le Hope following a comment from a Member that this area had been sold for private use.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The Committee note the progress of the cross party member working group and the draft climate local targets.**
- ii) The Committee recommend to the portfolio holder for Environment the Climate Local targets are taken forward for agreement.**
- iii) The Committee recommend to the portfolio holder for Environment that a delivery plan is developed within six months of this report to meet the requirements of the commitment.**

7. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the requests for a report on horses and riverscapes and that a report on pollution would come back at some stage.

RESOLVED That the work programme be noted.

The meeting was finished at 8.07pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Matthew Boulter, telephone (01375) 652082,**