

MINUTES of the meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4 February 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Cathy Kent (Chair), Joy Redsell, Wendy Curtis and Tom Kelly

Apologies: Councillors Simon Wootton, Mike Stone and Gerard Rice

In attendance: Councillor Angie Gaywood – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection
L. Magill – Head Of Public Protection
M. Heath – Interim Head of Environment
J. Gilford – Waste Manager
M. Boulter – Principal Democratic Services Officer

14 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cleaner, Greener Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 November 2013 were approved as a correct record.

Members received an update on the Police's response regarding the special constabulary while Councillor Gaywood stated that she had met with the Police Crime Commissioner and he had informed her that there were no plans to assign one PCSO per ward as Councillor Rice had suggested at November's meeting.

15. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

a) Interests

No interests were declared.

b) Whipping

No interests were declared.

16. ALTERNATIVE USES FOR MONEY PREVIOUSLY USED TO MATCH FUND POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSOS)

The Committee looked through the two options in the report and noted that an operational budget to fund equipment and an out of hours service, amongst other costs, were included in both structures. The Committee discussed dog fouling and were informed that there were currently only two enforcement officers who patrolled the borough

and that either of the new structures would introduce more visible enforcement officers onto the streets. Officers stated they were working with residents to reduce dog fouling and educate people to pick up their mess. They had been successful in prosecuting one resident and also in helping a Chafford Hundred interest group to reduce dog fouling in their area. One Member asked whether the Council would bring back the dog bag initiative whereby the Council gave away free dog bags in strategic places. Officers stated this could be considered under the new funding arrangements.

Officers confirmed that the new officers would work closely with the Police and PCSOs and would hopefully be employed no later than May.

Councillor Kelly explored the option of whether the community could be consulted to see how they felt the additional resources could be spent. The Committee discussed this but the option was withdrawn when it was stated that the recommendation to use the funds for enforcement services had been made and documented by the original task and finish review into PCSOs.

The Members voted on which service option they preferred and it was split evenly between the two with two Members voting for each option. The chair decided that to reflect this diversity of opinion, that the decision to shape the service should rest with the portfolio holder, which was duly accepted.

RESOLVED that the portfolio holder for Public Protection, in conjunction with the Head of Public Protection, implement their desired preference with regards to an enhanced enforcement service.

17. WORKING GROUP REVIEW OF FUTURE PROVISION OF CIVIC AMENITY SITES

The Committee explored the current condition and status of Thurrock's amenity sites and learnt that the Council had worked successfully to reduce the number of out of borough and trade waste coming through the site in Linford. This was achieved by placing an officer on the entrance of the site to inform and check users. Officers stated that there were a number of options in the borough for trade waste disposal and there had been no recordable increase in fly tipping as a result. Members felt that the requirement for residents to have identification to use the site should be advertised as widely as possible.

The Committee was informed that the Linford site fulfilled its role and a brand new state of the art site would cost in the region of £500,000. Joint working could be explored but officers suspected that this would

cost the Council to allow residents to use out of borough sites but yet, there would be little return of outside residents using Thurrock's site. The Council was currently looking at an initiative to encourage people to bring waste to certain mobile sites around the borough.

There was a brief discussion on the cost of £26 to remove up to three bulky items. Officers stated this was a cost recovery charge and collection was usually done at the boundaries of homes (the garden for example) because it reduced the need for collectors to enter houses and be liable for damages.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) Members note and agree the recommendation of the working group.**
- ii)_ The Committee recommends to Cabinet the report and delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Environment and the Head of Environment to agree access control scheme details and implementation.**

18. REVIEW OF WASTE COLLECTION ROUND RATIONALISATION

The Committee was informed that since 20th December, the waste collection service had been running at near 100% collection rate and that only two roads had failed to be collected based on access issues and parked cars. Back up vehicles had been used effectively and pride in the service had been re-introduced to the collection teams.

A brief discussion was had on breakdowns where Members were told that the refuse collection vehicles were very complex machines and various mechanisms on the vehicle could fail without notice.

Officers were confident the service would continue at current performance and further efficiencies in working would be explored. Officers noted Member comments about collectors smoking on the job and leaving stray rubbish in the street.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and support be given to the financial and operational benefits delivered by the rationalisation project.

The meeting was finished at 8.27pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

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