

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

30th May 2019

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor MacPherson (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Haines (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Billings, Mrs. Brown, Dawson, Roberts (substituting for Councillor Fitzpatrick), Mrs. Wheelton (substituting for Councillor Mrs. Patten) and Whittenham.

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn, Mrs. Heath, Singh and Tilley.

EDS/1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fitzpatrick and Councillor Mrs. Patten (Conservative Group) and Councillor Taylor (Labour Group).

EDS/2 MINUTES

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 24th January 2019, 28th February 2019 and 17th April 2019 were noted, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

EDS/3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Roberts declared a personal interest in relation to Item 8 on the Agenda by virtue of being a private hire licensed driver and advised he would leave the Chamber whilst the item was discussed.

EDS/4 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Public had been received.

EDS/5 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

EDS/6 REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**EDS/7 CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT (YEAR END 2018-19)**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to Committee, highlighting the successes, which included a reduction in fly-tipping and an increase in the number of food businesses with five star food rating, and areas which required further action.

Councillor Dunn commented that whilst it was positive to see the target for food hygiene rating had been surpassed, it had been raised within the Audit Sub-Committee an inspection had been overdue by more than 100 days due to a long-term sickness and had only taken place following a complaint. He queried if there were sufficient resources available to meet demands of the service. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) responded to the query and noted the audit recommendations had been taken on board and there were now mitigating steps in place and temporary resources available.

Members discussed the merits and disadvantages of the Planning Committee being held every four weeks instead of three, with consideration being given to bringing the topic back to a future Committee to be debated.

Councillor Tilley requested a press release was published regarding the progress in addressing fly-tipping, though noting more was still required in tackling the problem. Councillor Mrs. Wheelton requested information on the fly-tipping 'hotspots'. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) noted efforts were being made to engage with communities about fly-tipping and information regarding locations could be included in the annual enforcement report being brought to a later Committee.

The Chairman agreed with the importance of the wider community being aware of the successes in addressing fly-tipping through the efforts of staff and residents through a press release.

Councillor Mrs. Brown requested the bin collection schedule along the A38 was reviewed and increased as had previously been raised, if possible. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) noted the request and committed to investigating the current bin collection schedule and reviewing if the previous request had not been implemented.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered progress against performance targets set out in the Corporate Plan.

The Committee reviewed the Risk Register and Action Plan for the Committee's services.

Councillor Roberts left the Chamber at 6.20pm.

EDS/8 UPDATE TO PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY AND CONDITIONS

The Senior Licensing Officer presented the report to Committee, highlighting the requested changes to the Private Hire Licensing Policy following an eight week consultation.

Members raised queries regarding the availability of suitable vehicles with a minimum light transmission of 70% taxi drivers could purchase; the protection of passengers, mainly young children, from sunrays within vehicles with light transmission of 70% or greater; and the correlation between tinted windows and safeguarding incidents.

The Senior Licensing Officer addressed each query, noting popular licensed vehicles could be purchased without privacy windows and there were alternative ways to protect passengers, mainly young children in car seats, in vehicles. In relation to safeguarding incidents, the Senior Licensing Officer informed the Committee the proposed changes to the policy was a proactive response to national concerns around Child Sexual Exploitation and county lines. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) informed Members the proposals contained in the report were in response to government recommendations following the grooming of young and vulnerable children by taxi drivers in Rotherham.

Councillor Singh queried the impact on currently licensed vehicles that do not meet the minimum light transmission requirement. The Senior Licensing Officer noted a compromise had been made in the policy to allow for a phased transition of the currently licensed vehicles that do not meet the requirement.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the proposed changes to the Private Hire Licensing Policy and Private Hire Vehicle, Driver and Operator Conditions to come into effect on 1st July 2019.

The Committee approved the proposed fee for a private hire vehicle licence for a hire vehicle to come into effect on 1st August 2019.

Councillor Roberts returned to the Chamber at 6.40pm.

EDS/9

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Billings requested information regarding dog fouling hotspots, in addition to the fly-tipping hotspots, be included within the Annual Enforcement Report. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) noted the request and advised this would be passed on to the Officer.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) informed Members that following an initial report in April 2019, a second report regarding the work undertaken by the Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group would be brought to Committee to highlight the activities taken to improve the Council's environmental performance.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

EDS/10 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it would be likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meetings held on the 24th January 2019 and 17th April 2019 were received.

EXEMPT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT – DERBYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

The Committee approved the recommendations contained in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7.05pm.

COUNCILLOR A MACPHERSON

CHAIRMAN