

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Mrs. Plenderleith (Chairman), Councillor Atkin (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Mrs Patten.

**Labour Group**

Councillors Bambrick and Pearson.

OS12. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillor Mrs. Hood (Conservative Group) and Councillors Dunn and Mrs. Mead (Labour Group).

OS/13. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

OS/14. **SERVICE REVIEW OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Housing and Environmental Services which advised Members of progress on actions following the 2012 Overview and Scrutiny Committee service review of grounds maintenance. There were four sections to the report, namely, quality control, feedback, county funded works and external accreditation.

It was reported that overall service standards were satisfactory at worst and good in a number of areas. New feedback cards issued in the summer showed that 65% of clients rated the service as good or excellent. With regard to works funded by Derbyshire County Council, officers advised that this had been maintained at previous levels but it was important for the Council to keep lobbying to keep the budget at these levels. It was also reported that the team had not sought external accreditation for the service, as there were other priorities at this time. It was explained that officers would develop further in-house quality monitoring processes and would produce an annual report detailing priorities for future action. The first such report for the 2013 season was being produced and would be available in the next few weeks.

Members asked a number of questions relating to work done for Parish Councils and other external clients. It was suggested that these issues be discussed at the next Parish Liaison Meeting. There were also questions regarding the schedule for the cleaning of jitties. It was reported that jitties not on a maintenance schedule were most likely to be those not in the ownership

of the District Council. A review of jitties, their ownership and maintenance schedule would be undertaken.

***It was agreed:-***

- (1) To note the report and agree the recommendations therein;***
- (2) To instruct officers to arrange that this issue be placed on the next agenda of the Parish Liaison meeting; and***
- (3) A review of the maintenance of jitties be undertaken.***

OS/15. **CLEAN TEAM**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Housing and Environmental Services which had been prepared in response to a request from the Committee. The report sought to advise Members of the current arrangements for tackling littering, fly tipping and dog fouling in the district and sought members input and comments on current processes.

Officers stated that the general perception of the service was positive and that the system worked well and was much appreciated by the public. Members confirmed that this was also their view of the service and asked that this be conveyed back to the staff.

Members discussed the approach taken with its emphasis on advice and education, with prosecution as a last resort in extreme cases; Members debated whether it might be appropriate to take a harder line, for example, in cases of dog fouling of playing fields.

Members also debated the issues of the dumping of green waste and the fly-tipping of old refrigerators. With regard to green waste, officers advised that some nearby councils were now charging for collection which could be causing or contributing to the problem. Officers stated that in their view, it was time to review multi-waste collection charges to deal with the problem of dumped refrigerators. Members expressed the view that stronger enforcement and greater publicity might be appropriate to deal with this particular problem.

Members also expressed concern as to the age and poor condition of the vehicles used by the Clean Team. Members were advised that consideration needed to be given to the type of vehicle used in the future, with an emphasis on flexibility before they were replaced.

Members raised a number of other issues around the work of the team. Members were requested to report any hotspots or problem areas so that they could be tackled.

***The Committee agreed to note the report and to recommend to Council that the issues of publicity for the service and the charging regime be reviewed.***

OS/16. **OVERVIEW & SCUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

A draft work programme document was circulated for the Committee's consideration. Consideration was given to the topics of cemetery review, elections management and crime and disorder.

**The updated work programme for 2013/14 was approved.**

MRS. A. PLENDERLEITH

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 7.15 pm.