

ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

17th April 2019

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor MacPherson (Chairman) and Councillor Roberts (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Billings, Mrs Brown, Mrs Patten, Pegg and Watson

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn, Shepherd (substituting for Councillor Chahal) and Tilley

EDS/106 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Coe (Conservative Group), Councillors Chahal and Taylor (Labour Group) and Councillor Coe (Independent/Non-Grouped).

EDS/107 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd January 2019 were noted, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

EDS/108 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

EDS/109 **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/110 **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/111 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

EDS/112 **SERVICE PLANS 2019/20**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to Committee, noting the report sets out the overview, staff requirements and performance measures for the next six months.

Councillor Tilley welcomed the report, particularly the identification of areas where spending was required. He queried how the capital budgets were prioritised. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) noted it was an indicative figure based upon the various needs of each department, which would have been reported on in earlier Committees.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved the Service Plans for Service Delivery and Chief Executive's Directorates as a basis for service delivery over the period 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019.***

EDS/113 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – LICENSING DEPARTMENT

The Senior Licensing Officer presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Tilley welcomed the report and thanked the Officer and the Licensing Team for another outstanding report.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee noted the performance of the Licensing Department in relation to the Key Performance Indicators.***

Councillor Billings joined the meeting at 6.15pm.

EDS/114 RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The Head of Operational Services presented the report to Committee, noting the responses to the questions posed by the Government centred around the aim of delivering a nationally consistent approach to waste collection, which included reviewing recycling collections, introducing a deposit return scheme and implementing a plastic packaging tax on packaging which contained less than 30% recycled plastic.

Councillor Watson remarked on the complexities of the report, noting disappointment a seminar was not held to allow the Committee to review the report in detail. Aspects of the report, mainly weekly food collection, were not something he could support and required a separate discussion. He would recommend an extension is requested to allow for time for further consideration.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) noted the Member's disappointment, commenting the short timescale allocated by the government for the Council to submit the responses was not conducive for such a detailed review. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) further explored the government's drive for weekly food collections, noting within the response to the consultation, it will be requested that the District Council is able to continue collecting food waste with the garden waste to support the current infrastructure to prevent

additional costs by food waste being included in black bins, which was at a significantly higher cost. Councillor Watson appreciated the detailed response, noting if the waste collection was as stipulated within the report he would withdraw his earlier comments.

A discussion took place regarding improving education of residents to improve recycling rates; ensuring more punitive measures towards manufacturers are enforced to change the habits of companies; the production of more recyclable materials so less waste is placed in black bins and how the additional cost of moving towards weekly collections would be covered.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee endorsed the proposed responses to the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy Consultations.

EDS/115 **CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GROUP**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report to Committee, highlighting the work undertaken by the group so far, which included the creation of a travel working group tasked with developing specific travel options for staff following the completion of a travel survey, which received responses from nearly 60% of staff across operational services. Future projects would centre on addressing energy and waste.

Councillor Watson queried if a correlation existed between staff absence rates and the distance travelled to work. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) responded to the query, noting the Health Partnership Manager was addressing the staff absence rate, with a focus on health and wellbeing such as the introduction of a walking group that staff can participate in during their lunch break.

RESOLVED:

1.1. The Committee noted the progress made in improving the Council's environmental performance further to this Committee establishing a Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group in August 2018.

1.2. The Committee approved the development of a Staff Travel Plan and that the final version of the Plan be reported to this Committee at a later date.

1.3. The Committee approved that the Corporate Environmental Sustainability Group develops key environmental performance indicators for inclusion within future versions of the Corporate Action Plan.

EDS/116 **FIXED PENALTY NOTICES FOR HOUSEHOLD DUTY OF CARE OFFENCES**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report to Committee, noting performance indicators showed a 9% reduction in flytipping and fixed penalty notices allowed for a further sanction to be utilised. A max fine of £400

would be implemented and vulnerable people, such as victims of scams, would be exempt.

Members commended the efforts taken to tackle flytipping within the District, though recognising more was still required to help educate the general public on what they could potentially be liable for. A discussion took place regarding how signs left posted from homebuilders can be blights within areas and there was a potential need to review dog waste disposal.

RESOLVED:

1.1. The Committee approved the use of Fixed Penalty Notices, where appropriate, to take enforcement action against household duty of care offences.

1.2. The Committee approved that the Fixed Penalty Notice charge be set at £400, with an early payment reduced charge of £280.

EDS/117 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

EDS/118 **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.

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Committee approved the recommendation contained in the report.

The meeting terminated at 7.20pm.

CHAIRMAN