

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held in the **Ditchling Room, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes** on **Friday, 1 July 2016** at **10.00am**.

Present:

Councillor P Gardiner (Chair) S Adeniji, J Carter, N Enever, I Linington, R O’Keeffe MBE, and J Peterson

In Attendance:

I Fitzpatrick, Interim Director of Service Delivery

J Harper, Head of Business Strategy and Performance

J Goodall, Strategic Project Manager

R Wynn, Environmental Health Specialist

S Harvey, Strategic Performance Officer

K Maxwell, Local Democracy Officer, Eastbourne Borough Council

	Minutes	Action
1	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Harrison-Hicks, C Sugarman, V Ient and S Osborne.</p>	
3	<p>Waste and Recycling Service Review</p> <p>The Committee received Report 89/16 which provided members with an update on the Waste and Recycling Service Review, taking account of issues arising since the July Cabinet report 89/15.</p> <p>The Committee was reminded that the council undertook the initial review in 2014/15, which sought to provide a service that encouraged recycling, was flexible and easy to understand for its residents, within existing budgets as well as enabling potential commercial opportunities. In July 2015, Cabinet agreed to proceed to develop the service in accordance with the following</p>	

definition:

- Fortnightly refuse collection;
- Weekly recycling collection with glass and paper collected separately from cans, plastics and card;
- Weekly food waste;
- Fortnightly opt-in green waste collection.

A summary options appraisal was attached at Appendix 1 of the Report.

When considering the options proposed in Appendix 3 the Committee was advised that MRF sites operated different types of recycling separation machinery which would have different implications depending on the option chosen. Members requested a site visit to the MRF's in Brighton and Seaford so that they could see the facilities in action. Members also requested that the site visit be extended to all Members and that the recycling officer at Brighton and Hove was also invited to attend.

Strategic
Project
Manager

The Committee requested clarification on the predicted recycling rates and costings. The Strategic Project Manager advised that cost spreadsheets were available for review.

Strategic
Project
Manager

It was noted that a fully co-mingled service was suggested as being the most cost effective, in addition co-mingled waste collection would also result in an increase in recycling rates but would reduce the amount of recyclates and therefore income to the Council.

The Interim Director of Service Delivery advised the Committee that due diligence was underway with regard to the financial proposals and that a third partner would conduct an external appraisal of the options proposed. The Committee endorsed this action and suggested that this exercise should be undertaken prior to the submission of the final report to Cabinet.

The Committee discussed the varying collection issues such as location and type of properties and asked how this had been considered when formulating options. It was suggested that a 'one size fits all' solution may not be appropriate.

The Strategic Project Manager advised that assumptions had been made on roughly 5,000 properties in order to formulate the 10 options. The next stage would be to reduce to three preferred options and assess in more detail.

The Committee requested that the Strategic Project Manager ascertain how many of the residents of the 274 authorities who provided a co-mingled collection were satisfied with the service.

Strategic
Project
Manager

The Committee requested that consideration should also be given to the use of communal refuse disposal, to included recycling, for flats and

terraces of houses.

The Committee discussed the income generation through recycling and was advised that the value of recyclate varied greatly depending on oil prices. Research carried out by Ricardo had been at the lowest point in the market and the assumption was that the rates would increase.

In summary the Committee agreed the following points:

- It was understood that due diligence had yet to be applied, and this should be completed before decisions were made. The Committee asked that a viability assessment should be undertaken but a third party other than LDC or its consultant). An independent assessment of what was being proposed appeared essential.
- There was doubt about whether one model should be applied across the LDC area. The Committee felt that local application of different models should be considered for different locations, type of property, ease of use by residents, vehicle access etc.
- The Committee was unclear as to what had been measured to establish customer satisfaction, and wanted to see something more thorough carried out before it was used in any analysis.
- Examples of best practice at other authorities should be considered.
- Income generated from recyclate – this should be factored into any preferred options. It was pointed out that once LDC departed from kerbside separation it would be difficult to return to it, yet kerbside separation gave rise to the best prices for recyclate. Any return to normal oil prices would mean recyclate would regain in value.
- The Committee stressed that the environmental benefit needed to have a strong weighting alongside financial considerations. In addition, the Committee felt that the issue and definition of economic practicability was unclear in the documentation and needed to be clarified.
- The resident's appetite for fortnightly collections would need to be gauged.

The Committee wished to thank the staff included within the current review, they appreciated the affect this may have on staff with regard to the changes to working practices that may be made and reassured those staff that the Council was committed to supporting them throughout the process.

Resolved:

- 3.1** That Report No 89/16 be noted; and

Strategic
Project
Manager

- 3.2 That comments made by the Scrutiny Committee be reported to Cabinet prior to their consideration of the review options.

4 Local Air Quality Management Newhaven's Air Quality Action Plan

The Committee received Report 90/16 requesting that the Committee endorse the Air Quality Action Plan for Newhaven to improve local air quality in the Lewes District.

The Committee discussed various methods of reduction air pollution within the town including the use of NOx absorbing paint and planting small trees near areas of built up traffic – roundabouts, traffic lights etc.

The Committee agreed the action plan had been well researched. However the Scrutiny Committee positively welcomed a strong position to be taken over the now permitted "naming and shaming" of those not assisting the policy, and the potential inclusion of ESCC, whose traffic engineers needed to change the system operating in Newhaven.

The Committee requested that Natural England be included as a consultee.

Resolved:

- 4.1 That the Air Quality Action Plan for Newhaven, as detailed in Report No 90/16, be endorsed;
- 4.2 That Cabinet be advised that the Scrutiny Committee welcome the action points as shown in paragraph 3.4 of Report No 90/16; and
- 4.3 That the Air Quality Action Plan be referred to East Sussex County Council for consideration.

5 Portfolio Progress and Performance 2015 – 2016 Quarter 4 (January to March 2016)

The Committee received report 91/16 which detailed the progress and performance in respect of key projects and targets for the fourth quarter of the year (January to March 2016 (Quarter 4)) and the Council's overall performance for 2015/16.

Members were advised that an additional report would be produced monitoring the high level performance targets of the Joint Transformation Programme.

The Committee noted the summary of the Council's performance for the year as at the end of the 4th quarter as follows:

- 85% of the Council's key projects were either completed or on track at the end of the 4th quarter.
- 79% of the Council's performance targets were either met, exceeded

or within a 5% variance during the year as a whole.

- Only five indicators had not met the planned targets for the year.

The Committee wished to thank the officers who had helped to make improvements to the performance of the Council over the last year, particularly with regard to recycling, they appreciated the efforts made, but noted that this was difficult performance to improve.

The Committee raised concerns regarding the use of B&B accommodation, but recognised there were many external factors that would influence the Council's use of temporary accommodation. It was noted that there had been a rise in the use of emergency accommodation however, it was hoped that the Scrutiny Review of Housing Supply and Demand highlighted in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2016/17 would address this where possible. The Interim Director of Service Delivery advised that the Council would be considering 'good practice' at other authorities as part of this review.

The Committee noted that the 'Equal Pay Audit' had been postponed, in light of Joint Transformation Programme activities and were advised that this would be brought forward at the earliest opportunity. The Head of Business Strategy and Performance stated that every area within the Joint Transformation Programme would be equality assessed in the intervening period.

Resolved:

- 5.1 That progress and performance for Quarter 4 as shown in Appendix 1 of Report No 91/16, and the year as a whole, be noted;
- 5.2 That the projects and performance areas as shown in Appendix 2 of Report No 91/16 be agreed for future reporting; and
- 5.3 That the programme of work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee be noted.

6 Chair of the Council's Business Report

The Committee received Report No 92/16, the purpose of which was to consider the outgoing Chair's civic programme and the civic programme for the forthcoming year and budget provision.

Resolved:

- 6.1 That Report No 92/16 be noted.

7 Committee Training Requirements

The Committee received Report 93/16 which enabled members to identify

any training needs for the forthcoming year.

Councillors Carter, Gardiner and Peterson requested to attend 'Scrutiny Skills for Councillors' training. Members requested that the training be held as an evening event.

Resolved:

- 7.1 That the Head of Business Strategy and Performance be requested to arrange 'Scrutiny Skills for Councillors' training.

Head of Bus.
Strategy &
Performance

8 Scrutiny Work Programme 2016 – 2017

The Committee received Report 94/16 which requested that members agree their Work Programme for 2016 – 2017.

Resolved:

- 8.1 That the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016 – 2017, as set out in Appendix A of Report No 94/16, be agreed; and
- 8.2 That the 'Request by Councillor for a Scrutiny Review' be noted and adopted for the submission of any future Scrutiny review requests.

9 Forward Plan of Decisions - 1 July 2016 to 31 October 2016

The Committee considered the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 October 2016 and was requested to advise the Head of Business Strategy and Performance of any areas it wished to consider ahead of Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

Resolved:

- 9.1 That the Forward Plan of the Council for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 October 2016 be noted; and
- 9.2 That Members of the Scrutiny Committee be requested to advise the Head of Business Strategy and Performance of any areas for pre-consideration at the earliest opportunity.

10 Date of Next Meeting

Members requested that the Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 23 March 2017 be rearranged to a date in February 2017. Members would be canvassed for a suitable date in due course.

Resolved:

- 10.1 That the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee scheduled to be held on Thursday 8 September 2016 in the Ditchling Room, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes commencing at

All to note

10:00am be noted; and

- 10.2** That the Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 23 March 2017 be rearranged to a date in February 2017.

All to note

The meeting ended at 12:10pm.

P Gardiner
Chair