



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 24th FEBRUARY 2021

PRESENT: Councillor S Goodall (Chair), Councillors A Farrell, M Bailey, R Bilcliff, P Brindley, T Clements, Dr S Peale and P Thurgood

CABINET: Councillor John Chesworth
Councillor Stephen Doyle

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Tina Mustafa (Assistant Director Neighbourhoods), Lee Birch (Head of Neighbourhood Services), Nigel Harris (General Manager, Joint Waste Service), Tracey Pinton (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager) and Jo Hutchison (Democratic Services, Scrutiny and Elections Officer)

Guest: Mark Babington (Head of Safety, Security and Emergency Planning at West Midlands Combined Authority)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) P Standen

35 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th January 2021 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor A Farrell and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peale)

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

37 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair reported that he expected to bring the Committee's draft Annual Scrutiny report to the March meeting for comment, following which it was expected that the report would be presented to a Council meeting towards the start of the new municipal year.

The Chair reported that the CIL Spending report would be considered by this Committee at its March meeting before consideration by Cabinet at its meeting in April 2021.

38 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE

None.

39 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL

None.

40 2020/21 FORWARD PLAN

There were no further items identified for this Committee's consideration.

41 CCTV IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW

The Chair reminded members that this Committee had considered the implementation of the CCTV review in January 2020 and at that point had requested that a post implementation review be brought back to this Committee in around 12 months time. The Chair introduced the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community Safety, the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, the Head of Housing Management & Neighbourhood Resilience and the Head of Safety, Security and Emergency Planning at West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) (Mr Mark Babington).

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods provided an overview of the strategic objectives for the CCTV review and the partner role that CCTV played, together with other partners, in supporting the Tamworth Community Safety Plan, as well as an overview of the first 12 month delivery plan, the cross border collaboration, the digital access for the police and the capital upgrade which had been accelerated.

The Head of Housing Management confirmed that the shared service launched on 30 March 2020, at the start of the first lockdown, on budget and on time.

Further detail was provided to the Committee on the following areas:

- Better value for money – during year one savings remained on track to meet the expected £500,000 savings over five years.
- Improved and modernised service - the camera system had been reviewed and a new privacy impact assessment completed. The system was reported to be fully compliant with the Surveillance Camera Commissioners Code of Practice.
- Dedicated Tamworth operators, and the development of local intelligence – both initial and ongoing training for dedicated operators was undertaken to

train operatives to build up their local knowledge as well as their knowledge of local services provided in respect of on call directors and facilitating access to the Castle toilets.

- Investment in the CCTV camera and infrastructure upgrade accelerated the majority of the cameras were upgraded in the first year and those remaining were expected to be upgraded early in the second year.
- Improved digital connectivity with the police – a digital link to facilitate efficient police access had been installed which was largely funded by the PCC, with the potential for an additional local access point in Tamworth to be installed subject to funding agreement.
- Intelligence led approach – a quarterly report process had been developed to identify and monitor trends and key geographic locations which could help inform wider community benefits.
- CCTV monitoring data intelligence – where it was reported that whilst the period, due to lockdown, had not been a typical period, the new service had identified key hotspot areas, where incidents and activities identified included anti-social behaviour, assault, medical issues and rough sleepers. In terms of activity, incidents were highest on Friday, Saturday and Sundays, requests from the police averaged 30 footage requests per quarter, whilst there were 25 camera faults per month these were all resolved within 48 hours.
- Camera and platform recording quality – the upgraded equipment had delivered significantly better image quality and better data, and together with that it was reported that the cameras had additional analytics capacity which could be utilised in time. It was also expected that as cameras were upgraded the level of faults would (and indeed had over the previous 12 months) declined.
- Continual improvement delivery plan – year two – this would include reviewing the location of cameras, reviewing emergency planning resilience, looking at the capability of the cameras from an analytics perspective, working collaboratively with the Partnership against Business Crime in Staffordshire (PABCIS) and looking at the Council's own CCTV accreditation.

The Committee sought and received clarification in the following areas:

- Partnership working with the police in respect of the implementation and ongoing delivery of the CCTV service as a tool for the police where the Assistant Director confirmed to the Committee that support had been requested in three areas; digital access; live streaming, and airwave radio access, and digital access and radio access had been resolved and was working, and that discussions on live streaming and additional digital access points was continuing.
- The local knowledge of the CCTV operators - it was confirmed that no existing staff had transferred over the shared service, however, there were dedicated staff at the new control centre and significant work had been undertaken to develop the local knowledge of such staff, in addition to them having access to data mapping technology.
- The extent of cross border collaboration - such collaboration remained an objective and was a particular focus in terms of transport across

borders, and additionally staff at WMCA were members of public sector associations which supported collaboration with Officers at neighbouring authorities operating CCTV services.

- Funding of digital access for the police – it was reported that the majority of this funding had been from PCC sources.
- Location of cameras and Quality assurance / accreditation – an emphasis was requested on the evaluation of the location of cameras across the borough to reflect developments since the initial location of cameras, including in neighbourhood areas as well as the town centre. The Officers highlighted the role that self-assessment processes played, which were part of any accreditation process, in driving improvement and the deployment of cameras.
- Deployable cameras – whilst this was an area under consideration, and the camera system was scalable, there remained further work to do.
- Working with other partners – close working with the county council and the police continued to be important together with the CCTV service to deliver as safe an environment as possible.

RESOLVED that the Committee:

1. Noted the successful implementation of the new CCTV service and the major steps forward and thanked Officers and partners; and
2. Invited officers and partners to provide a further update to the Committee in September 2021.

(Moved by Councillor Dr S Peaple and seconded by Councillor S Goodall)

The Officers and guests for this item then left the meeting.

42 THE FUTURE PROVISION OF THE DRY RECYCLING SERVICE - UPDATE AND PRELIMINARY OPTIONS APPRAISAL

The Chair welcomed the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Culture, the Chief Executive and the General Manager of the Waste Management Service to the meeting. The Portfolio Holder introduced the report which aimed to update the Committee on the current position on waste management and to present some of the emerging options for the future provision of the dry recycling service.

The General Manager of the Joint Waste Service reported that in August 2020, the Tamworth and Lichfield Joint Waste Committee had endorsed the approach agreed by the councils' respective Cabinets to:

- consider a contract extension with the existing provider,
- undertake a formal re procurement exercise, and
- have discussions with Staffordshire County Council in their capacity as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA).

It was reported that there were six Staffordshire Waste Collection Authorities, including Tamworth Borough Council and Lichfield District Council, whose dry mixed recycling (DMR) contracts will expire in March 2022. It was further reported that the market for processing DMR had shifted dramatically, in particular in respect of a shift to a dual stream collection with separate fibre (paper and card)

collection. An extension to the existing DMR contract had been ruled out on the grounds of cost and risk, and as a consequence work had been undertaken to produce framework contracts and tender documents for both commingled and dual stream options. The evaluation process was expected to be completed towards the end of February. In addition consideration of transferring disposal responsibility to the County Council had been explored, and the potential benefits and costs considered.

The soft market testing undertaken had indicated some changes to how dry recycling service was delivered which could impact on the equipment and potentially the vehicles currently used by districts / boroughs, which had added some time pressure, given long lead times to procure. Consequently to support in the required decision making process, a preliminary options appraisal had been undertaken and the six options identified were presented to the Committee:

- 1) Retain commingled collections and responsibility for disposal.
- 2) Retain commingled collections and transfer responsibility for disposal to the County Council.
- 3) Introduce dual stream collections using an additional bin for paper/card and retain responsibility for disposal.
- 4) Introduce dual stream collections using an additional bin for paper/card and transfer responsibility for disposal to the County Council.
- 5) Introduce dual stream collections using a bag for paper/card and retain responsibility for disposal.
- 6) Introduce dual stream collections using a bag and transfer responsibility for disposal to the County Council.

The General Manager outlined the key risks and benefits of each option including considerations such as collection frequency, operational costs, gate fees, expected residents' views, relative equipment costs, and sought feedback from the Committee on the options presented.

The Chief Executive reported that the pending National Resource and Waste Strategy made this a challenging time to be re-procuring and that a letter to Government was being drafted to request further clarity and urgency in this matter.

The Committee considered the options and sought further clarifications in some areas, including:

- The extent of the competition in the market – it was reported that there were several providers, but that capacity locally could determine whether or not they would bid;
- Optionality in the framework contract – it was reported that tenders had gone out on two bases; co-mingled and dual stream, and that for the Joint waste Service, two separate lots had been prepared, which split geographically at the A38 (as opposed to via council areas);
- The market for some dry recycling – it was reported that there remained a market for good quality recycling, although expected to be less market to export;
- The split of dry recycling waste – it was reported that cardboard waste had increased and that it would be important to ensure that relative quantities

of different types of waste were understood in certain of the options to ensure that the split of the capacity in the vehicles was optimal;

- Early to draw conclusions – it felt early to draw conclusions as to which would be the better of the options, however, it was appreciated that it was important to ensure that all avenues were pursued to ensure further clarity as soon as possible on the new policy.

RESOLVED that the meeting be extended to 9pm under Procedure Rule 9.1.13.
(Moved by Councillor A Farrell and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peaple)

RESOLVED that the Committee:

1. Supported the drafting of a letter to encourage urgency in the decision making process related to the National Resource and Waste Strategy, for consideration by this Committee (by circulation); and
2. Thanked the Officers for their report and presentation.

The Portfolio Holder, Chief Executive and General Manager then left the meeting.

43 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The Chair provided the following updates:

1. Fireworks working group – following a working group meeting in February 2021, Councillor Dr S Peaple to draft some suggested wording and circulate for comment.
2. ICT working group – a working group meeting in February 2021 with the Head of ICT had led to some questions being presented to the Head of ICT.
3. Events working group – following a working group meeting in February 2021, the Chair had some questions to follow up with Officers.

44 INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee received the work plan and updated it as follows:

Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Work Plan

Work Plan 2020 - 2021	
DATE	SUBJECT
25 March 2021	Crime Figures for Tamworth and Community safety
25 March 2021	Modern Slavery
25 March 2021	CIL Spending
Quarterly updates	Future High Street Fund (Growth) – Quarterly updates – starting March 2021
June / July 2021	Consideration of State of Tamworth Debate items
xxx 2021	EV Charging update
xxx 2021	Business Crime Reduction Partnership Update
xxx 2021	E-Scouters and E-Bikes
September 2021	CCTV update
Sept / Oct 2021	Kettlebrook and Bolehall Public Space Protection Orders
xxx 2022	Review of Taxi Licensing Policy – Points System
When clarity on legislation	Fire Safety Update

Working Groups		
Topic	Possible WG Members	Target IS&G Com meeting date
ICT Strategy	SG, PS	
Fireworks	Open to all	June 2021
Events	SP, RB, AF, PB, SG	

Upcoming Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee Meetings
25 th March 2021

Chair