



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 10th OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT: Councillor C Dean (Chair), Councillors B Clarke, R Claymore, T Clements, R Pritchard and L Wood

CABINET: Councillor T Jay
Councillor P Thompson

The following officers were present: Anna Miller (Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration), Alice Poulton (Future High Streets Fund Project Officer), Thomas Hobbs (Head of Economic Development and Regeneration), Leanne Costello (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer) and Tracey Smith (Democratic Services Assistant)

37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Wood, J Oates.

Councillor R Pritchard gave his apologies that he would need to leave the meeting at 6:30pm.

38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

39 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

None.

40 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE

None.

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

None.

42 DUAL STREAM (RECYCLING SERVICE) QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Chair welcomed the officers from the Joint Waste Services who introduced the report of the Operations Manager to update on the Dual Stream Recycling Service performance and data.

The Officer highlighted the following:

- The Service is stable and crew numbers are within budget.
- Growth within the areas covered will have a huge impact upon the cost of the service.
- Missed bins are down by around 50% on this time last year and they are continuing to look at ways to reduce these figures further particularly around assisted collections.
- Complaints are down to 11.6% (in a period of over a million collections)
- There is plenty of stock of Blue Bags
- There is large engagement from residents (excluding the high rise flats)
- The Garden Waste Service has approximately 44,000 subscriptions, 65% within Lichfield and 35% across Tamworth which is not unexpected due to Lichfield having more rural areas.
- The number of contaminated bins is down from 3147 last year to 1595 this year.
- Quality of material produced has improved and since the introduction of the service there has only been one rejected load which was due to an error at the plant.
- Dry recycling rates have decreased slightly, whilst residual waste has increased slightly which does need to be addressed and the Joint Waste Service are looking to roll out a light touch campaign before Christmas.
- There was a financial overspend of £194,990 on a £6.4 million spend of which Tamworth share was approximately £80,000. There is currently an overspend of 75,000 for the current year but this could change before the end of the financial year.
- The Service has a number of projects underway which are details in the report including a round review, changes in legislation (including food waste), fleet renewal and Communal blocks moving onto the Service. The service is engaging with colleagues at TBC to look at how to bring the High Rise in to the Service.

The Portfolio holder highlighted the positive data that complaints are down by approximately 87% and collections are down by 50%. They also stressed that it is unlikely that anything will move forward with this in the current Municipal year.

The Committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

1. Do Officers have any reasons and possible solutions for the missed bins? Officers confirmed that it can be an operation issue. There are less issues when there is a regular crew in an area, there tend to be more missed bins

when a different crew attends who do not know the round. It was acknowledged that human error is a factor. Assisted collections are automated to the Cab but this is not always fed out to the crew, there is now a supervisor who has taken a responsibility for monitoring missed assisted collections and liaising with crews.

2. What will the recycling Campaign look like and how do we educate people? Have they thought about going into schools to educate children. Can Councillors be engaged in areas where there are problems to work with residents?

Officer confirmed that the plan is to liaise with all demographics, all ages and all residents and the campaign will be shared with the Committee before it is rolled out. It was acknowledged that engaging with Councillors would be a good idea and that they could speak to Officers to highlight areas where there are consistent problems.

3. Impression seems to be that we don't want to encourage a food waste service?

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that this is not currently mandated so to move in the to this area at this point might prove to be more expensive. Officers confirmed that the service can be quite expensive and if the service was taken on now, we could miss out on any future new burdens funding.

4. Clarification around whether the fleet needed to be replaced all at once or could be done on a rolling basis?

Officers confirmed that Councils do this in different ways but the Joint Waste Service is in a position where its contract hire is due to expire on all vehicles, however the annual cost won't change significantly and the service can benefit from economies of scale when buying in large numbers. Disadvantages of this is that you can have a large fleet of older vehicles for a period.

5. Clarification of the Joint Waste Service position around EV charging vehicles and infrastructure as currently the Council is not forward on the Issue?

Officers confirmed that the service is behind as is the rest of Staffordshire and there was a meeting recently around the cost of electrifying Depots, which can vary massively depending on the infrastructure already in place. It is not expected that the current fleet upgrade would include any EV vehicles. Other options are being considered around Hydrogen vehicles and there is an information session coming up which members are invited to attend.

There are also discussions around the use of hydrogenated vegetable oil. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that the industry is not rushing to take on EV vehicles as a solution as other options are being talked about and that the Council needs to step back and not rush into a decision which could be the wrong decision. Commercial energy does not compare to residential energy and is considerably more expensive. The purchase of a new fleet will reduce emissions.

6. The impact of the growth of the districts.

Officers confirmed that roughly 1 vehicle can service approximately 1500 properties, therefore vehicle numbers and crew will need to increase to deal with this.

7. Did they have any solutions around bringing the high rise under the Joint Waste Service solution?

Officers confirmed that they are liaising with colleagues within Tamworth arounds solutions which needs to be followed up.

The Committee confirmed that they wish for the report to continue on a quarterly basis.

Resolved That Committee

1. Noted the update on the performance of the Dual Stream Recycling Service and that the next report includes data on information sourced on how we fuel our next fleet of vehicles.

(Moved by Councillor T Clements and seconded by Councillor B Clarke)

43 FORWARD PLAN

There were no new items identified by the Committee.

44 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The Chair confirmed that a provisional date of the 1st November had been proposed for a meeting.

There had been a meeting arranged for the migrant travelling community but this had to be changed.

There was no update on HGV.

45 INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Chair highlighted that as there was not time to see the decant policy before it is put to Cabinet on the 26th October that a date will be agreed to complete a post implementation review.

The Committee consider the items on the work plan and agreed that they would still like to be update on the Town Hall Proposals when they are available and that would like a fire safety update.

It was agreed that the Assembly Rooms would be removed from the plan.

46 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, and Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public

(Moved by Councillor R Claymore and Councillor T Clements)

47 FHSF UPDATE

Report of the Leader to provide an update on the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) programme of works.

Resolved That Committee

1. Endorsed the report

(Moved by Councillor T Clements and seconded by Councillor B Clarke)

48 OFF STREET CAR PARKING TARIFF AND STRUCTURE REVIEW

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Town Centre and Commercial Property proposed; changes to tariffs and pricing structures across the Council's off-street carparking estate; the procurement of a new cashless, app based system; no changes to the current permit structure and associated fees.

Resolved That Committee

1. Endorsed the report and the seven recommendations going to Cabinet.
(Moved by Councillor B Clarke and seconded by T Clements)
2. Made a further recommendation to Cabinet.
(Moved by R Claymore and moved by Councillor B Clarke)

Chair