

31st October 2024**Report of the Chair of the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee****Matters referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules**

Scrutiny Committee	Title of Matter referred	Date of Scrutiny meeting
Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee	Maintenance of Estates and Open Spaces	2 nd October 2024

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To notify Cabinet of the recommendations from the Maintenance of Estates and Open Spaces item that was discussed at the meeting of Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee on the 2nd October 2024.

Recommendations

Following consideration of the item the Committee agree to the following recommendations being made to Cabinet:

1. That the Council investigates how it could provide an educational programme to inform residents of the services that Tamworth Borough Council are responsible for and what the County are responsible for.

(Moved by Councillor B Price and seconded by Councillor L Clarke)

2. Investigate the purchase of a bank cutting machine

(Moved by Councillor M Clarke and seconded by Council C Adams).

Background Information

At the meeting of the Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee the 11th June 2024 the Committee requested that an item be added to the workplan to look at the Maintenance of Estates and Open spaces. This item was scheduled to be heard by the Committee on the 22nd August but was deferred due to workload to the meeting on the 2nd October 2024.

Executive Summary

At the meeting on the 2nd October 2024 the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Sustainability, Recycling and Waste, the Assistant Director for Environment, Culture and Wellbeing and the Deputy Operations Manager, Street Scene attended and updated the Committees on the maintenance of estates and open spaces throughout the borough.

The update was via a presentation –

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee, 02/10/2024 18:00 \(tamworth.gov.uk\)](#)

The Committee were updated on the staffing structure, the areas of responsibility of the service, how the service was funded, what statutory and non-statutory services were provided, service risks and how the team could be contacted.

The Committee asked questions around tree works, including who was responsible for trees and the system used to identify whose responsibility a tree was, how enquiries were responded to, whether there were any timescales for responding to enquiries. Staffing was discussed and how the Council used Communications to report to residents how maintenance work was carried out.

During this discussion it was highlighted that educating residents on who was responsible for what, within the Borough was important. It was also discussed that this education should extend into schools to educate children on what the Council do and the impact they can have, i.e dropping litter.

A recommendation was to Cabinet was carried.

The Chair highlighted that they have visited the Depot in preparation for this report and spoken to Officers and further to this it was felt that a bank cutting machine would benefit the department.

A recommendation to Cabinet around this was carried.

Options Considered

None.

Key considerations

1. Scrutiny committees have statutory powers to make recommendations to the Executive, and the Executive (Cabinet) has a statutory duty to respond. They may also make reports and recommendations to external decision making bodies.
2. The agenda for Executive meetings shall include a standing item entitled 'Matters Referred to the Cabinet In Accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules'. The reports of overview and scrutiny committees and sub-committees referred to the Executive shall be included at this point in the agenda (unless they have been considered in the context of the

Executive's deliberations on a substantive item on the agenda) within one calendar month of the overview and scrutiny committee or sub-committee completing its report/recommendations.

3. Scrutiny recommendations are addressed to the Cabinet, as the main Executive decision making body of the council (or, where appropriate, an external agency).
4. Cabinet is being asked to note the scrutiny report / recommendations and that an Executive Response to the scrutiny recommendations be prepared for consideration by the Cabinet within two months from receiving the report or recommendations.
5. The minutes of the meeting of the scrutiny committee provide the record of the scrutiny committee's consideration of the issue and the scrutiny recommendations made during the meeting.
6. The scrutiny committee will be notified of the Executive Response made in respect to the scrutiny recommendations and may track the implementation of the Cabinet decisions and any actions agreed. This enables the scrutiny committee to track whether their recommendations have been agreed, what actually was agreed (if different) and review any outcomes arising

Report Author

Councillor M Couchman
Chair of Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny

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