

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

21 JANUARY 2021

**REPORT OF PLACE SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – Environment and Transport- Councillor Mike Smith

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PLANTERS IN RESIDENTIAL STREETS (TASK AND FINISH)

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Place Select Committee's task and finish review of Planters in Residential Streets.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20. The review is now complete and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Place Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, in line with usual practice, SBC continue to maintain the structure of planters, where repairs are needed, and any proposals to remove planters, following consultation with local residents, be considered on a case by case basis together with funding options.
2. That residents and community groups be invited to take on the role of coordinating and/or pilot planting through approaches to organisations such as:
 - o Cultivate Tees Valley, Shaw Trust, Billingham Environmental Link Programme (BELP), and other community gardening groups
 - o Tenants and Residents Associations
 - o Residents who are allotment holders or are on allotment waiting lists
 - o Councillors and Residents
 - o Community Partnerships
 - o BMBF, schools, and youth organisations
3. That Town and Parish Councils are asked whether they would be interested in taking on responsibility for any planters in their areas.
4. That Housing Associations are asked whether they would be interested in taking on responsibility for planters in areas where they have stock.

5. That local businesses are encouraged to sponsor planters or provide materials or funding.
6. That interested residents and groups be encouraged to:
 - a. Consider the longer-term maintenance and funding strategies and low maintenance planting schemes, such as wildflowers;
 - b. Consider the repurposing of planters, for example, as benches/seating
 - c. Work with local ward Councillors to consult the local community and encourage their involvement
7. That, following Cabinet approval, the Chair of the Task and Finish Group present the final report to the new Community Partnerships to seek interest from residents and groups.
8. That interested parties be signposted to Catalyst's Grantfinder Database.
9. That Community Services provide advice, guidance and appropriate support to interested individuals as part of approving planting schemes.
10. That opportunities are publicised with a view to seeking interest from individuals and groups and that successful pilot initiatives be publicised to encourage more interest.
11. That the inclusion of planters in residential settings should not be supported in future developments unless long term funding for their upkeep is identified and secured.

DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Planters in Residential Streets (Task and Finish). The overall aim of the review was to investigate the options for retaining, maintaining or removing planters in residential streets.
2. The Committee has taken evidence from Council Officers, Parkfield Residents Association, Cultivate Tees Valley, and Catalyst.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

3. The recommendations reflect the task and finish group's considered view that there is a benefit in retaining planters, provided these could be maintained appropriately and that volunteers should be encouraged to help with planting and maintenance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. The current planter maintenance regime provided by SBC will continue. Additional funding would need to be secured to remove any planters. The report and the recommendations identify the organisations and groups that may be interested in adopting/sponsoring a planter in their area or providing volunteers to maintain planters.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. None.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

7. The recommendations state that Councillors will be invited to get involved in, or take on the role of coordinating, pilot planting projects.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. None.

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