

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JULY 2019

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – ADMINISTRATION, DEMOCRATIC AND ELECTORAL SERVICES

COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION – OBSTRUCTIVE AND ILLEGAL PARKING AROUND WHITEHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMARY

The report presents a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) request in respect of obstructive and illegal parking around Whitehouse Primary School.

RECOMMENDATION

That the issue be referred to Crime and Disorder Select Committee for consideration at their November meeting.

COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

1. A CCfA has been received from Councillor Julia Cherrett and Councillor David Minchella regarding obstructive and illegal parking around Whitehouse Primary School. A copy of the completed CCfA form is attached at **Appendix 1**.
2. CCfAs were introduced following legislation which allows for Councillors to be able to refer matters of local concern to overview and scrutiny committees. CCfAs provide Ward Members with the opportunity to ask for a discussion to take place at overview and scrutiny committees on issues where local problems have arisen, and where all other methods of resolving the issue have been exhausted. Appendix 13 of the Scrutiny Toolkit outlines the process for a CCfA which is based on the national guidance and is attached at **Appendix 2**.
3. Each CCfA is to be considered on its own merits. Executive Scrutiny Committee should have regard to the following guidelines when considering a request:
 - A CCfA should relate to issues that are of genuinely local concern, within the particular Ward that the relevant Councillor represents;
 - All reasonable efforts should already have been made to resolve the issue. CCfAs should be seen as the last resort, with issues only being referred to a scrutiny committee once all other avenues have been exhausted;
 - It is already accepted that scrutiny is not a method of dealing with individual complaints about a service, and so these should not be used as the basis for a CCfA. The Council and other partners have established complaints procedures already in place;
 - However, if it appears that a number of complaints have been made in relation to similar issues, this may indicate that there is a 'systematic' failure, and if this appears to be the case, a CCfA could be considered;
 - In addition, it may be appropriate to examine complaints information when considering a CCfA at committee, as happens with other scrutiny reviews;
 - A CCfA request is not appropriate for questioning decisions that have been taken but not yet implemented (call-in provisions may be used for this);

- Issues that affect more than one Ward, and that may reflect a broader policy issue, could still be looked at as part of the setting of the work programme for the usual scrutiny review process;
- Alternatively, a CCfA may be highly relevant with regard to a scrutiny review that is already planned. Members may make the decision to consider the CCfA as part of that review, if timescales allow.

4. A Scrutiny Review of School Parking reported to Cabinet in September 2016. A progress update on this review, specifically the recommendation for a school resource pack (including a Junior Road Safety Scheme) is due to be considered at Place Select Committee on 21 November 2019 following proposed implementation of the initiative from September 2019. Consideration of the CCfA at this meeting would be appropriate.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The work programme is resourced within existing budgets.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. The scrutiny programme meets legislative requirements and is an important internal mechanism to ensure the safety and quality of key services.

Assistant Director – Administration, Democratic and Electoral Services

Name of Contact Officer: Margaret Waggott
Telephone No: 01642 527064
Email Address: margaret.waggott@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers: None
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward Specific
Property Implications: None