

Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 12th November, 2018.

Present: Cllr Derrick Brown(Chairman), Cllr Sonia Bailey(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Paul Weston, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE

Officers: Craig Willows, Dale Rowbotham, Ed Tannahill, Jamie Stephenson, John Angus (CS) Judy Trainer, Gary Woods, Marianne Sleeman (DCE)

Also in attendance: Cllr Stephen Nelson

Apologies:

PLA 42/18 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

PLA 43/18 Declarations of Interest

Members of the Committee declared a Personal, Non-Prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled Scrutiny Review of Bring Sites in the event that one or more of these sites were situated within their own ward.

PLA 44/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th October 2018 - For Approval/Signature (to follow)

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meetings held on 15th October 2018.

AGREED:

The minutes of the meetings held on 15th October 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

PLA 45/18 Scrutiny Review of Parking on Grass Verges (Task & Finish)

Consideration was given to the draft final report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.

- Parking on grass verges is a whole-Borough issue, and this review had examined current practice, relevant legislation and approaches from other Local Authorities.
- Large number of photographs submitted by Councillors highlighted a range of residential problems.
- Recommendations included that this Committee be consulted on the creation of a new communication campaign highlighting to residents and visitors that parking on grass verges was not acceptable.

- Good practice was highlighted from Middlesbrough Council where people who persistently parked on grass verges were sent letters asking them to refrain from verge parking and recouping the repair costs if the verge parking continued.
- Members were informed of the development of a new flowchart for when a complaint was raised which would hopefully be a blueprint for the future.
- The Community Participation Budget was only included in the Medium Term Financial Plan until 2019-2020, therefore funding of the measures to address verge parking issues must be considered in the context of the overall financial position.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- People need to take responsibility for their own actions – Councillors can get threatened when they raise this as an issue.
- Does the Council have enough Enforcement Officers to carry out the recommendations? Some of these actions can be addressed by teams other than the Enforcement Service. If these recommendations are successfully implemented, they could reduce workloads in the longer-term.
- Crucial that Councillors are involved in these solutions as they have knowledge of their Wards.

AGREED

That the final report be approved for submission to Cabinet.

PLA 46/18 Scrutiny Review of Bring Sites (Recycling)

Members received information regarding the Scrutiny Review of Bring Sites (Recycling) which included:

- Savings could be made if the Council reduced the current number of Bring Sites; 88% of everything collected comes from the top 9 sites.
- Some locations have requested the Bring Site be removed due to the abuse of use. Re-investment of projected savings in the retained sites could help improve facilities, signage, site cleanliness.
- The current joint Tees-Valley contract would not continue with the recycling company after March 2019; Stockton would work directly with the contractor to establish the best outcome for the Borough.
- The Authority would look to recommunicate remaining Bring Sites to residents.
- Ward Councillors would be informed which Bring Sites would be removed.

- Currently the Authorities recycling vehicles do not have bin lifts, but consideration would be given to bringing the contract 'in house' in the future.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Removal of a site does not usually lead to items being dumped (people discouraged if nothing is there and will go elsewhere). If any problems do arise, these will be dealt with.
- Important that when informing residents of a bring site closure, they are re-directed to remaining sites, as well as reinforcing the kerbside collection offer.
- Installing CCTV cameras would also be helpful in combating fly-tipping and anti-social behavior, as well as reinforcing recycling messages in schools.

AGREED

That the information be noted.

PLA 47/18 Work Programme 2018-2019

Consideration was given to the Work Programme

AGREED

That the Work Programme be noted.

PLA 48/18 Chair's Update

The Chair had no further updates to report