

Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 11th March, 2019.

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: John Angus, Tony Wrigglesworth (EDGS), Dale Rowbotham, Ed Tannahill (CA), Gary Woods, Marianne Sleeman (DCE)

Also in attendance:

Apologies:

PLA 58/18 Evacuation Procedure

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted.

PLA 59/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

PLA 60/18 Minutes of the meetings held on 10th December 2018 and 14th January 2019

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meetings held on 10th December 2018 and 14th January 2019.

A discrepancy with the 'Also in attendance' information for the December 2018 minutes was noted which would be rectified following this meeting.

AGREED

that the minutes of the meetings held on 10th December 2018 and 14th January 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the identified amendment.

PLA 61/18 Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Scrutiny Review of Parking on Grass Verges (Task & Finish)

Members were presented with the Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Parking on Grass Verges will be implemented and target dates for completion.

The main issues discussed were are follows:

- In relation to the proposed publicity and awareness-raising campaign within the March 2019 issue of Stockton News, Members agreed that a stronger message was required, which also highlights the possibility of attracting a fine

for grass verge parking. The proposals for the autumn campaign would be sent out to Committee Members for comment prior to publication.

- Clarity was provided around the actions proposed in relation to recommendation 2 (that the Enforcement Service investigate the feasibility of introducing, where appropriate, the approach adopted by Middlesbrough Council where persistent offenders are sent letters asking them to refrain from verge parking and recouping the repair costs if the verge parking continues). A third offence of grass verge parking involving the same vehicle would incur a fine (in the form of a 'ticket' being left on the vehicle – similar to a parking ticket).
- Concerns were raised regarding the issue of inappropriate parking around schools which was increasing. It was hoped that the adoption of the new flowchart (recommendation 1) would help in addressing this.
- Officers agreed to provide future data around first and second warnings by Ward breakdown.

AGREED that the Action Plan be approved.

PLA 62/18 Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Scrutiny Review of Bring Sites (Recycling)

Members were presented with the Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Bring Sites (Recycling) will be implemented and target dates for completion.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Signage has been placed at the 10 sites that are still to be closed, informing residents of closure date and closest remaining alternative. Improvements to the remaining seven sites are ongoing.
- Following-up on issues raised during the course of the scrutiny review, options for CCTV at the two largest remaining sites (Ingleby Barwick Tesco and Stockton Tesco) continue to be explored.
- Photographs of new sites would be provided to Members to monitor progress.

AGREED:

That the Action Plan be approved.

PLA 63/18 Monitoring the impact of previously agreed recommendations

Consideration was given to progress of the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the reviews of Flooding Resilience, Fire Safety of High Rise Residential Buildings (Task & Finish), Asylum Seeker Services, and Billingham Event Infrastructure.

- Flooding Resilience – the Action Plan was signed off as complete.
- Fire Safety of High Rise Residential Buildings (Task & Finish) – Members agreed recommendation 7 of the Action Plan could not be signed off until the public inquiry into Grenfell Tower was complete, therefore the recommendation would need to be amended to ‘On-track, but not yet due for completion’. Members also praised the Fire Authority for their continuing efforts in relation to the issues arising from Grenfell Tower.
- Asylum Seeker Services – with reference to recommendation 1, Members requested the circulation of the information booklet that asylum seekers receive promoting clear pathways for referrals for support. Regarding recommendation 2 of the Action Plan, Members felt this should be amended to ‘On-track, but not yet due for completion’ as Mears’ ‘commitment’ that there will be no forced room sharing appeared more of an aspiration at present. Recommendation 4 could be signed off as complete, though Members requested confirmation of training dates referenced in the evidence provided.
- Billingham Event Infrastructure – the Action Plan was signed off as complete, though Members requested that any response received back from Billingham Town Council (recommendation 5) was circulated to the Committee for information.

AGREED

That the progress updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed, subject to the amendments outlined above.

**PLA
64/18**

Overview and Scrutiny - End-of-Term Report 2015-2019

Consideration was given to the Overview and Scrutiny – End-of-Term Report 2015-2019. This report covered the work of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny function during the period 2015-2019, and the Committee were asked to reflect on its work over the last four years, as well as the scrutiny process in general.

Committee discussions noted as follows:

- Site visits, where appropriate, proved useful as it gives additional insight and were an integral part of scrutiny.
- Task & Finish Groups were worthy means to a comprehensive scrutiny review.
- Members agreed the Committee influenced change which was positive.
- Scrutiny training for any new Members joining a Committee was encouraged. It was noted that a full induction programme, including dedicated

scrutiny training, would be rolled out for Councillors following the 2019 Local Elections.

AGREED that the Overview and Scrutiny – End-of-Term Report 2015-2019 be noted.

**PLA
65/18** **Work Programme 2018-2019**

Consideration was given to the Place Select Committee Work Programme 2018-2019.

Members were informed that the Action Plan in relation to the agreed recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group would be presented to the Committee after the 2019 Local Elections.

AGREED that the Work Programme 2018-2019 was now complete.

**PLA
66/18** **Chair's Update**

The Chair thanked all Members for their contributions to the work of the Committee over the last four years.