

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.00pm

Communities Scrutiny Review Board

20 August 2018

Present: Councillor Naitta (Chair)
Councillors Afzal, Cooper, A Holmes, Hudson, Nawaz, Sandhu

In Attendance: Simon Aitken – Head of Street Cleansing, Waste and Fleet Management
David Kinsey – Head of Highways and Grounds Maintenance
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer

01/18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Peatfield.

02/18 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

03/18 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

04/18 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2018 were noted.

05/18 Item Referred from the Executive Scrutiny Board

There were none.

06/18 Replacement and Renewal of Wheely Bins

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on Replacement and Renewal of Wheely Bins. The report was presented by the Head of Street Cleansing, Waste and Fleet Management.

Members received an update on the broad arrangements in place in relation to the replacement and renewal of wheely bins.

It was reported that Derby City Council provided wheely bins to around 108,000 residential properties across the City. It was also reported that wheely bins were not routinely replaced to a programme, reflecting the fact that bins had been issued over a great many years and the stock was of varying age. Members noted that the collection crews reported any defective or broken bins and that these

were then replaced by the Council. It was also noted that if a bin was lost or stolen residents could request a replacement using the Council's website and that these were replaced Free of Charge.

It was reported that in 2016/17 the Council spent £127,748 and in 2017/18 £103,965.60 on wheely bins and that this spend was for the provision of new wheely bins as well as lost and replacement bins. It was also reported that the council had carried out testing on bins a number of years ago to understand the quality of the products on the market and that it bought them through suppliers listed on the ESPO framework 2017.

Members considered the costs for replacement bins as outlined in the report.

Members noted that Waste Management had two Waste Minimisation Officers who were working across Derby to help divert some waste from the black bins into other waste streams, provide support to residents about recycling and visit residents to discuss bin allocations. It was also noted that these posts were due to finish in 2018. Members recognised the positive impact the officers had made but recognised that this was hard to quantify.

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

07/18 Grass Cutting

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director Communities and Place on Grass Cutting. The report was presented by the Head of Highways and Grounds Maintenance.

It was reported that the grass cutting service for parks, public open spaces and highway verges was carried out by the Grounds Maintenance team within Streetpride. It was also reported that an additional £55k had been allocated to highway verge cutting this year, following a Council Cabinet report in June 2018 and that this would fund 2 FTE's to assist with grass cutting in the peak season.

Members noted that the planned programme for grass cutting was:

- Highway Verges – approximately every 2-3 weeks and currently on cut 5 this season
- Derby Homes – approximately every 2-3 weeks and currently on cut 6 this season
- Parks – Approximately every 2 weeks for 15 cuts with sports pitches cut every week as and when needed

It was also noted that prior to the additional funding the frequency of cutting was approximately every 4 weeks.

It was reported that cutting in some areas would cease over the next few weeks, due to the exceptionally dry conditions but that parks and verges that were still growing would still be cut.

It was also reported that the service had an additional requirement for the cutting of the outfield to cricket pitches and that additional cricket pitches had been put into parks. Members noted that due to the weather this had not caused too great an issue this summer but would do in future years under more average summer conditions.

It was noted that the Grounds Maintenance team were also responsible for hedge cutting, bedding and weed spraying

Members discussed the Council cutting grass on land that it did not own and noted that a piece of work was being done to quantify the cost of that grass cutting. The grass cutting contract with Derby Homes was noted and Members discussed the possibility of having similar contracts with social landlords, neighbouring authorities and housing developers. Members agreed that officers should explore the potential of selling Streetpride services to social landlords, neighbouring authorities and housing developers.

Resolved:

- 1. to note what the additional funding has enabled the service to achieve;**
- 2. to note that the exceptionally dry weather has lessened the pressure on the service this summer, but after sustained rainfall the pressure will obviously increase again;**
- 3. to note the pressure from parks created by the increase in the number of cricket outfield to require cutting and the need for an efficient way of integrating this into the service offer; and**
- 4. to request that officers explore the potential of selling Streetpride services to social landlords, neighbouring authorities and housing developers.**

08/18 Terms of Reference, Work Programme and Topic Review

The Board received a report on Terms of Reference, Work Programme and Topic Review.

The report provided Members of the Board with the opportunity to consider its terms of Reference and remit for the forthcoming municipal year, its work programme for the 2018/19 municipal year and any topic reviews.

Members agreed the draft work programme attached at Appendix 2 of the report, with the addition of an item on the Tree Management Policy. Members were keen for this to be a topic review, but agreed that initially the Democratic Services Officer would explore whether this could be considered as a report at the September meeting of the Board.

Resolved:

- 1. to agree the Board's Terms of Reference, reproduced at section 4.1 of the report; and**

- 2. to agree the work programme for the 2018/19 municipal year, with the addition of an item as outlined at the meeting.**

MINUTES END