

Time Commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.50pm

Communities Scrutiny Review Board 25 January 2021

Present: Councillor P Pegg (Chair)
Councillors Atwal, Nawaz, Hudson, Pearce, Testro and Smale

In Attendance: Rachel North - Strategic Director of Communities and Place
Ian Drury - Head of Service Waste Project and Fleet Management
Doug Walkman - Head of Service Trading Standards
Samantha Dennis - Director of Public Protection and Street Pride
Carl Tring Willis - Community Development Manager

21/20 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

22/20 Late items introduced by the Chair

A Late Item on a potential new waste recycling centre in Derby was introduced by the Chair. This was heard as a late item due to this meeting being the last scheduled Communities Scrutiny Review Board meeting for the 2020/21 municipal year.

The Cabinet Member for Communities, Neighbourhoods and Streetpride informed the Board that a new waste centre had been a manifesto pledge in 2018 but had not yet been fulfilled. The Board noted that the new waste centre was still one of the administration's priorities and that the future of waste in Derby was dependent upon the Sinfin Incinerator's future. It was reported that a future business case would be put forward for the Sinfin incinerator.

The Chair questioned whether any time scales had been agreed for the Sinfin incinerator. The Cabinet Member informed the Board that there wasn't currently a timeframe and that Covid-19 had delayed progress on this issue. The Board noted that once the Estimated Fair Value had been dealt with, a case could be brought forward for the future of this site.

The Strategic Director of Communities and Place informed the Board that the Council was still in a contractual dispute over the Sinfin incinerator. It was noted that the Council was on track with surveys that were taking place on this site.

A councillor questioned whether a date had been set by which time the contractual dispute would be resolved. The Strategic Director of Communities and Place informed the Board that the Council was currently in a pre-formal adjudication process and that a timescale wasn't available at this time.

23/20 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

24/20 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

25/20 Shot Tower Update

The Board received an update from the Community Development Manager on the Derby Shot Tower.

The Community Development Manager informed the Board that the Council had worked alongside Community Action to secure a permanent venue for the central hub for the Community Hub Model. It was noted that the community response had previously been hosted at a Community Action venue which was no longer available.

It was noted that the Shot Tower had been identified as an alternative venue and that the Community Hub had moved into the Shot Tower during the week commencing 11 January 2021. It was reported that only essential key workers were working at the Shot Tower during the lockdown. The Board noted that Community Action and social prescribers were also working out of the Shot Tower.

It was reported that new signage for the Community Hub would be put up over the coming weeks. A councillor asked whether promotional material for councillors to share with residents could be provided. The Community Development Manager confirmed that they would provide this.

The Chair questioned whether the costs of the Community Hub using the Shot Tower had been calculated. The Strategic Director of Communities and Place informed the Board that historically the Council had taken an income from the connect building. It was noted that this building was currently vacant and therefore there was no income loss. It was reported that this was a partnership arrangement and that there was no additional cost to the Council and that the city would see additional benefits as a result of this collaborative arrangement.

A councillor questioned how long Community Action had a lease of the Shot Tower for. The Community Development Manager informed the Board that the lease was for 12 months initially.

The Chair questioned which partners would be working out of the Shot Tower Building. The Community Development Manager provided the following list of partners: Derby Homes, Social Prescribers, Local Area Co-ordinators, Community Development Team, Food 4 Thought and partners on the Stronger Communities Board.

The Board resolved to note the update.

26/20 Better Together Initiative

The Board received a presentation from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the Better Together Initiative. The presentation gave background information on the response to the global pandemic and the work undertaken by Derby's community response hub.

The Board noted that in response to the pandemic, signposting, support, advice and related activities were successfully delivered by multifaceted teams working hand in hand with local community groups and volunteers through the creation of Derby's Community Response Hub.

It was reported that the pandemic had shown how a multifaceted response had worked with hundreds of volunteers coming forward from the community. It was a shared problem addressed by bringing communities and agencies together. Silos had been broken down, which may not have happened in normal circumstances. The role of elected Councillors was essential as they were the experts on the issues in their wards. Access points had been simplified for citizens.

The Board noted that the role of the local authority needed to change to meet the needs of the city and its residents. The Council had traditionally taken on a paternal role but could not do everything for everyone. The Council could provide the playing pitch but would need to let others play on the pitch. To do this the Council needed to work with citizens, have an agile workforce and be empowered to rip up the old rulebook.

It was reported that Derby's recovery plan was based on three work streams: economic, organisational and community recovery. This was in the context of better together, building stronger communities, facilitating better problem solving and reducing demand for services and social care.

The Board noted that the locality model would create the platform and identify the players. This would involve a fundamental shift in approach, identifying services in neighbourhoods from across the council and creating an operating model within which players would function together.

It was reported that the pandemic had created momentum, this had motivated change. An effective response would enable a stronger recovery. The Council had the opportunity to make real and long-lasting changes to how we work together. Bold and brave decisions needed to be made and we need to listen to and work with our communities.

The Chair questioned whether the role of the Council's Public Protection Officers had changed. The Strategic Director of Communities and Place informed the Board that the PPOs would continue to help tackle environmental crime alongside other neighbourhood issues. It was noted

that their role had not substantially changed. Rather the Better Together would build on the success of Neighbourhood working, as evidenced during Covid, linking in a range of other council services working at 'local level' and enhancing the degree of problem solving available in neighbourhoods.

Members questioned how city-wide issues could be tackled within the new way of working. The Strategic Director of Communities and Place informed the Board that local work would feed into decision making at a city-wide level. It was noted that local intelligence would be coordinated and used in a smarter way so that the Council could respond more effectively to city-wide issues.

The Board resolved to note the information detailed within the report and the presentation provided at the Board meeting.

27/20 Various Waste Policies

The Board received an update from the Head of Service for Waste Project and Fleet Management on various waste policies in Derby.

The Board noted that the UK waste sector was heavily regulated and that UK waste regulations were based on EU policies. It was reported that current policy and regulatory drivers included: Environmental, Kerbside collections and Waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover).

The Board noted that upcoming policy changes were expected from the government's Resources and Waste Strategy, including: Plastics Packaging Tax and UK Plastics Pact, Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme and Deposit Return Scheme.

The Board noted that there was an order for waste hierarchy: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover and Landfill. It was reported that Reduce was the most preferable of these with landfill being the least preferable.

It was reported that a more circular economy would see individuals keeping resources in use as long as possible in order to extract maximum value from them. This would involve recovering and regenerating products and materials whenever possible, giving them a new lease of life.

The Board noted that a deposit return scheme was due to be rolled out in 2023. It was noted that legislation for mandatory food waste collections was also due to be implemented in 2023.

The Board noted that the Waste Service had been impacted by the pandemic. It was reported that black and blue bin kerbside collections and protected access to the waste transfer station had been prioritised. It was also noted that at the Raynesway HWRC the Council had implemented a new booking system and had redesigned the HWRC to safeguard staff and visitors, improve road safety and protect the waste transfer station.

The Board noted that the waste team were in the process of reviewing and updating the policies which were followed when providing this service.

It was noted that the policies currently being reviewed were:

- Collection service standards (what we will do and what residents will do)
- Service provision and bin capacity (what service we offer and various bin sizes)
- Non-standard collection points (this is mainly around collection on private roads)
- Assisted collections (where we go onto properties to collect and return bins)
- Adverse weather (confirming the process we follow – both extreme heat and cold)
- Internal council recycling / internal policy on waste
- Planning and new builds (supplying bins to new properties)

The Board noted that when these policies were finalised, the Waste Team would like to bring these back to scrutiny.

It was reported that the Waste Teams biggest challenges were:

- Kerbside Contamination – minimising the wrong material in the bins collected at the kerbside
- Protecting the environment – reducing waste arising and increasing what our residents and businesses reuse, reduce and recycle
- Costs – reducing costs for waste collection and disposal services and contributing to the Council's financial challenges (MTFP)

Members of the Board asked whether information on contamination could be distributed. The Head of Service for Waste Project and Fleet Management informed the Board that stickers for bins would be redistributed and that messages on contamination were also being shared on social media. The Head of Service for Waste Project and Fleet Management informed the Board that members would be provided with a guide on what can be placed in different bins.

Members of the Board asked whether bulky waste should be left out for weeks before collection. It was reported that when a booking was made for bulky waste collection, the Council asked the public to only leave bulky waste out the night before or on the morning of collection.

A councillor raised concerns over waste capacity in areas of Arboretum Ward. The Head of Service for Waste Project and Fleet Management asked members to contact him directly with any issues surrounding capacity.

The Chair asked whether home composting could be promoted by the Council. The Head of Service for Waste Project and Fleet Management confirmed that they would look into this.

The Board resolved to note the information detailed within the report and the presentation provided at the Board meeting.

28/20 Food Laws Plan

The Board received an update from the Head of Service for Trading Standards on the Food Laws Plan in Derby.

It was noted that a Food Law Enforcement Plan had not been produced in 2020/21 due to Covid-19. It was reported that the Council had however continued to follow the Food Standards Agency's guidance.

It was reported that there were approximately 2600 Food Businesses in the city and that all food businesses were risk rated and were required to register with the Local Authority.

It was reported that the Food Standards Agency Rating Scheme gave businesses a rating of 1 to 5 and that the Council encouraged businesses to display their scores. It was noted that the Council had previously run a 'high five to five' scheme which had been paused due to the pandemic.

It was reported that takeaway food apps allowed businesses to register on their services whilst they were awaiting a Food Standards Agency rating.

The Board noted that Covid-19 had resulted in a significant impact on food safety in Derby including:

- Food and Safety and Trading Standards Teams heavily involved in the council's response to COVID 19
- Food work and business as usual activities severely disrupted
- COVID Secure Business advice on COVID requirements
- Checking Personal Protective Equipment - Trading Standards
- Avian Flu Confirmed case North of the City in December
- Further impact as restrictions eased and businesses re-opened

It was noted that the Council were following guidance issued by Food Standards Agency to Local Authorities. It was noted that delivery of Food Controls had been relaxed until June 2021.

It was reported that appropriate interventions were being undertaken where concerns had been identified including: urgent reactive work, food incidents, foodborne disease outbreaks, allergens and complaints.

The Chair asked for any updates from the Food Standards Agency to be passed on to Board members. The Head of Service for Trading Standards confirmed that they would do this.

The Board resolved to note the information detailed within the report and the presentation provided at the Board meeting.

Minutes End.