

# ITEM 4

Commenced – 6.00 pm

Concluded – 8.21 pm

## **Neighbourhoods Board 30 April 2013**

Present: Councillor Afzal (Chair)  
Councillors Barker, Keith, S. Khan, Mac Donald, Naitta, Pegg, Poulter  
and L. Winter

In Attendance: Councillor Homes

Councillor Poulter was absent for minute numbers 62/12 – 64/12 inclusive.  
Councillor S. Khan was absent for minute numbers 63/12 – 64/12 inclusive.

### **54/12 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **55/12 Late Items**

There were no late items.

### **56/12 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **57/12 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 March 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **58/12 Call-in**

There were no items.

### **59/12 Council Cabinet Forward Plan**

The board discussed the forward plan published on 16 April 2013. With regard to the proposed approval of the council's enforcement policy, particularly the introduction of closed-circuit television (key decision reference number 90/12) the board requested that a report detailing the scope of the proposals from the Head of Traffic and Transportation, on behalf of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods, be presented to members prior to consideration of the decision at Council Cabinet.

**Resolved to note the Forward Plan.**

### **60/12 Crime and Disorder**

There were no items for discussion.

## 61/12 Neighbourhood Working

The board received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods, which was introduced by the Head of Communities and Partnerships. The Director provided an update that addressed the structure of neighbourhood working, the roles of Neighbourhood Officers and the city-wide operation of the Neighbourhood Working team.

The board was provided with a template example of a Neighbourhood Charter, which was designed to enable Councillors and residents to identify and highlight needs particular to each ward within the city. The board discussed the design of the charter, together with possible barriers to its implementation.

The board questioned whether Neighbourhood Officers would have sufficient capacity to serve the needs of more than one ward. The Director acknowledged that the allocation was affected by budget constraints and advised that it would be reviewed periodically. In addition, the resources allocated to each ward would be informed by statistics pertaining to crime and anti-social behaviour.

In response to queries regarding the Neighbourhood Officers' remit, the Director clarified that officers would be tasked with three key aims, namely to support community safety, to work with a community and to facilitate a cleaner, safer and stronger environment. The board understood that each officer would be required to adopt a flexible approach; responding to changing priorities.

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods suggested that a transition period was to be expected. The Strategic Director explained that each ward would be allocated an officer but that allocation would not necessarily equate to a full-time officer. It was envisaged that local Neighbourhood Boards would task the officers within their allocated time and in accordance with the priorities identified in the Neighbourhood Charter.

The Board discussed the legislative changes (due to be implemented in early May) which would allow Neighbourhood Officers to issue fixed penalty notices. It was agreed that training would be necessary to assist officers to understand and use the enforcement powers appropriately.

### **Resolved to request that the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods:**

- 1. endeavours to provide 17 Neighbourhood Officers to work within each ward of the city; and**
- 2. continues to provide regular updates to the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board on the progress of Neighbourhood Working.**

## 62/12 Changes to Refuse Collection Services

The board received a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods, which was introduced by the Director of Partnerships and Streetpride. The report outlined proposed changes to the brown bin refuse collection service, together with the

introduction of charging for brown bin waste collection. A further proposal was reported, which suggested the introduction of a weekly black bin collection for some parts of the city. The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods reassured the board that this proposal provided an opportunity for local Neighbourhood Boards to discuss and test conceptual ideas.

The board discussed the potential implications arising from the removal of recycling facilities from some parts of the city, including allowances for higher landfill tax costs. The board appreciated that the waste collection service had identified problem 'hotspots' where some residents in particular areas failed to segregate their waste correctly and consequently, caused contamination to the recycled waste collected. It was agreed, however, that residents in affected areas should be fully consulted on any proposals before a trial was conducted. The board expressed its concern that the removal of recycling facilities would leave residents who wished to recycle with no ability to do so. The board found this possibility unacceptable and was keen to ensure that residents living in affected areas would still be able to recycle their waste locally.

The board explored the underlying problems contributing to the 'hotspots' and debated whether enforcement strategies would prove more helpful in addressing the problems. The board suggested that the effects of the trial weekly black bin collection should be reviewed.

**Resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet that should it be minded to implement the trial removal of recycling collections in some areas of the city (with a view to replacing those collections with a weekly black bin waste collection service) that the provision of local recycling facilities for those in affected areas, who still want to recycle, is included.**

## 63/12      Updates to Tree Management Policy

The board received a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods, which was introduced by the Head of Grounds Maintenance and Cleansing. The report detailed proposed amendments to the Tree Management Policy and the adoption of the Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees (CAVAT) as the council's approved method for valuing trees under threat.

The board raised no issue with the adoption of the CAVAT system but expressed concern with regard to the existing Tree Management Policy, particularly the amount of works the council refused to do (paid or otherwise) due to policy restrictions. The board recognised that the amount of work requested had exceeded available resources but felt that the policy would benefit from a focused review and required input from local Neighbourhood Boards.

The board was particularly concerned that the proposed criteria, specifying circumstances in which a resident could not fund tree works on public land, was not sufficiently comprehensive and omitted a description of works which could be funded.

**Resolved to recommend that Council Cabinet:**

1. **only considers the decision on the adoption of the Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees (CAVAT) as the council's approved method of applying a value to amenity trees;**
2. **defers the decision on the updated Tree Management Policy, which (if agreed) would allow private residents to pay for tree works on public land subject to certain criteria, until the board has had time to review the Tree Management Policy; and**
3. **notes the Neighbourhood Board's intention to review the Tree Management Policy in its entirety and to make further recommendations to Council Cabinet on amendments to the policy, following that review.**

## **64/12      Anti-Social Behaviour Review - Update**

The board received a report from the Strategic Director of Resources. The Head of Communities and Partnerships updated the board on the progress achieved in stage 2 of the review following a change in methodology employed to conduct the review.

**Resolved to note the topic review update.**

MINUTES END