

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER
2017**

Present: Councillors Barned, M Burton, Joy, D Mortimer,
Mrs Ring, Mrs Robertson, Springett and Webb

Also Present: Councillors Mrs Gooch

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Perry and Webster.

39. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that Councillor Mrs Springett was substituting for Councillor Webster.

40. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

41. NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Gooch was in attendance to give the Committee an update on Local Health Care.

42. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures by Members and Officers.

43. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

44. EXEMPT ITEMS

RESOLVED: That all items on the agenda be taken in public.

45. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JULY 2017

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed.

46. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

47. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

48. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Committee Work Programme.

RESOLVED: That the Committee Work Programme be noted.

49. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR UPDATE - QUARTER 1 2017/18

The Performance and Business Information Officer presented a report on the KPI Performance Report Quarter 1 2017/18.

The Committee noted that:-

- The recycling target had been achieved, along with the percentage of fly-tips cleared or assessed within 2 working days.
- The Homelessness Team had prevented 133 people from becoming homeless.
- The target for the number of affordable homes delivered had not been achieved in Quarter 1 which had been due to handover delays on site.

In response to questions from Members, the Director of Regeneration and Place advised that:-

- He shared the concerns about the lack of affordable homes being built but was confident that the target would be met by the end of the year.
- A report would be brought to the Committee in December on a Review of the Temporary Accommodation Strategy which would set out the steps the Council intended to take to alleviate acute problems around temporary accommodation.

In response to other questions from Members, the Head of Environment and Public Realm advised that:-

- The Council does receive recycling data from KCC but it needs to be audited before being presented to Committee and deadlines can be tight. However, for Quarter 2 it is showing a positive trend.
- An analysis of the cost of commercial waste versus the effects of fly tipping had been carried out. However, the commercial waste service does need to recover all its costs. Although the Waste Team would be working with KCC to establish a provision for

commercial waste facilities.

- A campaign would be introduced shortly, working alongside the Police, to stop any vehicle carrying waste to ascertain if they are a licenced waste carrier.

RESOLVED: That the summary of performance for Quarter 1 of 2017/18 for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be noted.

50. LOCAL HEALTH CARE - ORAL UPDATE

Councillor Mrs Gooch gave an update on Local Health Care, in particular the work being undertaken by the West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Committee noted that the Council had an important role to play in trying to influence and support the way that local health was delivered.

Councillor Mrs Gooch indicated that major changes were being looked at in the way local health was delivered and to achieve this Kent are currently planning to align with Medway.

It was noted that the proposed transformation plans had a timescale of implementation between 4/5 years and a lot of work had already been undertaken on this by the different boards.

During the discussion, the following concerns were raised by Members:-

- The constant shifting of organisational and planned goal posts makes it challenging to deliver on any of the plans
- The fact that there were so many different boards, makes it difficult to move forward on any initiative
- Where are the hubs going to be, a total of 4 were promised last year for Maidstone. It appeared from the presentation by Dr Bowes that there was only going to be one hub for Maidstone, the Council needs to influence where the hubs would be
- How can the inequalities in areas be rectified

During the discussion Members of the Committee felt that their concerns should be put in a letter to the West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee and presented by Councillor Mrs Gooch at their next meeting.

RESOLVED: That a letter expressing the concerns of the Committee be signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and presented to the West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board by Councillor Mrs Gooch.

Voting: For: Unanimous

51. FIRST QUARTER BUDGET MONITORING

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Finance and Business Improvement on the First Quarter Budget Monitoring 2017/18.

It was noted that the forecast for the first quarter was for a £300,000 overspend. However, the second quarter was showing a more positive picture.

In response to Members concerns about any more budget cuts at the depot, the Director of Regeneration and Place advised that the team were looking at more commercial opportunities to help strengthen the budget.

In response to a question from a Member the Head of Finance undertook to email Members separately on why there was a £31,000 variance for Food and Safety Section.

RESOLVED: That the revenue position at the end of the first quarter and the actions being taken or proposed to improve the position where significant variances have been identified be noted.

52. FUTURE ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Regeneration and Place on the Future Enforcement Options – On-street Enforcement Team.

Members were informed that following the decision taken in August to not extend the litter enforcement contract with Kingdom Security Officers had considered various options as a way forward which included retendering, establishing an in-house on-street enforcement team, letting a contract for on-street enforcement or working in partnership with a neighbouring authority to deliver an on-street enforcement team.

It was noted that behaviours had changed in the town centre and it was evident that litter was being controlled successfully. However other issues have become more evident and need to be addressed in order to achieve the Council's priority of a Clean and Safe Environment. Therefore if the proposal were to establish an on-street enforcement team, the following objectives would need to be included:-

- Address anti-social behaviour
- Proactive enforcement of PSPO(s)
- Reduce fly tipping across the Borough and increase awareness of Duty of Care requirements
- Increase awareness of Commercial Waste requirements for businesses
- Reduce fly posting
- Reduce dog fouling

Officers advised that the team would consist of 2 members of staff spending 70% of their time dealing with litter enforcement and 30% of their time with the other issues.

In response to questions from Members, Officers advised that:-

- The operatives would not just be concentrating on the town centre, it would be borough wide.
- That they would become the eyes and ears out on the street to feedback issues to the Police but not act as a replacement for the Police.
- That the new team would be fully trained on all aspects of their duties.
- That it would not be feasible for the Parking Enforcement team to carry out litter enforcement as part of their duties as they do not often confront people, they just issue the PCN fine by putting it on the vehicle.
- The team would report to the Waste Crime Section based at the Depot and would not be performance based.
- The team would also have a uniform and wear body cameras.
- There would still be a zero tolerance on litter.
- A report would be brought back in six months to the Committee on the progress of this initiative. It was hoped that the service would be operational by the new year (April at the latest).

RESOLVED: That a new in-house On-street Enforcement Team be introduced for an 18 month period to carry out the enforcement of litter, other waste related crimes, anti-social behaviour and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO).

Voting: For: Unanimous

53. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 8.05 p.m.