

Overview Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 16 November 2017

7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr John Burden (Chair)

Cllr David Hurley (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Lee Croxton
 William Lambert
 Sara Langdale
 Brian Sangha
 Derek Shelbrooke
 Makhan Singh
 Michael Wenban

Stuart Alford Assistant Director (Environment)
Michelle Batstone Corporate Change Manager
Chris Wakeford Committee Services Officer (Scrutiny)

28. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cllr John Caller, Cllr Brian Sangha attended as his substitute.

29. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2017 were signed by the Chair.

30. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

31. Scrutiny Topic Review Report - Waste & Recycling in flats and Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

The Chair of the Scrutiny Review Sub-Group, Cllr Lee Croxton and Assistant Director (Environment) presented Members with the Topic Review report for the Waste & Recycling in flats and HMOs Topic Review for approval and subsequent submission to Cabinet.

At the meeting of the Overview Scrutiny Committee in July 2017, Members selected the subject of Waste and Recycling in flats and HMOs for a topic review.

The membership of the sub-group for the review was as follows: Cllr Lee Croxton (Chair), Cllr Lyn Milner, Cllr Harold Craske and Cllr Sara Langdale.

One comprehensive meeting of the sub-group has been held (October 2017) in order to progress the review and identify possible recommendations or options for consideration by Cabinet in January 2018.

The Corporate Change Manager explained that an update report will be presented to the Overview Scrutiny Committee in July 2018.

Members considered the draft report for the Waste and Recycling in flats and HMOs review, attached at appendix two to the report, and discussed the four recommendations for consideration by Cabinet as detailed below:

- 1) Continue to explore alternative options to allow residents in flats to recycle their food waste (this is also to be considered for those residents in HMOS not already provided with a food waste service).
- 2) Explore the provision of a reusable recycling receptacle for residents in flats
- 3) Ward Members are to be encouraged to notify officers of specific HMO waste-related issues they identify within their ward areas.
- 4) Expand the work undertaken with one letting agency to other letting agencies in the borough.

The Committee commended the waste management teams on a great job but highlighted an issue with the correct placement of bins once they have been emptied.

The Assistant Director (Environment) explained that he is aware of this issue and has raised it with the relevant teams. The Assistant Director (Environment) advised Members to report any incidences of this type to him and he will take the appropriate action.

The Assistant Director (Environment) fielded questions from the Committee and highlighted the following:

- Black sacks are delivered to properties that don't have wheelie bins every three months. If Members are aware of any areas that are not receiving black sacks; please raise the matter with the Assistant Director (Environment).
- The Council is currently prioritising GBC flats to allow / encourage residents to recycle. Each block of flats is dealt with on a case by case basis to ensure specific needs are met. The aim is to encourage all flats to recycle food waste / dry recycling.
- The Council is investigating how to make it easier for residents in flats to carry their recycling to the bins (e.g. hessian bags)
- The Assistant Director (Environment) will work with the Planning Department and Legal team to see if any action can be taken if a landlord does not participate in the Council's recycling scheme.
- The Assistant Director (Environment) will investigate how recycling works at the Heritage Quay.

Members agreed that the time limit in recommendation 4 should be reduced from 12 months to 6 months and the relevant Cabinet Members should be encouraged to arrange a meeting with all letting agencies as soon as possible.

The Assistant Director (Environment) explained that he would feed the Committee's suggestions back to the relevant Cabinet Members and help to arrange the meeting with the letting agencies.

Resolved that, subject to the time limit for recommendation 4 being reduced from 12 months to 6 months, the Committee approved the topic review report at appendix two and agreed to its submission to Cabinet for further consideration.

32. Member Training 2017-18 - UPDATE

The Corporate Change Manager provided Members of the Overview Scrutiny Committee with an update on the Member Training that has taken place so far in 2017-18.

Since the start of the municipal year, the following training has taken place:

- Homelessness 26 June 2017
- Statement of Accounts 10 July 2017
- Introduction to Local Government Finance 17 July 2017
- Housing Repairs & Maintenance 20 September 2017
- Regulatory Board Refresher training 21 September 2017
- Business Rates 26 September 2017
- Licensing Panel training 28 September 2017
- Social Media and general media/Press 02 October 2017
- Risk Management 18 October 2017

The Corporate Change Manager advised that the report contained feedback that had been received from Members. Moving forward; a generic Feedback Form has been finalised and will be presented to Members to complete following each training session.

Members highlighted the following areas on Member Training that they would like to be fed back to officers:

- Members expressed their thanks to officers for the training that has been provided to date and wanted to emphasise that they are appreciative of the training that has been/is being provided.
- The presentation of the training could be improved by considering the following:
 - If using a slide presentation (PowerPoint), the slides should be used as a prompt for the training and not simply be read from.
 - Any information provided on a slide should be large enough to actually be seen by the attendees i.e. having a table or graph that cannot be clearly read is not helpful to Members.
 - The trainer should be positioned in order to present to the whole room i.e. should stand at the front of the room and not to the side.
 - The training session should allow enough time for Members to ask questions and explore areas of the training more widely if they feel it is necessary.
 - Consideration should be given to the use of smaller rooms for the training if it is known that there will be a smaller number of Members in attendance.

- Trainers must use microphones, lapel microphones would be beneficial.
- It was recognised by Members that it can be quite nerve-racking for officers to stand and present to Members, particularly if they do not undertake training very often. Members suggested that presentation/public speaking training could be offered to officers who are going to be undertaking this type of activity in the future.

Resolved that the Committee noted the Member Training 2017-18 update report.

Close of meeting

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm