

Public Document Pack

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE Town Hall, Main Road, Romford 7 September 2021 (7.00 - 8.30 pm)

Present:

Councillors Carole Beth, Darren Wise, Nic Dodin and Matt Sutton

Councillors Maggie Themistocli and Michael Deon Burton (Virtually) were present for part of the meeting.

Prior to the meeting Councillor Darren Wise was elected to serve as Chairman in the initial absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

7 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8 QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The report and presentation before members updated on the Quarter 1 2021/22 performance information.

5 performance indicators had previously been selected by the Sub-Committee.

- Improve air quality in the borough by reducing the level of NO₂
- HMO licenses issued
- HMOs enforced against
- Total Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued in month
- Response rate for PCN Challenges and Representations

Members were advised that there had been progress in the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) during the quarter which had seen the council looking to purchase fine particulate matter monitoring equipment.

Schools had completed their travel plan reviews with 54 schools engaged and with 41 achieving gold awards.

A draft strategy on the installation of electric vehicle charging points across the borough was being prepared for consultation with the borough's residents.

With regards to HMOs the service continued to receive a low volume of new licence applications and enforcement work had recently resumed.

It was noted that the recent easing of travel restrictions has seen an increase in the issuance of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs).

Staff training following the restructure had slowed correspondence to PCN recipients.

The Sub-Committee **noted** the contents of the report and the presentation.

9 **MARLBOROUGH HIGHWAYS CONTRACT - KPIS**

The report and presentation before members highlighted the proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that were set against the award of a new 2 year extension of the highways works carried out by Marlborough Surfacing Ltd.

The report highlighted the proposed KPIs and the Sub-Committee was advised that discussions between the contractor and the Council were still ongoing.

In order to maintain continuous improvement it was planned to introduce a RAG (Red, Amber and Green) rating system.

In response to a question relating to customer satisfaction and how that would be achieved officers advised that satisfaction levels would be collated from residents, businesses, ward councillors and other interested parties.

In relation to cleaning of gullies members were advised that there was a cyclical programme in place.

Members felt it was be useful to see the amount of responsive repairs that were actually raised with a specific timeframe.

Officers advised that the Fixed Penalty Notices were issued when permits issued for works overran.

In relation to the cleaning off gullies officers advised that previously the cleaning had been carried by the Council's own in house service (DSO). These works were now carried out by Marlborough Ltd who had committed to clearing all the gullies in the borough prior to the end of the calendar year.

Members were advised that out of the borough's 25,000 gullies approximately 7,000 had already been cleaned. The contractors had started

cleaning first in the north of the borough and were working their way down through the borough.

In relation to potholes members felt it would be useful to see the actual figures of jobs completed and jobs not completed in the allocated time of 28 days. Officers advised that pothole repairs were still done by the DSO and were not part of the Marlborough contract.

The Sub-Committee **noted** the contents of the report and presentation.

10 **FLOODING IN THE BOROUGH 2021**

The report and presentation before members updated on the position relating to flooding in the borough.

The report detailed that areas in the borough due to their nature and topography were at risk from flooding.

There had been 4 noticeable flooding events in recent years these included August 2016 when the River Rom flooded in the north of the borough, August 2020 when Rainham and Hornchurch had been affected and 2 events of flooding in 2021 where parts of the north of the borough and Romford had been affected.

The presentation highlighted that there were a number of rivers and tributaries across the borough which generally flowed from north to south towards the River Thames.

Officers advised that in the past 20yrs rainfall events had become frequent and intense throughout the UK which had led to localised areas of flooding.

The presentation also highlighted the relevant flood risk management authorities that were responsible for maintaining respective drainage assets.

Members noted that after a flooding event the council, as Lead Local Flood authority had to produce a section 19 report to investigate and record what had taken place. These reports would then be placed on the council's website and would include the recommendations that had been provided.

The report also highlighted a number of schemes and studies that the council had put in place and whether they were ongoing or had been completed.

In response to a question relating to the maintenance of pumping stations officer advised that the section 19 reports would identify possible faults with the stations.

In response to a question relating to the floods in the north of the borough earlier this year, officers advised that on that particular evening there had

been a month's worth of rainfall in an hour and that there was no quick fix. The borough had drainage that dated back to the 1930s and there was the extra element of climate change.

In response to a question relating to sluice gates. Officers replied that the gates would be maintained by the Environment Agency. The gates could not be opened if the level of the Thames was already too high.

The Sub-Committee **noted** the contents of the report and presentation.

Chairman