

MINUTES OF BROOKE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2018

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee: Councillors Claire Edwards (Chair), Mrs A'Barrow, Keeling, McQueen, Mrs New, Pacey-Day, Picker, Srivastava and Mrs Timms

Officers: Mannie Ketley (Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer), Dan Green (Head of Environment and Public Realm) and Veronika Beckova (Democratic Services Officer)

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED THAT – Councillor Keeling be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 12 April 2018 and 17 May 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair.

6. MOTION FROM COUNCIL – REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE AT THE COUNCIL

The committee received a report (Part 1 – Agenda Item 5) concerning a motion referred by Council on 27 February 2018.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Head of Environment and Public Realm circulated copies of the Plastic Waste report. The report was presented at the last meeting of Warwickshire Waste Partnership. The Head of Environment and Public Realm felt that as the report was on plastic waste, it would be beneficial for this committee to see it. A copy of the report is attached at Annex 1 to the minutes.

The motion stated that the Council should seek to do the following:

- (1) *Lead the way by undertaking an audit, within existing resources, of single use plastics used by the Authority and seek to replace with sustainable or reusable alternatives where practicable.*
- (2) *Work in greater partnerships with local environmental groups and engage with local businesses and residents to help educate about plastic waste.*
- (3) *Adopt the ambition as outlined by the Waste and Resources Action Programme known as WRAP to reduce plastic waste.*

The Head of Environment and Public Realm will:

- (1) undertake an audit of individual service areas and report back to the committee with the findings; and
- (2) explore alternatives to current arrangements, associated costs and benefits.

The committee was advised that the audit will take approximately three months to complete.

The Head of Environment and Public Realm highlighted that as Rugby Borough Council is a member of the Warwickshire Waste Partnership (WWP), it would be beneficial to undertake any work in relation to plastic waste in collaboration with the WWP partners.

The Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer commented that procurement terms may be adapted to encourage our suppliers to use sustainable or reusable alternatives to single use plastics.

Waste and Recycling Education

Waste and recycling education is scheduled to be reviewed by Brooke Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 September 2018.

Members were informed that a potential new project may be a way forward to address some of the issues. Rugby FM has approached the Council to create a media animation in a video form. The idea is being explored further by officers and by the Informing and Engaging Our Communities Task Group.

The committee enquired whether the Eastern European Link Worker has been involved in waste and recycling education in relation to Eastern European communities. The Head of Environment and Public Realm was unable to provide an answer at the meeting. A response will be send via email.

7. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2017/18 YEAR-END

The committee had previously been requested to bring copies of the relevant Cabinet report from 25 June 2018 to the meeting.

The Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer attended the meeting to answer questions. The item was briefly introduced as per the Cabinet report and key points were highlighted.

The report was discussed in detail at the meeting and the following additional points were made:

General Fund – Capital – Environment and Public Realm

The 2018/19 carry forward of £40,100 to **purchase waste bins** is intended for purchasing replacements of household bins.

In new housing developments, the building developer is responsible for purchasing the first set of household bins for the new properties.

Performance

Performance indicators for 2018/19 onwards are currently under review. The new set of indicators will fit in with the current corporate priorities.

During the discussion, members raised questions regarding the redevelopment of Biart Place. The committee was informed that as residents at Biart Place are existing tenants, they are a priority and at the top of the housing waiting list.

RESOLVED THAT – the Head of Corporate Resources and Chief Financial Officer be thanked for her attendance.

8. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The committee received a report (Part 1 – Agenda Item 7) concerning the progress of task group reviews within its remit and the forward work programme.

The committee was informed that following a chair's agenda meeting of Whittle Overview and Scrutiny Committee earlier this week, changes have been made to the work programme. A revised version is attached at Annex 2 to the minutes.

2. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Members have asked for the following topics to be included in the work programme:

Biart Place Redevelopment – Progress Report

On 24 April 2018, the Council considered a report concerning potential repair or regeneration of the high-rise blocks in Rugby. Members have expressed a particular interest in decanting of tenants from Biart Place.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

New legislation is coming into effect on 1 October 2018. It is important to understand any existing issues.

Universal Credit – Progress Report

On 12 April 2018, the committee was provided with an update on the impact of the Universal Credit within the borough. The Community Advice and Support Manager informed the committee on changes being made to the administration of Universal Credit.

RESOLVED THAT – the forward work programme be noted.

CHAIR

Warwickshire Waste Partnership

19th June 2018

Plastic Waste

Recommendations

- (1) The Waste Partnership is asked to recognise the good recycling services in place for a wide range of plastics in Warwickshire.

1.0 Import ban

- 1.1 On 1st January 2018 China imposed a ban on the import of certain types of waste including plastic. The full official list of materials covered by the import restriction is shown at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 In addition, plastics exports will have to meet a reduced acceptable contamination level of 0.5% from March 2018¹.
- 1.3 The move was designed to boost China's green credentials, including reducing emissions from its waste treatment sector.

2.0 Plastic issue overview

- 2.1 Plastic is a versatile material that forms a key component of many products used today. As a packaging material, it is safe, secure, hygienic and cheap. It is also tough and long-lasting, which means it is difficult to deal with once it gets into the environment.
- 2.2 Once plastics products reach the end of their life they need to be collected and reprocessed appropriately.
- 2.3 In addition production of most virgin plastics requires processing of fossil fuels and so re-use and recycling of plastic will be critical to achieving reduced reliance on fossil fuels for the production of virgin plastics.

3.0 Plastic in Warwickshire

- 3.1 All districts and boroughs in Warwickshire provide a kerbside recycling service for plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays. The tonnage of plastic collected in each area is provided in the table 1.
- 3.2 All HWRCs in Warwickshire provide a recycling service for soft plastics. Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays can be recycled at all locations. A review of the signage at HWRCs for plastic recycling will take place to ensure clarity of information.

¹ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/plastic-exports-rise-to-non-china-destinations/>

Table 1 Tonnage of plastic recycling in 2016/17 and 2017/18

Authority	Tonnage 2016/17	Tonnage 2017/18 Estimated ²
North Warwickshire BC	542	479
Nuneaton & Bedworth BC	800	641
Rugby BC	873	1039
Warwick DC	625	1065
Stratford-upon-Avon DC	1087	1007
Warwickshire CC	76	54
Total tonnage	4003	4285

Source: Waste Data Flow and WCC Waste Management System

- 3.3 The destination of the material varies depending on the contractor.
- 3.4 The import ban on plastics was not affecting the authorities in Warwickshire in early 2018, either because the waste is not sent to China in the first place, other outlets have been arranged or because the material is of high enough quality to not be affected by the ban.
- 3.5 In addition to the plastic waste collected, using waste composition data it is estimated that on average 3.88% of the kerbside bin is plastic that can be recycled using current kerbside services. At the HWRCs 1.35% of the overall residual waste is recyclable plastic and of the black bagged waste disposed of at the HWRC 6.35% is recyclable plastic. The majority of kerbside residual waste is sent for processing at energy from waste facilities and the waste from the HWRCs is sent to landfill.
- 3.6 All of the partners are involved in communication with residents to make clear what can be recycled. Good practice examples include the Stratford District Twitter Recycle Right campaign and the county wide Slim Your Bin behaviour change campaign.

4.0 UK Government response

- 4.1 In the UK around 3.7 million tonnes³ of plastic waste are created every year.
- 4.2 Since China announced its intentions last summer, Defra has worked with the Chinese Embassy, the Environment Agency, WRAP, the devolved administrations and representatives from local government to understand the potential impact of the ban and the action that needs to be taken.
- 4.3 In the UK a mix of domestic markets, as well as those abroad, with China being the main export market are used to process plastic. Annually the UK exports 0.8 million tonnes of plastic to countries around the world, of which 0.4 million tonnes is sent to China (including Hong Kong)¹. Alternative solutions to dealing with the waste in the short term, such as new markets, are being sought. Defra will continue to monitor China's implementation of the restrictions as well as the impact in the UK.

² Q1, Q2 & Q3 from 2017/18 and Q4 from 2016/17

³ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/china-no-stockpiles-defra/>

- 4.4 The Secretary of State for the Environment has cautioned against burning plastic for energy recovery as an alternative to recycling, saying that the waste hierarchy should be followed.
- 4.5 The Government released its 25 year Environment Strategy on 11th January, in which there was a pledge to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2042.⁴ There is a strong focus on plastic waste in the plan and highlights including:
- Encouraging producers to take more responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products and rationalising the number of different types of plastic in use.
 - Reducing the amount of plastic in circulation through reducing demand for single-use plastic.
 - Making it easier for people to recycle.
 - Improving the rate of recycling by increasing the proportion of plastic packaging that is collected and recycled.
- 4.6 In March 2018 the Government announced plans for a deposit return scheme in England for single use drinks containers (whether plastic, glass or metal), subject to consultation later this year. The consultation will look at the details of how such a scheme would work, alongside other measures to increase recycling rates. Depending on how the deposit return scheme works, performance for Councils could be affected.

5.0 EU Plastics Strategy

- 5.1 In January 2018 the European Commission presented its strategy on how the EU intends to approach plastic as part of the transition towards a more circular economy.
- 5.2 Under the new strategy, all plastic packaging on the EU market will be recyclable by 2030, the consumption of single use plastics will be reduced and the intentional use of micro-plastics will be restricted.⁵

6.0 Lobbying

- 6.1 The Warwickshire Waste Partnership feeds its views on all areas of waste management and the circular economy into a number of Local Government advisory organisations including Association of Directors Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT), Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC), Local Government Association (LGA) and National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO). By working with these organisations the partnership is able to make its voice stronger.
- 6.2 A call for evidence will take place in 2018 which will seek views on how the tax system or charges could reduce the amount of single use plastics.

⁴ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/environment-plan-welcomed/>

⁵ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/eu-adopts-plastics-strategy/>

Background Papers

1. None

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Appendix 1

The official list of materials covered by the restrictions is shown below.⁶

OFFICIAL LIST OF MATERIALS COVERED BY RESTRICTIONS

The full list of materials covered by the import restriction is: Slag, dross (other than granulated slag), scalings and other waste from the manufacture of iron or steel. (HS 2619), Ash and residues (other than from the manufacture of iron or steel), containing arsenic, metals or their compounds. (HS 2620), Waste, parings and scrap, of plastics. (HS 3915), Waste of wool or of fine or coarse animal hair, including yarn waste but excluding garnetted stock. (HS 5103), Garnetted stock of wool or of fine or coarse animal hair. (HS 5104), Cotton waste (including yarn waste and garnetted stock). (HS 5202), Waste (including noils, yarn waste and garnetted stock) of man-made fibres. (HS 5505), Used or new rags, scrap twine, cordage, rope and cables and worn out articles of twine, cordage, rope or cables, of textile materials. (HS 6310), – Other, including unsorted waste and scrap (HS 4707).

⁶ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/china-confirms-need-sort-mixed/>

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19

Brooke 28 June 2018

Topic	Description
Finance and Performance Monitoring 2017/18 Year-End	Monitoring of finance and performance
Notice of Motion – Reduce Plastic Waste	Notice of Motion referred from Council on 27 February 2018

Whittle 16 July 2018

Topic	Description
A Council led lottery	Presentation on the business case
Review of Public Spaces Protection Orders	Draft review report
Air Quality Monitoring and Management	Annual update

Council 19 July 2018

Topic	Description
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18	Annual report on the work of scrutiny

Brooke 13 September 2018

Topic	Description
Finance and Performance Monitoring 2018/19 Q1	Monitoring of finance and performance
Waste and Recycling Education	Light touch review

Whittle 15 October 2018

Topic	Description
Access to Council owned Facilities for People with Disabilities	Draft one-page strategy
Air Quality Monitoring and Management	Annual review

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Meeting 8 November 2018

Topic	Description
Meeting with Portfolio Holders	Question and answer style discussion on performance with the portfolio holders

Whittle 10 December 2018

Topic	Description
Finance and Performance Monitoring 2018/19 Q2	Monitoring of finance and performance
The World Rugby Hall of Fame	Progress against the recommendations in the review report.

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Meeting 28 January 2019

Topic	Description
Leader and Executive Director	Discussion of performance and future strategy with Leader and Executive Director

Brooke 7 February 2019

Topic	Description
Finance and Performance Monitoring 2018/19 Q3	Monitoring of finance and performance
Trees	Light touch review

Work Programme Workshop TBC March 2019

Topic	Description
Work Programme Workshop	Public workshop to discuss topics for scrutiny reviews during 2019/20

Whittle 11 March 2019 – agenda to be agreed by Chairs**Brooke 11 April 2019**

Topic	Description
Crime and Disorder	Annual review

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Meeting TBC

Topic	Description
Commercialisation, Collaboration and Partnerships	Topics for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercialisation Strategy• Exploring commercial activity, subscription packages of services, collaboration with other public-sector bodies, shared service and trading• RBC relationships with partners and their value