

To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members: Councillors Allport, Eastwood, Hailstones, Harper, Miss Mancey, Proctor, Miss Reddish, Tagg, Welsh (Vice-Chair), Mrs Williams (Chair) and Mrs Winfield

PLEASE NOTE: The Council Chamber and Committee Room 1 are fitted with a loop system. In addition, there is a volume button on the base of the microphones. A portable loop system is available for all other rooms. Should you require this service, please contact Member Services during the afternoon prior to the meeting.

Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

Meeting Quorums :- 16+= 5 Members; 10-15=4 Members; 5-9=3 Members; 5 or less = 2 Members.

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

Monday, 24th March, 2014

Present:- Councillor Mrs Gillian Williams – in the Chair

Councillors Councillor David Allport, Mayor's Consort, Councillor Peter Hailstones, Councillor Mrs Hilda Johnson, Councillor Glyn Plant, Councillor Miss Marion Reddish, Councillor Kyle Robinson, Councillor Mrs Sandra Simpson and Councillor Andrew Wemyss

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declaration of interest received.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 December 2013 are agreed as a correct record.

4. **REDUCING THE STRENGTH**

The Community Safety Officer gave an update on a campaign Suffolk Police, Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council and NHS Suffolk had launched during September 2012 called Reducing the Strength.

The aims of the campaign were:-

- To encourage licensees of premises with an off licence to voluntarily remove all super strength lager, beer and cider from their premises on a borough wide basis. Following this, to persuade licensees to voluntarily change the terms of their licence to include a licensing condition not to sell such items.
- To use the campaign to highlight the dangers of alcohol in general and in particular super strength alcohol.

A similar campaign had now been launched in Newcastle-under-Lyme with the Council working in partnership with Staffordshire Police. Eleven out of sixteen off licences in the town centre had agreed, in principle, to sign up to the campaign.

This was reported as a very good start with a need to progress further to include Supermarkets by writing to the Head Offices. Lidl and Morrisons had refused as they were already tackling alcohol abuse but more discussions were needed to take place with Sainsbury's. Public Health were backing the campaign and discussions were taking place regarding fast track routes into treatment services. Newcastle Borough Council had pledged money to support the facilitation of the campaign.

A Member stated that this was an excellent idea that it should be widened across the Borough.

The Community Safety Officer advised it would be useful to meet with Members and Portfolio Holders to present a case regarding supermarkets.

Members questioned whether Clinical Commissioning Groups needed to be involved as Public Health alone was not felt to be sufficient.

RECOMMENDED:- That the campaign be fully.

5. **PURPLE FLAG UPDATE**

The Committee considered an update regarding the Purple Flag scheme. The Community Safety Officer was producing the first draft of the application to be presented to the working group in couple of weeks.

RECOMMENDED:- That the working group consider submission of the application at its next meeting, including whether the application should be deferred if the time is not right.

6. **LICENSING OF FAST FOOD OUTLETS**

RECOMMENDED:- That this item is to remain on the agenda and that the Head of Planning pursue it as part of the Local Plan

7. **DOG CONTROL ORDERS**

The Head of Environmental Health Services gave an update on the Dog Control Orders. Five Fixed Penalty Notices had been served to date, one successful prosecution and twelve formal warnings.

A Member raised on-going problems at Butt Lane hot spots. This was mainly due to there being no signage and lack of public awareness.

RECOMMENDED:- That the Head of Environmental Health Services liaise with the Executive Director – Operational Services and Head of Operations regarding signage to inform the public that dog faeces can be disposed of in litter bins.

8. **A FRAME OBSTRUCTION ON PAVEMENTS (BRIEFING NOTE)**

It was reported that 'A' frames were the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council. Members did need to be proactive in reporting any concerns directly to the County Highways and if no response was received to raise with County Councillors.

Concerns could be reported through the Guildhall who would then forward them to Staffordshire County Council.

The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities advised the Town Centre Partnership could be approached with regard to the Good Code of Conduct.

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RECOMMENDED:- That this item remain on the agenda and that the Town Centre Partnership Manager and Dave Greatbatch, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, Staffordshire County Council be invited to a future meeting.

9. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee considered the Work Plan. It was agreed that the following items would remain on the work plan:-

- Licensing of Hot Food Takeaways
- 'A' Frames Obstruction on Pavements

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No items were raised.

COUNCILLOR MRS GILLIAN WILLIAMS
Chair

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NEWCASTLE – UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report To: The Cleaner, Greener and Safety Scrutiny Committee

TITLE: A500 cleansing operations

Submitted by: Operations and Performance Manager Paul Pickerill

Portfolio: Environment and Recycling

Wards Affected: N/A

Purpose of the Report

To report to committee issues regarding cleansing of the A500 avenues taken to address the ongoing problem of litter and cleansing operations.

Recommendations

That the report be received.

Reasons

To keep elected members informed of the issues regarding cleansing of the A500.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Newcastle Borough Council, being the cleansing authority, has responsibility for litter collection, litter bin servicing inclusive of replacement, repair and emptying and the cleansing of the carriageway.
- 1.2 The highway maintenance is the responsibility of the Highways agency. This includes any road surfacing, repairs, grass cutting, barrier repair/replacement etc.
- 1.3 The stretch of the A500 which is the responsibility of Newcastle Borough Council, runs from the traffic circle (excl) at the bottom of Basford bank [A53] to the traffic circle (east side incl) at junction 16 of the M6.
- 1.4 The numbers of litter bins on this stretch are **West Bound** - 4 double bins & 14 single, **East Bound** - 4 double & 9 single.
- 1.5 Over the last few years your Streetscene operations service area have been replacing the single wheelie bin type with Broxap double bins to help address fly tipping issues. This is an ongoing project being undertaken where budgets can accommodate.
- 1.6 The litter bins are programmed to be emptied three times a week Monday, Wednesday and Friday [excluding bank holidays]. The lay bys and their environs are litter picked at the same time.

- 1.7 Litter collection on the outside of each carriageway is undertaken mainly during the winter season.
- 1.8 Some three years ago contacts were made and a partnership approach was undertaken regarding grass cutting and cleansing operations. These operations were carried out during the night. The partners were Amey on behalf of the highways agency which carried out traffic management and grass cutting, while Stafford Borough Council, Stoke on Trent City Council and Newcastle Borough Council undertook the cleansing operation. This covered the complete length of the A500 from junctions 15 to 16. The cleansing included all partners putting in resources inclusive of Labour, vehicles, plant and equipment
- 1.9 The financial implication for Newcastle Borough Councils was mostly made up of labour a small amount for bags and the fuel cost. The operation carried out was envisaged to take, two to three weeks, but was completed in one week and encompassed all the central area of the carriageway. A total of six employees working nine hour shifts over a five day period were used amounting to 270 hours in total to undertake the operation
- 1.10 Subsequently communications have taken place with Amey to request information regarding intentions of night working where road closures were intended for the purpose of grass cutting operations. This would enable Newcastle Borough Council to piggy back the operation provided by Amey to address any cleansing approaches at the same time as previously carried out in the partnership programme
- 1.11 Earlier this year officers noted that grass cutting works were being undertaken on the A500 without prior knowledge of Newcastle Borough Councils Streetscene operations section. The outcome was that litter was cut up by mowing machinery leaving a huge cleansing operation on either side of the carriageway. This resulted in the time being taken to clear the resulting debris being in total 949.5 hours (Appendix A)
- 1.12 Contact by the Head of Operations as been made expressing our disappointment at this approach and apologies received (Appendix B)

2. Issues

- 2.1 The risk considering the type of road. A complaint was received from the health and safety executive regarding how the operation being undertaken a detailed report accompanied by photographic evidence was supplied to the executive and accepted that control measures were in place.
- 2.2 High volume of litter is a real problem as indicated above the Council supplies waste litter bins along the stretch of carriage way which addresses a substantial amount of litter but the real difficulty is the amount thrown from vehicles as they travel this with the access to the central reservations the requirements for traffic management to be in place to carry out this operation and the limited resources that the Council now as are on going problems your Operations service face.

- 2.3 Night working rates
(There has been need to negotiate night working rates which have now been agreed and will be implemented at the next opportunity when we can work with Amey to access the central reservation).
- 2.4 Communications have been challenging but are ongoing with both the highways agency and their contractors Amey.

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A500 LITTER CLEANSE AFTER AMEY CUT GRASS

Period from New Year to week beginning 10th February

Northern area - 56hours

Southern area – 192 hours

Period starting 3rd February 2014 - 7th February 2014

Northern area – 88 hours

Southern area – 304 hours

Period starting 10th February 2014 – 14th February 2014

Northern area - 128 hours

Southern area - 171 hours

Collection of Waste from site which had been unable to collect at time of operation 16th February 2014

1 Manager 3.5 hours

2 Operatives 3.5 hours

1 Refuse freighter estimated waste collected 3 tonnes

Waste was collected during the operation where possible and an estimate of ½ tonne a day is possible approx 5 tonnes.

The freighter system above was areas that made the operation more efficient to stack and collect litter.

Total hours of the above 949.5 hours

Waste collected approx 8 tonnes

Cost 949.5 hours @ £43.10 per hour £40,923.45

Waste collected 8 tonnes £50 land fill £400.00

Total cost £41,323.45

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Appendix B

From: Peile, Michael [mailto:Michael.Peile@amey.co.uk]
Sent: 07 April 2014 16:01
To: Tait, Roger
Cc: Mac9 Control Rooms
Subject: HAIL Log 13620981 A500 Grass cutting

Dear Roger,

I have been passed your request and can offer the following. I understand that consultation has taken place in the past and that previous grass cutting operations have been undertaken in conjunction with SCC. It is unfortunate that communications seem to have broken down this time and that the works resulted in additional work for yourselves. I will ensure that further activities in this area are assessed and communicated to yourselves in sufficient time for you to plan complimentary activities.

I am unable to comment on the possibility of financial recompense, this would have to be passed to Highways Agency and senior management for review.

Please let me know if I can be of further help.

Regards

Michael Peile MICFor CEnv
Area 9 Environmental Manager | Principal Environmentalist | Consulting, Rail and Strategic Highways
Amey

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN



Committee Name:	Cleaner, Greener & Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee
Chair:	Cllr Mrs Gillian Williams
Vice-Chair:	Cllr Billy Welsh
Portfolio Holder(s) Covering the Committee's Remit:	Cllr Trevor Hambleton – Leisure, Culture and Localism Cllr Ann Beech – Environment and Recycling Cllr Tony Kearon – Safer Communities
Work Plan Correct As At:	13 June 2014

Date of Meeting	Item	Reason for Undertaking
25 June 2014 (agenda dispatch 13 June 2014)	Police Crime Commissioner Funding Update	An update on projects which would like to receive funding
	A500 Cleansing Operations	To address on-going problems of litter and cleansing operations
	Integrated Recycling & Waste Strategy (Presentation from the Head of Recycling & Fleet Services)	An update on the new integrated recycling and waste service which will commence from 2016 onwards
	Work Plan	To discuss and update the work plan to reflect current scrutiny topics
1 October 2014 (agenda dispatch 19 Sept 2014)	Anti-Social Behaviour	

Classification: NULBC UNCLASSIFIED

Date of Meeting	Item	Reason for Undertaking
	Portfolio Holder Question Time (last Question Time took place on 04.09.13)	An opportunity for the Committee to question the Portfolio Holder on their priorities and work objectives for the next six months and an opportunity to address any issues or concerns that they may currently be facing. It is an opportunity for the Portfolio Holder to flag up areas within their remit that may benefit from scrutiny in the future.
4 March 2015 (agenda dispatch 20 Feb 2015)	Annual Review of Scrutiny Committee's Work	To evaluate and review the work undertaken during 2014/2015

Task and Finish Groups:	
Future Task and Finish Groups:	
Suggestions for Potential Future Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Zone Delivery of Green Deal (potentially email to committee) • Decriminalised Car Parking • Regulation of Hot Food Takeaways (Agreed on the 24.03.14 to be kept as an agenda item and for the Head of Planning to pursue it as part of the Local Plan) • 'A' Frames Obstruction on Pavements (Agreed on 24.03.14 to be kept as an agenda item and invite the Town Centre Partnership Manager or a representative and Dave Greatbatch, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, Staffordshire County Council to a future meeting)

REMIT**Cleaner, Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee is responsible for:**

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Civil Contingencies

Classification: NULBC UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

CCTV

Community Cohesion and Safety

Community Safety and Section 17

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement & On Street Parking

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Emergency Planning

Older People

Street scene – Litter, Grounds, Maintenance, Parks and Gardens

Street and Community Wardens

Buses and Concessionary Travel and Taxis

Car Park Management

Climate Change, Sustainability and Energy Efficiency

Environmental Health

Flooding and Drainage

Highways and Transport (Operational)

Recycling and Waste Management

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

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