

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting	Thursday, 30th June, 2016
Time	7.00 pm
Venue	Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG
Contact	Jayne Briscoe 2250

Cleaner Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee

AGENDA

PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of interest from Members on items included in the agenda.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(Pages 3 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of this Committee.

3 Review of Zero Tolerance Enforcement

4 WORK PLAN

(Pages 7 - 12)

To discuss and update the work plans to reflect current scrutiny topics

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council.

6 URGENT BUSINESS

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

Members: Councillors Allport, Burgess (Vice-Chair), Cooper, Dillon, Hailstones, Mancey, Naylor (Chair), Olszewski, Panter, Reddish, Williams and 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.

FIELD_TITLE

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

CLEANER GREENER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 23rd November, 2015

Present:- Councillor David Allport – in the Chair

Councillors Braithwaite, Dymond, Reddish and Welsh

Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities

Officers TMA Assurance Manager (SCC) – for item 5 only
Governance and Improvement Manager (SCC) – for item 5 only
Scrutiny Officer

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Robinson, Tagg and Wing.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

4. **REVISED LOCAL BUS NETWORK IN NEWCASTLE**

Councillor Winnington declined to attend Scrutiny, albeit initially accepting the meeting, as it was arranged around his diary commitments. As a Committee, Members were very disappointed with his absence and wished for a formal letter of dissatisfaction to be sent to the Leader of Staffordshire County Council.

Resolved:-

That the Chair formally writes to the Leader of Staffordshire County Council informing of the disappointment felt by Members due to the lack of attendance by Councillor Winnington.

5. **DECRIMINALISED CAR PARKING**

The TMA Assurance Manager and the Governance and Improvement Manager from Staffordshire County Council presented to Members an overview on decriminalised car parking.

Prior to the meeting a number of questions were submitted to the Officers and a response provided at the meeting, as follows:-

Q1: How are requests for new or alterations to traffic regulations made, what is the process, prioritisation and time scale?

A1: All requests are made via Staffordshire County Council contact centre, entered onto a list and forwarded to Staffordshire County Council highway programme. There was an option to settle a parking issue via the divisional highway programme.

Q2: What is the process for introducing residents parking zones (RPZs), who is consulted and how long does this take?

A2: Early consultation with individual householders and other interested parties was essential. Subsequent consultation should take place as the scheme progresses. For a scheme to progress to detail design and implementation would be necessary for at least 60% of those consulted to respond with 85% of those in favour and prepared to pay the full annual subscription.

If a resident had more than one car and if there was sufficient road space available a limited number of second permits per household may be purchased on a first come first served basis. There were a number of policies currently in place. All permits are issued on a renewable annual basis and effective for a period of 12 months. The method of issue was at the discretion of the District/Borough Council with the approval of the Local Parking Committee.

Q3: Is there a programme to review existing traffic regulation orders, especially where there had been changes in the locality that could affect the management of the traffic?

A3: Existing traffic regulation orders were reviewed when a request has been received and prioritised.

Q4: What is your Enforcement Strategy?

A4: A number of requests were received relating to enforcement. All information could be obtained from Staffordshire County Council clear street website; clear.streets@staffordshire.gov.uk

Q5: Are you intending to follow the idea currently being trialled in Thurrock Council with regard to empowering teachers and parents to undertake parking enforcement in the vicinity of schools?

A5: The review commenced March 2015. Staffordshire County Council would review the outcome during 2016.

Q6: What are the communication routes to report parking related problems?

A6: Any requests concerning off street parking restrictions to contact clear.streets@staffordshire.gov.uk or telephone the contact centre on

0300 111 8000 and ask to speak to the TMA Assurance Manager or one of the team.

If a vehicle was parked on a dropped kerb a Penalty Charge Notice could be issued if there was a physical obstruction.

A Member raised concern that within her constituency a number of complaints had been received of parked lorries on double yellow lines, waiting to unload. The problem had been reported to the police.

The Member was advised to contact clear streets at the above email address with dates, times. Flexibility of working arrangements with the CEOs (Civil Enforcement Officers) could be accommodated if there was a trend forming.

In terms of enforcement the CEO would advise the driver in the first instance of the legalities of illegal parking. If the offence continued then a Penalty Charge Notice would be issued.

Any private hire taxis using bus lanes would be prosecuted, if observed. If offences were occurring, out of hours flexible working would be accommodated.

It was asked if it was illegal for a parked car to block a pavement?

The Highway Act informs that pavements were there for the passage of pedestrians. It has to be in context of the demand on the footway. The Police had powers to prosecute for an obstruction.

In the event of unavoidable parking by businesses that were carrying out work to properties permits and waivers could be issued. Permits were issued for 21 days. Waivers cost £15.00 for the first 15 days, followed by £5.00 subsequent days. Longer stays alternative arrangements would have to be made. A five day advance notice would be required and the business would have to apply themselves.

The Chair thanked the TMA Assurance and Governance and Improvement Manager for attending and providing an overview.

6. **PORTFOLIO HOLDER QUESTION TIME**

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities was in attendance to answer any concerns raised by Members.

A Member asked if it was correct that Audley Parish Council were going to provide an area for a fire pit to be constructed?

The Portfolio Holder confirmed this was correct. The original plan was to install seating and a fire pit. The Fire and Rescue Service were concerned about the legalities of a fire pit, so it was agreed to only install seating not a fire pit.

The Portfolio Holder went on to advise he had been working with outreach service for young children to provide alternative arrangements. It was vitally important Councillors and residents report any incidents of vandalism.

The Members were advised if they had concerns to speak to the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and the Partnerships Manager and report any incidences to the Senior Partnerships Officer.

7. **WORK PLAN**

Resolved:-

Wednesday 2nd March 2016

Staffordshire Bus Subsidies – to scrutinise the subsidies then report back the findings to Staffordshire County Council with a request for them to be revised.

8. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

9. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

COUNCILLOR DAVID ALLPORT
Chair



Members: Allport, Burgess (Vice Chair),
Cooper, Dillon, Hailstones, Mancey,
Naylon (Chair), Olszewski, Panter,
Reddish, Williams, Winfield

CLEANER, GREENER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Naylon
Vice Chair: Councillor Burgess

Portfolio Holder(s) covering the Committee's remit:
Councillor Amelia Rout (Leisure, Culture and Localism)
Councillor Ann Beech (Environment and Recycling)
Councillor Tony Kearon (Safer Communities)

Work Plan correct as at: Wednesday 22 June 2016

Remit:

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

- Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
- Civil contingencies
- CCTV
- Community Cohesion and Safety
- Community Safety and Section 17
- Decriminalised Parking Enforcement and On-Street Parking
- Emergency Planning
- Older People
- Streetscene – 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

Date of Meeting	Item	Reason for Undertaking
29th June 2015 (agenda dispatch 19 th June 2015)	The Council's Role in Emergency Planning	Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council is part of Staffordshire Resilience Forum (SRF), bringing together all the emergency responders in Staffordshire. All Members are to be made aware of their roles and responsibilities in the event of a major incident or disruption to Council services
	Local Government Association Peer Review of Decision Making Arrangements	To advise Members on the recommendations of the LGA Peer Review and to request feedback on the recommendations
	Work Plan and Scrutiny Topics for 2015/2016	To discuss the work plan and potential topics that Committee members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year
7th October 2015 (agenda dispatch 25 th September 2015)	Portfolio Holder(s) Question Time (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling and Safer Communities)	An opportunity for the Committee to question the Portfolio Holder on her priorities and work objectives for the next six months and an opportunity to address any issues or concerns that she may currently be facing. It is an opportunity for the Portfolio Holder to flag up areas within her remit that may benefit from scrutiny in the future
	Abandoned Buildings within the Borough	Abandoned buildings represent waste, financial expense and missed opportunity. They can blight communities, attract fly tipping, vandals and squatters and tie up the resources of the Council and the emergency services. Committee would like to receive a report on what powers the Council has, to take action against the owners of abandoned buildings, the number of abandoned buildings the Council is aware of and what action has been taken, to date, to deal with them.
	Revised Local Bus Network	Members have raised concern over the revised local bus network in Newcastle which came into effect on the 6th September 2015. The Managing Director of First Midlands will be in attendance.
	Fly Posting Policy	To receive an update from the Streetscene Manager (Development and Enforcement) on how the Fly Posting Policy is managed through Operational Services
	Work Plan and Scrutiny Topics for 2015/2016	To discuss the work plan and potential topics that Committee members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year

Date of Meeting	Item	Reason for Undertaking
23rd November 2015 (agenda dispatch 13th November 2015)	Revised Local Bus Network	Members received clarification from the Managing Director of First Midlands at the last meeting but wished for the Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport to attend to respond to further concerns.
	Decriminalised Car Parking	Lee Barnard, TMA Assurance Manager, Staffordshire County Council will be attending to present the principles of decriminalised parking enforcement (DPE) carried out by civil enforcement officers, operating on behalf of either a local authority or a private firm
	Portfolio Holder Question Time – (Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities)	An opportunity for the Committee to question the Portfolio Holder on his priorities and work objectives for the next six months and an opportunity to address any issues or concerns that he may currently be facing. It is an opportunity for the Portfolio Holder to flag up areas within his remit that may benefit from scrutiny in the future
	Work Plan and Scrutiny Topics for 2015/2016	To discuss the work plan and potential topics that Committee members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year
2nd March 2016 (agenda dispatch 19th February 2016)	Staffordshire Bus Subsidies	To scrutinise the subsidies then report back the findings to Staffordshire County Council with a request for them to be revised.
	Annual Review of Scrutiny Committee's Work	To evaluate and review the work undertaken during 2015/2016
30th June 2016 (agenda dispatch 22 June 2016)	Work Plan and Scrutiny Topics for 2016/17	Committee to discuss and agree future topics for scrutiny
12 October 2016		
1 March 2017		

Task and Finish Groups:	
Future Task and Finish Groups:	
Suggestions for Potential Future Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning of subways • Greenspace strategy • Warm Zone Delivery of Green Deal (potentially email to committee) • Review of the Fly Posting Policy (due for renewal 2017)

- Decriminalised Car Parking
- The Council's Role in Emergency Planning

DATES AND TIMES OF CABINET MEETINGS:	Wednesday 20 July 2016, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 22 nd July 2015, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 14 September 2016, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 19 October 2016, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 23 November 2016, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 7 December 2016, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 18 January 2017, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 22 February 2017, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 22 rd March 2017, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1
	Wednesday 14 June 2017, 7.00pm, Committee Room 1

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