

ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT & PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 25th September, 2019

Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Andrew Fear (Chair)

Councillors: M. Olszewski M. Reddish
B. Panter J Tagg

Substitutes: Councillor Kenneth Owen (In place of Mayor's Consort -
Councillor Gary White)
Councillor Andrew Parker (In place of Councillor Mrs Gill
Heesom)

Officers: Andrew Bird Head of Recycling, Waste and
Fleet Services
Jayne Briscoe Democratic Services Officer
Rob Foster Head of Leisure and Cultural
Services
Jo Halliday Head of Housing
Martin Hamilton Chief Executive
Simon Sowerby Business Improvement
Manager

Also in attendance: Councillor Trevor Johnson Portfolio Holder - Environment
and Recycling
Councillor Stephen Sweeney Deputy Leader of the Council
and Portfolio Holder - Finance
and Efficiency

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest stated.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

Councillor A Fear was appointed as Chair for the meeting

3. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from the Chair, Councillor G White, from the Vice Chair, Councillor Gill Heesom and Councillor A Rout.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - 20 JUNE 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2019 were agreed as a correct record subject to a note being made within the final paragraph of item 5 – Allocation and Homeless Policy that Councillor Fear was not supportive of activities to help and support rough sleepers.

5. UPDATE FROM CABINET

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Sweeney presented the report from the Leader, circulated at the meeting, which provided an update in response to the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee on 20 June.

Visits by the Cabinet Member to town centres and markets had continued, including recently Wigan, Leek and Market Drayton as part of the benchmarking exercise. All the visits would be reported to the 12 December meeting.

Footfall figures provided by the BID showed that there was a fall of 13.27% and a fall of 14.38% from 3pm compared with the year 2018/2019.

Meetings were ongoing regarding diverted giving schemes

Provision has been made to recruit to the senior planning team, on an interim basis initially. A new case management strategy has been put in place and the department exceeded government targets in the first quarter.

A Communications Plan dedicated to the introduction of the new recycling service has been produced which will be monitored and updated.

Agreed: That the report be noted

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6. CAR PARKING STRATEGY

The Cabinet member for Finance and Efficiency, Councillor S Sweeney, represent the report on the draft Car Parking Strategy for pre-decision scrutiny.

The strategy reviewed the current car parking provision and set out the future options to ensure the most effective provision. The Strategy highlighted the key objectives:-

- To provide car parking which meets the current and future needs of the town centre for visitors, businesses and residents that will live in the town centre
- Optimise the cost-efficiency of the car park assets
- Minimise congestion and improve air quality

To deliver these objectives the strategy set out a range of issues together with an action plan.

Members scrutinised the strategy and asked:-

- For Pay on Exit to be given priority.
- For the strategy to include informative signage relating to the types and location of the car parks on entry to the Town Centre
- A flat rate of charge to support all businesses both large and small

Agreed: That, Cabinet be requested to take the comments of members into account when considering the Car Parking Strategy.

7. RECYCLING SERVICE UPDATE

The Head of Recycling and Fleet Services presented a report which updated members on progress on the development for the introduction of the new recycling collection service together with Quarter 4 performance.

Round modelling had taken place and testing of the new rounds with operational staff and with the correct type of vehicle was planned for October for a minimum of 12 weeks. In addition procurement of wheeled bins, bags to hold cardboard and paper, vehicles, changes to the Knutton Lane Depot Station to accommodate the new service and the installation of a material recovery facility to process glass, cans and plastic.

The officer explained that the majority of the missed bins related mainly to the assisted collection service and that this was the main area of focus. Overall in June 2019 99.92% of bins had been collected successfully.

The officer confirmed that the disused plastics boxes would not be collected and residents were free to reuse them. Operationally, they could not continue to be used.

Agreed: That the report be noted

8. REVIEW OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS REDUCTION STRATEGY

The Business Improvement Manager presented the strategy on the reduction/elimination of single use plastics (SUP) for review by this Committee.

Work to date included:-

- The development of baseline data
- SUP elimination or replacement
- Collection and recycling of SUP
- Internal and Town Centre Campaigns

With regard to the Action Plan members asked for a column to be included to detail when the specific actions had been completed.

Agreed: That the report be noted.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

This item will be considered at a special meeting of the committee on a date to be confirmed.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive submitted a report which set out the future work programme.

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Agreed: That, in addition the report from Cabinet on the benchmarking visits to other town centres and markets, the 12 December meeting consider a report on Bradwell Crematorium to include the expenditure and maintenance programme and the feasibility of setting up of a Friends of Bradwell Crematorium Group.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

12. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

**Councillor Andrew Fear
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.10 pm