

## Cleaner Greener Safer Scrutiny Committee Report for November 2017

Since the last Council CGS met on 4 October

THE AGENDA included:

- A request by a Member for a review of the 'cloth nappy service'.
- Examination of air quality at the town bus station following a Member request.
- A further review of the Council's Waste and Recycling service following the adoption of recommendations in the Davis Report - December 2016.
- The work plan was agreed for the next few months.

Nappies. Local statistics say that disposal costs £500,000 per annum in the County - a total of 13,000 tonnes to landfill.

Newcastle Borough Council website offers advice and information about a cloth nappy service operated by North Staffs Real Nappy Service (NSRNS). In light of the cost of the nappy service to the Council which was discussed at the meeting it was the view of Members that Cabinet be requested to signpost residents to the service offered by the NSRNS.

Air Quality in the Borough is monitored constantly as a statutory duty and committee members were given a comprehensive report from Nesta Barker - Head of Environmental Health Services (details of this report can be seen in the minutes of the last meeting). Scrutiny reveals that monitoring stations need only to be near housing, the nearest to the bus station is right down Barracks Road.

Our particular concern however is the bus station and the very poor quality of air on still warm days. Under these conditions bus engines left running even for relatively short periods of time create noticeably poor air. Having scrutinised current practice, we agreed to follow up with a request to Cabinet to enable 'anti idling' notices at the bays for the advice of drivers. These notices would be in the view of bus users with reference to the existing complaint channels.

Waste and Recycling services were the subject of an in depth analysis in 2016 (The Davis Report). Cleaner Greener and Safer Communities scrutinised the report and its recommendations in detail on its publication. The meeting of October 4<sup>th</sup> reviewed the 6 key recommendations for action and implementation.

Further proposals to refine and improve the Service were presented in September this year. A number of those are likely to be of particular interest to Ward as follows: A Collection Team steering group is now set up to meet quarterly to assess issues regarding rounds. End of lane collection and assisted collection policies are currently under review. Other aspects of upgrades in data collection, operation of fleets and improving communications between the Council, residents and Councillors were presented in detail. These can be seen in the minutes of Oct 4 meeting of Cleaner Greener and Safer Communities Scrutiny Committee.

A work plan was discussed and Members proposed the following: Impact of overnight charging on Council owned car parks and the impact on the introduction of parking restrictions on the Lyme Valley. These will be considered at the February meeting, the Chair will be accepting issues from all Members of concerns for consideration and scrutiny by our Committee.

Wenslie Naylor