

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - SERVICES - 21 JUNE 2022

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting)

**Present**

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cllr Kevin Deanus (Chairman)        | Cllr Jenny Else       |
| Cllr Peter Marriott (Vice Chairman) | Cllr Mary Foryszewski |
| Cllr Carole Cockburn                | Cllr Philip Townsend  |
| Cllr Martin D'Arcy                  | Cllr Michaela Wicks   |
| Cllr Sally Dickson                  |                       |

Cllr Joan Heagin (Substitute)

**Apologies**

Cllr Ruth Reed

**Also Present**

Councillor Richard Seaborne

1 MINUTES (Agenda item 1)

The Minutes of the meeting of the Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 21 March 2022 and published on the Council's website were agreed as a correct record.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS (Agenda item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ruth Reed and Michaela Wicks, Cllr Joan Heagin attended as substitute.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Agenda item 3)

There were no declarations of interest submitted for this meeting.

4 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS (Agenda item 4)

There were no questions submitted by members.

5 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 5)

There were no questions submitted by members of the public.

6 COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda item 6)

The Committee Forward Work Programme was noted.

The Committee asked that the item ASB PSPO Update could include information on impact on the surrounding areas and any evidence of this impact.

It was highlighted that the item on the Affordable Housing SPD was not required and the Scrutiny Officer was actioned to check if it needed removing.

## 7 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT Q4 2021/2022 (Agenda item 7)

Louise Norie attended for this item. The Committee noted the report circulated with the agenda and each head of service gave a summary of their service. The Committee made the following comments:

### Environmental and Regulatory Services

- Who now looks after Waverleys OOH service? Bracknell Forest Borough Council.
- If BIFFA work weekends to catch up who pays? BIFFA pay the overtime.
- Food Safety Checks – Should this have a target rather than be data only? This would be discussed with then team.
- Have we had any cases of Monkey Pox in Waverley? None we are aware of.
- Complaints regarding noise and light pollution from residential gardens. What can be done as it appears onus is on complainant to get the evidence? Enforcement team are on 4.5 FTE so resources are limited. Complainants are given diaries to complete and then officers can investigate if there are trends.
- Heat exchangers and solar panels fitted to Memorial Hall - Have we installed underfloor heating or is it just heating the existing system? Is it reducing the bills? The Sustainability Manager will advise.
- SP21/24ES16.1 – dates are inconsistent as it states completed but narrative says it will not be complete till end June 2022?
- Bonfires – how are we dealing with these?
- Strays – would like data on how many we are dealing with.
- Dead Animals on highways – numbers seem to be increasing – is there a contributory factor for this rise? Response will be given offline.
- It was noted that the figures for E2b (No of flytips dealt with) appears to significantly rise in Q4 of 20/21 and 21/22. Was it possible to identify why this was? Also are we taking action against flytippers? Additional enforcement officers have been recruited and action is taken against those identified.
- When will the monitoring of street cleansing begin again? Meeting with BIFFA this week to discuss.

### Commercial Services

- How were the key priority areas for the CSP decided? They are based on the Surrey priorities and then focussed down to those relative to Waverley. Eve Budd to advise via evidence received.
- Will new ASB officer visit towns and parishes? Yes he will be addressing all areas of Waverley.
- Household Support Fund – why did this only go to Farnham and Haslemere? FTC and Haslemere had their own COVID groups set up so they administered the fund for their areas. WBC then administered the fund for the rest of the Borough.
- It was noted that the number of those registered to careline were down but the calls to the line were increasing.
- SP21/24CS4.1 – Officers were asked if this had been discussed at Resources O&S as it had a financial implication and were advised it had not.

### Planning & Economic Development

- It was noted that KPI's were still in the red but that trajectories were on an upward trend. The Committee were assured that they would see a significant improvement in the Q1 figures at the next meeting.
- The committee expressed concern that the responses to L2 complaints were at 75%. Officers highlighted this was one complaint out of four and it had been missed by one day.
- Officers were asked when pre-app advice would start up again and were informed this was scheduled to restart on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Officers were thanked for their input but the chairman expressed disappointment that the report was not up to its usual standard and the committee felt there were omissions.

## 8 BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (Agenda item 8)

David Olliver, Head Ranger introduced the draft Biodiversity Action Plan circulated with the agenda.

The committee noted there were a no of grammatical errors within the report which needed attention. It was also felt there was too much background before the actual policy itself which could be distracting to reader.

The Committee felt that the plan needed financial resources outlined and an indicative spend profile. Information to provide should include how much would be funded internally and how much was to come from grants. How much of the resources needed would be utilising existing staff and how much would rely on external staffing.

Other comments included;

- Each item should be given a priority
- Nothing in report about key species in Farnham Park
- Legislative content is very thin
- Report should outline what we are going to do differently in the future
- Are we going to put education on all areas? How effective will this be?
- Not enough data to see how this is going to work. What do we have now? How will it be improved.
- It was highlighted that in the report it stated that Broadwater Park was leased to the golf course. This was incorrect.
- With regards to amenity spaces please don't forget the villages.
- Have Hankley User Group and MOD been consulted on this plan?
- It was highlighted that the Environment Act 2021 imposes a requirement to produce a Biodiversity Report every 5 years so this would drive much of this.
- The committee asked what the justification was for not mowing verges?

The Committee **NOTED** and provided feedback and comment on the current version of the Biodiversity Policy.

The Committee felt it could not, at this time, recommend the Biodiversity Policy (subject to feedback and comment amendments) be considered for adoption by the Council at the next available Executive meeting as they had raised a number of issues which they wished to be addressed. It was agreed that the amendments would be made and the draft recirculated to the committee for agreement before being recommended for adoption.

## 9 SERVICE PLANS 2023-26 (Agenda item 9)

The committee were reminded that at the last meeting when the committee looked at Service Plans they expressed a wish to develop a number of working groups to look at each services plans in isolation. With the current collaboration discussions with Guildford BC and the possibility that the services will have a 'shake-up' the committee were asked if they wished to scrutinise the current service plans or wait for those coming up?

It was agreed that this would be rescheduled for September and then they could look at the new plans.

10 LOCAL PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN (Agenda item 10)

The Committee were advised this item would be postponed until the September meeting as officers were currently in discussion with the portfolio holder. It was highlighted that officers must ensure that we lead by example in this plan and ensure we are following our own policy.

11 ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT (Agenda item 11)

The Committee **NOTED** the report and were asked to make any comment to the scrutiny officer by the end of the month.

12 UPDATE FROM LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT TASK AND FINISH GROUP (Agenda item 12)

Cllr Mary Forszewska had been elected chairperson for this task and finish group. She gave the committee a brief summary of the discussions that had taken place at the first meeting and were asked to note the scoping document circulated.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the members of the task and finish group to make interim recommendations to the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing, Parks and Leisure. These are to be shared with the wider Committee and will be subject to retrospective confirmation at the Committee's next meeting in September.

13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda item 13)

There were no items to discuss in exempt session so the Chairman closed the meeting.

14 ANY ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN EXEMPT SESSION (Agenda item 14)

**The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 9.36 pm**

**Chairman**