

Summary Sheet

Council Report

Improving Places Select Commission 24th February 2016

Title Litter and Fly-tipping Scrutiny Review (Task and Finish Group)

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Catherine Parkinson

Report Author(s)

Christine Majer Scrutiny Officer, Resources
christine.majer@rotherham.gov.uk 01709 822738

Ward(s) Affected

Borough wide

Executive Summary

The purpose of this preliminary investigation is to provide recommendations to the Cabinet / Commissioners.

Improving Places Select Commission is requested to consider the report and make appropriate recommendations

This is part of a series of reviews being undertaken by Members of Improving Places Select Commission.

The T&F Group considered options in relation to litter and fly tipping which has been on the increase in the borough.

In undertaking this piece of work, the T&F Group requested and considered evidence from RMBC Officers, other local authorities via internet research and members of the public, to learn from their experiences in dealing with litter and fly tipping.

Recommendations

That the Improving Places Select Commission

- i) receives and considers the report and makes appropriate recommendations.**

- ii) Forwards the report to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for their consideration and approval.**

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 The report from the T&F Group 2 on the findings of the review.

Background Papers

N/A

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title Improving Places Task & Finish Group report on litter and fly tipping.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 **That the Improving Places Select Commission receives and considers the report and makes any appropriate amendments.**

2. Background

- 2.1 This review was one of a number of service areas within Environment and Development Services, identified by the Commissioners and Elected Members as a potential scrutiny review to take place during 2015/2016. The findings from the review are to be presented to Improving Places Select Commission on 24th February 2016, OSMB on 26th February and then to the Cabinet / Commissioners decision making meeting once the officer response to the report has been received
- 2.2 The back drop to this review is a series of annual budget reductions for street cleansing and enforcement duties, a situation likely to continue in future years. As funding has reduced there has been little or no preventative measures undertaken in this subject area. Research has shown that enforcement is not a tool to change behaviour and from a point of view of enforcement, people don't think that they will be caught for litter / fly tipping and in the meantime, the amount of litter being dropped increases as does the incidences of fly tipping.
- 2.3 The guidelines for street cleansing are outlined in the Land Category and Management Levels (see Table 1 in Appendix 1).” *The areas of medium intensity use, which are everyday areas which are prone to fluctuations in litter, usually outside areas of retail or commercial activity, but regularly used by members of the public. The national response time is one working day*”, however, in Rotherham the target for cleaning is 5 working days, which is as a result of the lack of resources available
- 2.4 Using APSE as a benchmark, the information provided shows that Rotherham provides a below average service.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Undertaking this review was quite difficult as there are so many uncertainties around budget proposals, changes in all tiers of the management structure and an overall re structure of the service area being undertaken in parallel. All this uncertainty the officers providing information to the review were unable to give definite answers as to the future details and capacity of the service.

- 3.2 In previous years' awarding winning campaigns such as "Toxic" proved to be successful in the fight against litter and fly tipping, The T&F Group supported the idea that more education and preventative measures were needed. .
- 3.3 Enforcement was also seen by the T&F Group as a deterrent and they were pleased with the actions and attitude of RMBC's Legal Services Department in bringing cases to prosecution.
- 3.4 One of the main issues surrounding this review was the reducing resources available to provide a service. Within the borough there are other organisations with an interest in keeping the streets clean. It was suggested that greater partnership working should be promoted.
- 3.5 Another aspect of partnership working includes the role of local councillors in their ward areas.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 The T&F Group would recommend that Improving Places Select Commission has the opportunity to re look at this piece of work, once the restructure of services within Environment and Development Service (EDS) area has been completed.
- 4.2 The employment of a Love my Street Co-ordinator was welcomed by the T&F Group, however they were aware that this was one person covering activities for the whole of the borough and therefore they acknowledge the limitations this would have.
- 4.3 The development of a web based anti litter and fly tipping campaign to be started, to include the cost to the authority for clearing up litter etc and provide a strong message that fines for littering and fly tipping will be enforced.
- 4.4 That closer working arrangements are encouraged between the Council, Area Assemblies, Town and Parish Councils and Council contractors on the issue of litter and fly tipping.
- 4.5 The group suggested that local councillors should have a part to play in getting involved with local groups

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place as set out in the report.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

6.1 Referred to OSMB by end February 2016 and Cabinet / Commissioners decision making meeting on the response of the report has been received from the officers.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

7.1 None at this stage but any future changes to how services are provided may provide income generation or make financial savings in forthcoming years.

8. Legal Implications

8.1 None at this stage

9. Human Resources Implications

9.1 N/A

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

10.1 N/A

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

11.1 N/A

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

12.1 N/A

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 None at this stage.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Christine Majer – Scrutiny Officer Ext 22738. christine.majer@rotherham.gov.uk

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:- N/A

Director of Legal Services:-N/A

Head of Procurement (if appropriate):- N/A

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