

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
11th April, 2018**

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Cowles, Brookes, Cusworth, Mallinder, Napper, Short, Walsh and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Clark, Evans and Sheppard.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-
<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

127. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no questions from members of the public or press.

128. WASTE COLLECTIONS SERVICE REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report which detailed the outcome of the waste consultation exercise that had taken place between 28 November 2017 and 26 January 2018 and proposed the introduction of changes to the Council's waste collection service.

It was reported that views of residents had been sought on the proposed changes to the waste collection and recycling service and a range of activities had been undertaken to promote the consultation as widely as possible. Feedback had been elicited from the Council's website in the main, as well as feedback received in writing and at drop-in sessions across the borough. Members noted that the majority of respondents to the consultation had indicated that the provision of regular waste collections, sufficient capacity in bins and a system that is easy to use were important factors to consider when making changes to the service.

Members sought clarification as to why consultants had been used to develop the proposals and why the work could not be undertaken by officers. In response, it was confirmed that capacity was an issue and that where a technical piece of work was required, additional expertise needed to be engaged.

Additional information was sought by Members in respect of trialling arrangements that had taken place prior to the preparation of the report. In response, it was explained that there had been a desire to get information in respect of demographics and backgrounds to work through issues and this could be supplied outside of the meeting. the Cabinet Member for Waste, Roads and Community Safety indicated that it had not

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been trial, but an opportunity to get some assurance that the proposals would work. No formal evaluation had taken place, but the Cabinet Member was assured that the proposal worked.

Members queried what additional work was planned to examine the implication of the proposed changes for flats. It was acknowledged that further work was required to examine access issues with the Housing Service, which would form part of the broader implementation plan, but communal bins and the frequency of meetings were suspected to be part of the solution.

Further lines of enquiry were raised to establish how habits would be changed as concerns were expressed that the full picture of information had not been completed within the report. In response, it was advised that the report set out the policy and direction of the service for the future and was a long term project that would take over a year to implement. Members followed up with a query in respect of allocating additional resources to ensure that the project was implemented well. It was confirmed that extra resources would be required, especially in respect of engagement and customer service. It was also confirmed that the implementation plan would take account of behavioural change, education and communication.

Referring to the colour of bins, Members queried whether the proposals were consistent with other South Yorkshire authorities. It was confirmed that there was no harmonisation across South Yorkshire and the proposals were driven by the budget requirement and the desire of residents to re-use existing bins to save money.

Clarity was sought in respect of charges for replacement bins. It was confirmed that there would be a cost for a replacement residual waste bin, but recycling bins would be replaced for free. It was noted that this was the current policy, with an amendment to reflect recycling bins rather than bags and boxes.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported subject to the inclusion of 2) and 3) below.
2. That Cabinet be recommended:
 - a) That prior to full implementation, a trial be initiated in different types of households (terraced housing, flats, maisonettes etc) to ensure that the proposed changes are feasible and such households are not adversely affected by the proposals.
 - b) That the evaluation from the trial be reported back to scrutiny for consideration.

- c) That the feasibility of communal facilities be explored for waste disposals and recycling particularly for high density housing and new developments;
3. That further details of communications and engagement strategy be provided to Improving Places Select Commission for their input and monitoring.

129. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

Consideration was given to a report which was due to be determined at the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting on 16 April 2018 in respect of the Home to School Transport Policy. The report outlined the outcome of the consultation on the Home to School Transport Policy for Rotherham, including post-16 students and children with Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) and provided recommendations for the service provision.

Members sought clarification as to who would provide the independent travel training. It was confirmed that the intention was to have an in-house independent travel training offer. It was confirmed that this was in place already and that some of the special schools in the borough also provided training themselves. It was noted that it could take over a year to train a young person to travel independently.

In response to a query as to whether the recommendations for personal travel budgets were sufficient given the potential for a higher budget saving, it was explained that people can have access to personal travel budgets at an earlier stage if they wished. It was noted that individual circumstances would be subject to annual review and individual conversations would be needed to evaluate need.

Members advised that the service needed to learn from buddying schemes to ensure that people with learning disabilities were enabled to have the best life that they could have and be independent. In response, it was explained that officers had worked with some people who had been the most vocal in respect of previous issues, but change was required although it was recognised that a more transitional process would be appropriate. Wyatt – Buddying scheme need to learn from. Needs to be a desire that people with Id have the best life that they can have. Need to get them out independently where they can.

Assurances were sought that young people with mobility issues would automatically qualify for home to school transport if they were in receipt of Personal Independent Payment because of a mobility issue. Officers gave an undertaking to respond on that point outside of the meeting.

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Members expressed the view that the assessment matrix could be open to interpretation and queried who would decide whether a condition was moderate or mild and whether applicants would be required to supply evidence. It was confirmed that assessments were completed by the Corporate Transport Unit with information supplied from officers in Adult Care and Children's Services. It was confirmed that the matrix model had been adopted by Middlesbrough BC and this was considered the most appropriate model for the borough.

In response to a query as to whether the trial period was long enough, it was explained that the service felt that it was sufficient and it would commence from 1 May 2018.

Members were supportive of the authority delivering training in-house and queried whether any modelling had taken place in respect of the cost to the Council of providing taxi services against what the private sector cost. It was indicated that there were figures to indicate how much had been spent and that officers had been asked to review how transport was provided to identify whether a taxi was the best approach or whether a shared arrangement would be more appropriate.

Resolved:-

1. That Cabinet be advised that the recommendations be supported.
2. That Cabinet be recommended to investigate the cost/benefit feasibility of operating an in-house transport service for those requiring home to school transport rather than reliance on taxis.
3. That a further report on the policy's implementation be submitted to Improving Places Select Commission in six months' time.

130. TO DETERMINE ANY ITEM WHICH THE CHAIRMAN IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

The Chair reported that there were no items of business requiring urgent consideration by the Board.

131. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

That the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board take place on Wednesday 25 April 2018 commencing at 17:00.