

**IMPROVING PLACES SELECT COMMISSION
Tuesday 7 June 2022**

Present:- Councillor Wyatt (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Aveyard, Bennett-Sylvester, Browne, C Carter, Castledine-Dack, Cowen, Ellis, Havard, Hunter, Jones, Khan, McNeely, Monk and Tinsley.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bacon, T. Collingham and Taylor and from Mrs. K Bacon, a co-optee from RotherFed.

The webcast of the Council Meeting can be viewed at:-

<https://rotherham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2022

Resolved:-

1. That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 April 2022 be approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Chair advised that there were no members of the public or representatives of media organisations present at the meeting and there were no questions in respect of matters on the agenda.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair advised that there were no items of business on the agenda that would require the exclusion of the press or public from the meeting.

5. DRAFT ENVIRO-CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

Consideration was given to a report and presentation on early phase development of an Enviro-Crime Plan presented by the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment and the Assistant Director for Community Safety and Street Scene. The main objectives of the Plan were presented for feedback from Members. The objectives were Prevention, Engagement, and Enforcement. Prevention is about designing out crime and making it harder for offenses to happen in the first place. The Engagement objective emphasises the need to communicate well the environment services available for people to dispose of their waste, the enforcement actions taken, and informing residents about environmental offenses and their responsibilities. The Enforcement objective is about effectiveness at all phases of the waste disposal cycle, working well with

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police, increasing outputs of fines and prosecutions and notices requiring demonstration of responsible waste disposal and appropriate documentation. The service leads provided examples of tactical measures for discussion.

In discussion, Members asked for more information about how the service will work with private landlords. The response from officers noted that Council does contact landowners to ask them to clear waste on land they own, and the Council does have the power to enforce the landowners to clear waste on private land, which can sometimes be problematic for landowners when they

Members also asked for clarification around waste on private versus common land, or land where it is difficult to pin down ownership of land. Land usually has an owner although it can be hard to identify.

Members requested further information around budget provision for clearing eyesores or public health concerns that are on private land. There is funding going into the service to help expand coverage, and there is a special team with expertise to design out crime.

A specific example was given of a trouble spot for fly tipping. A further conversation regarding the trouble spot was offered outside the meeting.

Members also suggested better communication around schemes that are affordable, for example, qualification for extra bins. The service noted that the Plan would include expanding communication around the available schemes. Further work is in motion around making it an offense to advertise irresponsible waste disposal.

Members noted favourably the involvement of Members in nominating bins or bin changes. The service noted that the local knowledge of elected Members can be very valuable prior to making changes to bins.

Members noted the difficulty with fly tipping on common land, and that the Plan include provision for this grey area. Service leads offered a direct conversation about specific pieces of land. Where there is land that is not owned by anyone, this can make prevention and enforcement difficult in that area but at the same time must be addressed so that it does not become harmful to communities.

Members offered examples of successful engagement, including work in schools and work by a community grassroots litter picking organisation which are already performing an excellent service for the community by tackling hotspots. Members suggested that the service tie in to consult members of this successful organisation around developing the engagement objective of the Plan. Members also suggested maximising the Council's website to publicise the Council's activity in terms of removals and enforcement. The service welcomed the suggestions and noted the changes that are being put in place to establish a more digital

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and interactive interface with residents around frontline services. There is crossover with the nature crisis and climate change and Environment Bill 2021-22 that will have impacts on how much waste is created to begin with.

Members noted that language differences can impede the flow of information into communities. The bin calendars could be used as a communication channel. Members requested more readily available information about unusual items and where these can be taken. Work with library services and work in schools were also suggested. The response from officers emphasised the customer and digital services branch of the Plan which will provide more information at people's fingertips. The household waste contracts come to an end in 2023, therefore the service are working on options to present to Cabinet in the summer. This means that there is present flexibility to work with partners to develop the right options and stipulations in respect of household waste and recycling.

Members described the cascading impact of expanding work in schools which had been done in the past, recognising the resource involved. The importance of design in planning placement of bins was also emphasised in terms of designing out litter. The response from officers noted the powers to require developers to produce plans for waste. The service has also been taking part in the graduate programme to utilise all the resource possible. It will be important that following on from the Environment Bill there will be funding to ensure the requirements can be delivered.

Members noted that hotspots are often fly-tipped on a regular basis, and with a host of tactics, the service put extra measures in to go door to door to replace missing bins. The response from officers noted the challenges associated with fly-tipping and emphasised the objective of having a clear and consistent plan locally that will be amplified nationally through the medium to long term. CCTV has also been tactically deployed which will begin to have deterrent effect on the fly tipping.

Members requested clarification around issues with how residents present their bins. The response from officers noted the decriminalisation of presenting bins in inappropriate ways, replaced with a civil process. This is a process that has limitation around the ways it can be enforced, and one that requires resources to enforce with limited result that often would penalise the more law abiding citizens who are more willing to pay civil fines.

Clarification was requested around the procedure to address contaminated bins. The response from officers noted that there is no power or sanction that officers can take to address a contaminated bin. The only option open to the service is to work with the individual bin owner to help them clear the bin and better understand the kinds of collections for their bins. It was noted that the separate collections are about to become more complex in the future under the new regulations. Members emphasised that it is not reasonable for the service to

continually be having to sort out a repeatedly contaminated bin.

Members also suggested the service explore the potential of restorative justice approaches to deal with waste offenses. Members noted the responsiveness of the graffiti team which swiftly shift graffiti. It was requested that the service make information around the graffiti service available to Members.

Resolved:-

1. That the report be noted and the next update, including information in respect of performance measurement, clean-up and removal cost breakdowns, graffiti removal response times and a summary of work in schools, be submitted 12 months from implementation.
2. That consideration be given to expanding the work with private landlords and provision of support to communities where there may be an eyesore or public health concern on private or common land.
3. That the service avail all appropriate channels to further promote and publicise services and schemes to help residents dispose of waste responsibly and affordably.
4. That the service continue to engage elected members and community groups to maximise the local knowledge available to the service to inform deployment of assets, resources and schemes.
5. That forthcoming work on customer and digital interface include ward- or neighbourhood-level demonstrations where appropriate with a view to broadening access to information and support around responsible waste disposal.
6. That the service clarify the process for addressing contaminated recycling bins, and that any removal of such be coordinated with direct engagement with the resident, with a view to enhancing understanding of processes and resident responsibility.
7. That the responsiveness of the graffiti removal teams be noted, and that the service provide Members with information in respect of graffiti removal.
8. That the service explore potential restorative justice approaches to dealing with waste offences.

6. INITIAL WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Consideration was given to an outline work programme for 2022/23. Several potential items for inclusion were identified and Members were invited to suggest possible items for the evolving work programme.

Resolved:-

1. That the report and proposed schedule of work be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Governance Advisor in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair to make changes to the schedule of work as appropriate between meetings, reporting any changes back to the next meeting for endorsement.

7. SCRUTINY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - MARKETS: ENGAGEMENT AND RECOVERY

Consideration was given to a summary report outlining the findings and recommendations of the recent spotlight review on Markets Recovery and Engagement. The report described a site visit to the indoor and outdoor areas of the Town Centre markets complex and outlined the discussion with national experts and service leads around the redevelopment of the Rotherham Town Centre Markets.

Resolved:-

1. That a review of the Council's Rules and Regulations in respect of Markets be added to the IPSC work programme.
2. That the following recommendations from the review be endorsed for submission to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:
 - a) That face-to-face consultations and clear communication be prioritised in all interactions with vendors and traders.
 - b) That the service avail case studies and resources available in the libraries of NABMA and NMTF to inform the strategic refresh of Rotherham markets.
 - c) That the service re-evaluate the support offer for new vendors, in consultation with NABMA and NMTF, with a view to encouraging more new vendors to continue trading beyond the six-month introductory period.
 - d) In view of relevant expert advice in respect of sustaining a market during redevelopment works, that retaining traders through the redevelopment phase be considered top priority.
 - e) That any re-design of markets spaces duly consider usability and aesthetics, availing market research to optimise spaces for inclusiveness and accessibility, and to make the offer especially attractive to students and young people.

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- f) That consideration be given to how the redesign and operation of the market may best cater to the needs and interests of younger generations by strengthening links with RNN student populations and extending opportunities to new entrepreneurs through the Young Traders Scheme.
- g) Recognising that the Town Centre markets complex represents a unique and distinct microeconomy with its own accompanying needs and character, that consideration be given to the ongoing management resource required to sustain the markets economy successfully over the long term.
- h) That consideration be given to design and development choices that would help the markets to incorporate cashless, up-to-date approaches to commerce that their potential customers expect.

8. IPSC REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY PANEL

Councillor McNeely volunteered to continue to serve as representative on the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel.

Resolved:-

1. That Councillor McNeely represent IPSC on the Health, Welfare and Safety Panel for 2022/23.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that there were no urgent items of business requiring the Commission's consideration.

10. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Resolved:-

1. That the next meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission will take place on 19 July 2022, commencing at 1.30 pm.