

STREETSMART AND HIGHWAYS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2014

PRESENT:- Councillors Abdul Amin, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mary Friend, Neil Heavens, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Derique Montaut, Maureen Penny (Chair), Eric Shaw (Vice-Chair), Timothy Swinyard, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Wakefield, Peter Watts and Robert Wright

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fay Howard and Joe Tray.

1. Appointment of Vice-Chair of the Committee

Councillor Eric Shaw was appointed to the position of Vice-Chair of the Streetsmart and Highways Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as proposed by Councillor Vera Tomlinson and seconded by Councillor Mary Friend.

2. Declaration of Interests

The Chair reminded members of the need to declare any known interests in any matter to be considered by the Committee. No interests were declared.

3. Public Question Time

There were no public questions submitted.

4. Induction and welcome to the Committee

The Committee received a presentation from Sally Smith, Scrutiny Officer, introducing the terms of reference and the remit of this newly established Committee. She also highlighted the relevant Cabinet Member's whose portfolios relate to the work of this Committee. They are Councillor Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart; Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport and Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Leisure.

Individual officers who will be reporting to the Committee then introduced themselves and the areas of work they are responsible for. They are Karen McMahon – Head of Business Services and Support; Leon Barrett – Head of Streetsmart; Gwillam Lloyd – Head of Highways and Transport and Ian Bickerton – Head of Leisure, Libraries, Culture and Traded Services.

Members were invited to question the officers and the following issues were discussed:

- The nature of the services proposed to transfer back in-house from Capita.
- The Cabinet decision proposed to be taken on 25 June 2014 regarding leisure services in Swindon.
- The time limits regarding the collection of fly-tipped green waste.
- The reporting of highways issues such as potholes now that some services have returned to the Highways Team from Streetsmart.

- The funding for the replacement of signage in the town.
- The responsibility for the upkeep of front gardens on private properties where the homeowner does not own it.
- The Council's policy of asset disposal with regards to un-adopted land.
- Grass cutting within the Borough.
- Creating hub centres of services within existing Library buildings.
- Commercial activity and opportunities at the leisure sites across the Borough.

5. Work Programme 2014/15

The Board considered this report, presented by Sally Smith, regarding the need to add items to the Work Programme for this Committee for the 2014 – 2015 municipal year. Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to detail their forthcoming activities with the aim of producing evidence-based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external agencies / bodies to consider.

Members were then invited to put forward suggestions to be added to the Work Programme for this Committee, and for topics on which to set up Task Groups.

The following subjects were suggested for addition to the Work Programme:

- Green Waste
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Libraries
- Highways Programme Maintenance
- Streetsmart – Community Capacity
- Recurring item on performance reports
- A Cabinet Member question and answer session
- An end of year review to receive reports from the Task Group Chairs. It was agreed that the planned meeting for April 2015 will be brought forward to March 2015 to allow for this

Members agreed that Task Groups would be set up on the following issues. The Scrutiny Officer will invite nominations to these separate to this meeting.

- Signage
- Leisure Assets
- Green Waste
- Un-adopted land

Resolved – To approve the items as listed above for inclusion on the Work Programme for the 2014/15 municipal year.