

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Streetscene

Thursday, 24 July 2008

Present: Councillor Adrian Lowe (Chair) and Councillors Terry Brown, Doreen Dickinson, June Molyneaux, Debra Platt, Shaun Smith, Joyce Snape and Peter Wilson

Also in attendance: Councillors Councillor Julia Berry, Pat Haughton and Marion Lowe

08.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Stella Walsh

08.02 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No members declared an interest in respect of items on the agenda.

08.03 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions from Members of the public.

08.04 SCOPING EXERCISE

The Corporate Director (Neighbourhood) gave a short presentation on the Neighbourhoods Directorate setting out its areas of responsibility and objectives.

The basis of the inquiry would be on the Streetscene Division which was split between street cleaning and grounds maintenance, The budget, and the number of staff employed by the Division was given, with Members attention drawn to the schedules of maintenance for both areas.

A brief outline of the performance of both street cleaning and grounds maintenance was also given.

Member's immediate response on issues in which the inquiry could focus its attention on was the operation of the schedule of maintenance.

Members expressed concern that the schedule of maintenance for the following areas was not as efficient and effective as it should be and requested to have sight of these documents at a future meeting.

- Street cleaning
- Emptying Litterbins
- Sweepers
- Tree pruning
- Grass cutting

Members raised concern that some areas had not been placed on a schedule of maintenance, therefore creating an area of neglect. Complaints had also been received regarding the maintenance of cemeteries and the emptying and size of litterbins, particularly those around schools.

Reference was also made to the Scrutiny Inquiry that was done a few years ago on the Grass Cutting service and the need to revisit the recommendations that the Inquiry produced to see if they have been carried out.

All the issues and concerns of Members would be incorporated into the scoping document for the inquiry, which would be drawn up by the Democratic Services Officer and Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods) in consultation with the chair of the Task Group and submitted to the next meeting.

08.05 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The group **AGREED** that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 20 August at 6.30pm.

Chair