

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This report gives an overview of the main issues considered at the meeting held on 19 March 2019.

1. Fly Tipping

- 1.1 The Committee noted the report from Jackie Taylor, Group Head of Neighbourhood Services on fly tipping.
- 1.2 In September 2016, Surrey County Council (SCC) stopped accepting trade waste at the Charlton Lane recycling site and introduced charges for residents depositing more than one bag of chargeable waste.
- 1.3 Fly tipping has increased by approximately 40% since that date, however there is no direct evidence to attribute this to SCC's decision and other factors such as improved monitoring and reporting, campaigns, and a national increase may have contributed to the increase.
- 1.4 The Committee asked the Group Head of Neighbourhood Services to look into categorising the types of fly tipping to improve understanding of the problem faced and enable pro-active discussion to address the issue.

2. Recycling and Waste Collections

- 2.1 Jackie Taylor, Group Head of Neighbourhood Services presented a report on the recycling and waste collections in the borough.
- 2.2 Statistics detailing the number of missed bins reported and collected within 24 hours showed Spelthorne's results to be significantly lower than many other authorities at less than 1%.
- 2.3 The Council are working jointly with Surrey County Council and independently on campaigns to raise awareness of the need to reduce waste and promote recycling.

3. Update on the Review of Parking in Ashford

- 3.1 The Committee discussed a report on parking issues in Ashford Town Centre presented by Lee O'Neil, Deputy Chief Executive.
- 3.2 A report by an independent consultant had been commissioned which had shown that around 44% of shoppers travel to Ashford by car, most parking was of short duration, there was a considerable amount of spare parking and the multi-storey car park was poorly used.
- 3.3 A three month enforcement exercise had provided useful data and positive feedback received from local businesses. A further exercise was to be conducted from March to June 2019 and information collected to identify improvements to parking in Ashford town centre.
- 3.3 The Committee noted the report and the additional enforcement exercise.

4. Commercial Investment and Management of Risks

- 4.1 The Committee discussed in private an independent report produced by Deloitte on the Council's commercial investments which outlined the management of associated risks. It was agreed that an update would be presented quarterly.

5. Project Management Dashboard

- 5.1 Sandy Muirhead, Group Head of Commissioning and Transformation presented a report to the Committee. Updates were provided on a number of development projects.

6. Task Groups

- 6.1 The Committee agreed that a task group should be set up to look at the Council's consultation process with residents following the Annual Council Meeting.
- 6.2 The Committee resolved that membership of the task group should be delegated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee chairman appointed at the Annual Council Meeting held in May 2019.

7. Work Programme

- 7.1 The Committee suggested that the scrutiny of HAL's consultation process and procedures with residents should be added to the work programme for the forthcoming year.
- 7.2 The Committee agreed that Surrey Fire and Rescue Service should be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the proposed changes to fire stations in their Making Surrey Safer Plan. Unfortunately Surrey County Council have advised us that they are unable to attend Borough scrutiny committees during the consultation period but have offered to provide an informal briefing on the proposed changes to the Joint Committee.

Councillor Sinead Mooney
Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 April 2019