



## MINUTES OF MEETING

# **SCRUTINY :** **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES,** **PLANNING AND** **COUNTRYSIDE MEETING**

**MONDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Sammon (Chair)  
D Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Colbran, J Davies, L Davies and C T Jones

**Cooptees:**

R Holdaway (Public), J McCarthy (Public), P Star (Voluntary Sector) and T Butler (Youth Forum Representative)

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

D Hughes (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**

J Jones (Chief Officer Neighbourhood Services), R Barnett (Parks and Open Spaces Manager), P Jones (Environmental Cleansing and Enforcement Manager), J Price (Environmental Officer) and S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer)

M Morgan\* (Democratic Services Officer) and M Edmunds (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
135	Apologies for absence	No apologies for absence were received as all Members were present.
136	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
137	Weed Spraying Throughout the County Borough	<p>The Chair referred to the 'Weed Spraying throughout the County Borough' report and welcomed Robert Barnett to the Meeting.</p> <p>Robert Barnett then led the Committee through the report and responded in detail to the following questions that were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 1.3 – Questions over safety – What is the view of the Environment Agency in the UK and the Health and Safety Commission.</li> <li>• Explanation requested in relation to spraying and public safety</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.1 – Is there sufficient time to cover the whole of the County Borough in twelve weeks</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.10 – Is this Service publicised and are the public aware of the Service –Charges for the Service</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.15 – Decisions required by the Council – System has to be in place by December 2022</li> <li>• Is Glyphosate used in Parks and Playgrounds</li> <li>• Details requested on how long after spraying could it be dangerous to humans and animals</li> <li>• Problems of spraying gutters due to parked vehicles</li> <li>• Is there an alternative to Glyphosate being manufactured</li> <li>• Glyphosate is used in products that the public are able to purchase</li> <li>• How big a problem is Japanese Knotweed throughout the County Borough</li> <li>• What happens if the pavement is not wide enough for the Machine</li> <li>• Paragraphs 4.2 and 5.18 – How many additional staff would be needed to undertake maintenance if Glyphosate was not used</li> <li>• Paragraph 6.2 – To watch what happens in Lambeth</li> </ul> <p>A Member then referred to the need for a further report to the Committee in relation to recommendations on the way forward in advance of December 2022 and that this matter should be incorporated into the Forward Work Programme as there could be financial implications.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>

		<p>The Chair then thanked Robert Barnett for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
138	<p>Environmental Enforcement Across the County Borough</p>	<p>The Chair referred to the 'Environmental Enforcement across the County Borough' report and welcomed Councillor D Hughes, Judith Jones, Paul Jones and Jemma Price to the Meeting.</p> <p>Paul Jones then led the Committee in detail through the report and together with Councillor D Hughes and the Officers responded to the questions raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 5.9 – Explanation of what are 'Trail' Cameras</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.11 – Is there adequate signage – Explanation requested on the erection of signage</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.12 – Are there any Cameras operating throughout the County Borough – How long before this is corrected</li> <li>• Staff Capacity – Has this issue been raised with Senior Management</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.14 – Is there a report due in relation to a Revader Camera</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.16 – When will the formal Policy be presented to Council – Will this Policy give the Council more powers – What difference will the Policy make</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.18 – When is the report on un-registered land scheduled to be considered by Cabinet</li> <li>• Are Revader Cameras able to be Leased – If yes, what are the costs and how much does it cost to move a camera – Is there any external funding available</li> <li>• Is the figure quoted for the cost of a Revader Camera correct</li> <li>• Is there combined working with Registered Social Landlords regarding waste</li> <li>• How many fly-tipping incidents have Social Landlords been involved with over the past five years</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.19 – Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) – Will this be referred back to the Committee</li> <li>• Paragraph 6.2 – Hope that Officers have success in finding monies for a Revader Camera with a report being brought back to the Committee on the outcome</li> <li>• A Member then requested that thanks be forwarded to the staff who collected fly tipped waste and for their prompt actions</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Councillor Hughes and the Officers</p>

		for attending and the update to the Committee.
139	Forward Work Programme 2020/21	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Forward Work Programme 2020/21.</p> <p>The Committee then agreed the items for the next Committee Meeting as outlined in the report.</p> <p>The Committee also agreed that the Draft Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) - Findings from the Consultation be agendered for the Committee Meeting scheduled for 18 January 2021.</p> <p><b>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</b></p> <p>The Forward Work Programme be approved.</p>
140	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p><b>Commencement Time of Committee Meetings</b></p> <p>The Chair referred to the proposed commencement time of future Committee Meetings.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer then outlined the details of the options that had been considered by the Committee and the response of the Members to the options.</p> <p>Considerable debate then ensued on the different options and it was</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The Committee start time be amended to 4.15 pm</li> <li>(b) The Committee Pre-Meeting start time be amended to 3.45 pm</li> <li>(c) The above times to be implemented for this Municipal Year and then reviewed by the Committee</li> </ul>
141	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the matters that had been considered at the Meeting and the decision by the Committee that Policy changes in relation to Neighbourhood Services, Planning and Countryside be brought to the Scrutiny Committee first prior to consideration by Cabinet and Council. (e.g The Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) – Findings from the Consultation.</p>
142	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p><b>Policies</b></p> <p>Reference was made to the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) and it was suggested that all Policies in relation to Neighbourhood Services, Planning and Countryside be considered by the Scrutiny Committee in the first instance prior to the Policy being considered by Cabinet and Council.</p> <p>The Committee were then advised that the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) were being prepared by the</p>

		<p>Legal Department.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer then suggested that if an issue was affecting more than one Scrutiny Committee area that the issue be submitted to the Governance Scrutiny Committee first and then to the appropriate individual Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>The Committee then agreed that Cabinet be requested to submit all Policies in relation to Neighbourhood Services, Planning and Countryside to the Scrutiny Committee in the first instance prior to consideration by Cabinet and Council.</p>
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