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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Public Protection Working Party

Date: Thursday, 6th October, 2022

Place: Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present: Councillor M Terry (Chair)
Councillors L Hyde, A Line and R McMullan

In Attendance: Councillor M Sadza, J Burr, J Gay and S Tautz

Start/End Time: 5.00 pm - 6.20 pm

1 Apologies for Absence & Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Dent (no substitute) and Councillor D Garston (no substitute).

2 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared at the meeting.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2021

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Working Party held on 8 June 2021 be received and confirmed as a correct record.

4 Notice of Motion - Fly-Tipping & Environmental Crime

The Working Party considered a report of the Interim Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) in response to a Notice of Motion referred by the Council at its meeting on 14 July 2022, concerning the proposed establishment of an online 'Wall of Shame' to highlight incidences of flytipping across Southend as part of the Council's response to issues of environmental crime.

The Working Party was advised that the proposed 'Wall of Shame' approach to flytipping and environmental crime was based on similar schemes implemented by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and the London Borough of Haringey.

It was noted that the scheme operated by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham was intended to demonstrate to local residents that the authority was taking a proactive approach to the identification and prosecution of persons responsible for flytipping and other issues of environmental crime and that a key component of the campaign was the online publication of video recordings showing incidences of flytipping that had been obtained from the Council's CCTV network. The Interim Head of Waste and Climate Change reported that residents of Barking and Dagenham were encouraged to contact the Council to provide any

information about the videos posted by the Council on a confidential basis, to support appropriate enforcement action for flytipping and environmental crime. The Working Party was advised that Borough of Barking and Dagenham also publicised all successful fines and prosecutions for flytipping and environmental crime through news releases and that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Darren Rodwell, had indicated that he would be willing to make a presentation to a future meeting on the success of his Council's 'Wall of Shame' scheme, if appropriate.

The Interim Head of Waste and Climate Change reported that the maintenance of the City's streetscene sat across a number of service areas, including the Waste Team that was responsible for waste collection through the contract with Veolia as the Council's current waste management contractor, and the Highways Team that was responsible for roads and footways. Councillors were advised that the development and maintenance of a local 'Wall of Shame' scheme would require additional support from other service areas, including Media and Communications (the development of an appropriate web page or microsite), the Community Safety Team with responsibility for the Council's CCTV infrastructure and the Information Governance Team, to ensure that the scheme complied with the General Data Protection Regulation and that the safeguarding risk of persons identified through a 'Wall of Shame' scheme being challenged or subject to abuse was adequately assessed.

The Working Party was advised that there was considered to be a lack of clarity on the difference between flytipping and misrepresented waste across the Council and amongst residents and that the penalties for these offences were different. It was reported that the Council currently monitored all incidences of flytipping and environmental crime and that the trend for flytipping and misrepresented waste continued to be on a downward trajectory and that it was considered that education and awareness raising would be the most successful way to manage the majority of incidences. Members were reminded that a 'Waste Dashboard' that reported levels of flytipping and misrepresented waste across the City was currently issued to all members on a quarterly basis

The Interim Head of Waste and Climate Change indicated that the Council currently had insufficient CCTV resources available to support an initiative of the type or scale likely to be required by a 'Wall of Shame' and that, if such approach were to be adopted, there would need to be a thorough review of the scale of the additional CCTV investment required for it to be successfully implemented, alongside the officer support requirements for the establishment and maintenance of the 'Wall of Shame' scheme.

Resolved:

1. That the Notice of Motion seeking the establishment of an online 'Wall of Shame' to highlight incidences of flytipping and environmental crime across Southend, be noted.
2. That it be recommended to the Cabinet that the Interim Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) work with the Council's current waste management contractor to identify opportunities for the enhancement of the current approach to the tackling of incidences of flytipping and environmental crime.

3. That it be recommended to the Cabinet that a report be made to a future meeting (of the Cabinet) setting out fully costed and evaluated options for the enhancement of the Council's current approach to the tackling of incidences of flytipping and environmental crime, including the potential establishment of a 'Wall of Shame' as proposed by the Notice of Motion and the possible expansion of the Council's CCTV infrastructure.

4. That it be recommended to the Cabinet that in the meantime:

(a) Officers continue to provide appropriate education for councillors and the public on flytipping and misrepresented waste and associated enforcement action.

(b) Officers continue to provide councillors with the quarterly 'Waste Dashboard' reporting levels of flytipping and misrepresented waste across the City.

Chair: _____

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