

Kirklees Council

Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr Harpreet Uppal: Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

Period of Update : From September 2019 – December 2019

Panel Highlights

Lead Member briefings with:

- Head of Development and Master Planning
- Commercial & Technical Development Manager
- Public Health Manager
- Operational Manager

Meeting 19 September

The Panel received a presentation on waste related issues and made a number of recommendations in respect of the service. The Panel welcomed the work being undertaken by the Ward Based Squads, and the opportunities being taken to further expand the skills of the members of the team.

Outcomes:

- Ward Councillors should be provided with an overview of the issues reported to the Council by residents (including on ROSS) to assist them in determining the priorities for action within their ward.
- Consideration should be given to how best the Service might be able to support ward members in promoting and publicising this work to their residents.
- The Service should consider raising awareness within schools and colleges of the potential for volunteering opportunities and work experience.
- A strategic environmental assessment should be undertaken as part of the development of the Kirklees Waste Strategy. Innovative approaches to fly tipping should also be considered including the potential of a once a year universal service to clear unwanted items.
- Disposal of trade waste, including the potential impact on the levels of fly tipping, should be considered as part of the development of the new waste strategy.
- Fly tipping should be retained on the Panel's Work Programme with a particular focus on the use of an intelligence led approach.
- The service should increase awareness of the concessions available for the bulky waste collection service for those residents in receipt of an assisted bin service, and the permit process for the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

10 October 2019

Homelessness

The Panel received a Progress Report on. Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and received a post implementation update including statistics on housing need/waiting lists/rough sleepers.

Outcome:

Going forward the panel recommended that reference be made in the strategy to ex-military personnel as a vulnerable group.

Tree and Woodland Management Policy

The Panel considered a report in relation to a proposed Council Owned Tree and Woodland Management Policy. The report also provided an update on the approach being taken to the White Rose Forest scheme.

Outcome:

The Panel suggested that the Greenspace Service should engage with uniformed groups in relation to tree planting volunteering opportunities and supported the engagement work being undertaken with schools.

5 Year Air Quality Action Plan

A report was submitted which provided an update in relation to the development of the Council's Five Year Air Quality Action Plan.

Outcome:

The Panel noted that the action plan contained a wide array of actions and individual topic areas that could be brought back to the Panel for scrutiny in more depth and highlighted particular areas for future consideration, including looking at infrastructure to encourage sustainable and active transport.

14 November 2019**Playable Spaces Strategy**

The Panel considered a report and presentation on plans setting out the next steps in relation to the strategy, which focusses on engagement with the public

Outcome:

The Panel supported a proposal for consultations with a wide range of stakeholders on the Playable Space Strategy in advance of the local elections 2020 supported and highlighted the vital role of ward members in contributing to the consultation to develop play opportunities to meet children's needs.

Monitoring Work

None this period

Looking Ahead:

As part of the committees work into active travel, plans are underway for a study visit in the new year to look at Kirklees cycling and walking network.

Potential agenda items for January 2020 to April 2020:

SPD Hot food takeaways

Digital Strategy

Inward Investment Strategy

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Viability Guidance

Greenspace Strategy

Skills Strategy - Update

At the re-arranged meeting scheduled for 20th December the Panel will be looking at Section 106 Agreements and SPD relating to Open Spaces.

General Comments

The Panel continues to consider a wide range of diverse subjects within its remit. As Chair I am keen to encourage a high level of pre-decision scrutiny to inform and positively contribute to decisions taken at Cabinet level.