

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING: 12 NOVEMBER 2019

SUBJECT OF REPORT: REPORT FROM POLICY AND SCRUTINY

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: COUNCILLOR STEVE BRIDGER

KEY DECISION: NO

REASON: N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Councillors receive and consider the report from the Chairman of the Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel (CCO).

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report provides comment from the Chairman of the CCO Panel highlighting key areas that the Panel is focused on for the current municipal year, and work that Panel members have undertaken to date.

2. POLICY

The Corporate Plan sets out the vision for North Somerset as: *a great place to live where people, communities and businesses flourish*, and for the organisation to provide: *modern, efficient services and a strong voice for North Somerset*.

3. DETAILS

The CCO Panel held its first meeting of the new administration on 16th July, with the next scheduled for 5th November, which will have taken place just prior to this meeting of full Council. The Panel has arranged and hosted briefing sessions to which all Members have been invited, and will continue to host these for issues that reach across the Council and would be of interest to all Members. The Panel's scrutiny steering groups have also identified some key areas for further investigation. Further information on all of these work areas is as follows:

Panel meetings

- 3.1 16th July 2019 – Panel members received an introductory overview into policy and scrutiny and the variety of ways in which services and issues could be reviewed. Members considered reports from a broad spectrum of the services that fell within the Panel's remit, and agreed a focus on community safety, the waste and recycling service, and the Council's ICT provision.

- 3.2** 5th November 2019 – The agenda for this meeting includes: the reference from Council regarding a balloon and sky lantern release policy, review of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), the community safe-space MAVISbus, progress in the implementation of the re-wilding agenda, and performance of the recycling and waste services contract. The panel also holds the remit for the overarching scrutiny of corporate performance and budget monitor for the council, and will consider regular reports on both of these matters.

CCO-led briefing sessions for all Councillors

- 3.3** The Panel hosted a briefing session for all councillors on preparedness for Brexit. The session was well attended, and focused on the local impact of Brexit and leaving without a deal. The presentation outlined the extent of the measures that the council had already taken and was continuing to take to prepare for such an event. During subsequent questioning and discussion, Members were reassured by the planning and risk mitigation that had been identified, both at a regional and more local level.
- 3.4** A session has also been scheduled to engage with the development of the Corporate Plan, taking place on 13th November in the Town Hall. The draft plan was presented to the Executive at their meeting on 23rd October, and this session will give all Members an opportunity to comment on the draft vision and priorities that inform the developing Corporate Plan.

Reference from Council

- 3.5** Council considered a motion on 24th September regarding development of a balloon and sky lantern release policy to discourage and, if possible, prevent the intentional outdoor release of balloons and sky lanterns in North Somerset and to prohibit releases from Council owned land and premises. The principle was to curtail the harmful effects to the environment and animal welfare of these activities. Council agreed to refer the matter to the CCO Panel for detailed consideration, which will commence at the Panel meeting on 5th November.

Scrutiny Steering Groups

- 3.6** Community Safety (Members - Councillors Steve Bridger, Gill Bute, James Clayton, Peter Crew, Stuart McQuillan). The scrutiny steering group meeting on 2nd October had two key areas of focus:
- 3.6.1** MAVISbus – MAVIS operates as a partnership scheme set up to make the night-time economy safer and reduce demand on medical and enforcement agencies. It is a highly visible, safe, warm and non-judgmental place for anyone to get care and advice and to prevent more serious incidents happening in Weston's evening and night time economy. It has remained operational every Saturday night since April 2019, crewed by first aiders and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), and has actively helped over 170 people during this time. Members considered further detail of the challenges being faced in continuing provision, particularly regarding funding, staffing and raising awareness. The steering group has agreed an action plan to review further detail of the future provision of this valued facility.
- 3.6.2** PSPO review – PSPOs were first introduced in October 2017 to consolidate a number of previous enforcement orders. They require review every three years, hence it is now timely to consider and introduce new requirements.

These orders can be district side, cover public areas, and also specific areas (including play areas). Members were pleased to see the volume of enforcement successes so far: 199 reported breaches; 87 warnings; 27 fines; 5 convictions. Members agreed to receive a report to the Panel meeting on 5th November for wider consideration, and then to host further engagement sessions as required to agree any amendments and new proposals. It was noted that the public consultation for the PSPOs was to take place between February and April 2020.

3.7 Waste and Recycling (Members – Councillors Steve Bridger, James Clayton, Mark Crosby, John Ley-Morgan, Stuart McQuillan, Robert Payne). The scrutiny steering group met on 1st October and considered the following key issues:

- 3.7.1** Performance of the waste and recycling contract headline figures and improvement measures put in place for the service since the summer. Whilst Members were pleased to see that there had been a measurable improvement to the service, there was recognition of the work still required to get to the level both North Somerset and Biffa expected. Members also noted that the service was on or exceeding targets for: residual household waste per household; the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting, and; percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill.
- 3.7.2** Campaigns for encouragement with residents to continue encouraging separation of recycling at kerbside to assist the speed of the crew. Members heard detail of the successful trial at Haywood Village, and agreed to further work on how future campaigns can be facilitated through increase communications.
- 3.7.3** Waste analysis data – Members learned of the analysis being undertaken for kerbside collection, including communal properties, to better understand recycling demographics, and would consider the results at their next meeting.
- 3.7.4** Planning application process – Members considered some of the issues confronting waste collection vehicles arising at new developments. These included: sufficient width of road for large vehicles to pass and manoeuvre; conditions of roads when collections commence as some are unfinished and have raised covers; policy review regarding developer requirements at planning stage for holding a supply of containers and service leaflets for residents at new developments. A planning officer is to be invited to the next meeting to discuss these matters in more detail.
- 3.7.5** Site visits – such visits are being arranged for Councillors to Biffa transfer station and the West of England new contract sites. Councillors are also to be given the opportunity to go out with a recycling crew within their own ward.

4. CONSULTATION

Policy and Scrutiny undertakes regular consultation with officers, Councillors, Executive Members and relevant partners through working group and steering group monitoring and Panel reporting.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

None

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

11. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel agenda, reports and minutes 2019/20

<http://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/cairo/committees/comidx219-2019.asp>

<https://apps.n-somerset.gov.uk/Meetings/ByCommittee/10/2019/16>