

Scrutiny Report for Council – 23rd February 2017

At the Scrutiny meeting held 31 January 2017, members considered:

Call-In request received from Councillors Mike Beech and David Norris regarding the decision taken on 16 December 2016 by the Somerset Waste Board – Item 9 – New Waste Treatment Facility Task and Finish Group Update.

Mr Steve Read Managing Director of Somerset Waste Partnership explained the process the Somerset Waste Board had been through to date with regard to the Waste Treatment Facility and answered questions from the attending public and Scrutiny Committee members. Scrutiny Committee stated they would collate all the questions and comments and would direct them to Somerset County Council and Joint Waste Scrutiny Panel for consideration and answers. Further updates on this will be provided at Scrutiny Committee under the item Update on Matters of Interest

The District Executive reports due to be considered on 1st February, and made the following comments:

Somerset Waste Partnership – Draft Business Plan 2017-22

- Scrutiny Committee request to have information with regard to timelines or the reports referred to on page 14 and 15 for the Refuse Treatment and Recycle More projects.
- Members of the committee requested it recorded that Scrutiny Committee had representations from the public with regard to the Dimmer Waster Transfer Station - part of the Refuse Treatment project. The outcome of this is Scrutiny will be passing the questions and concerns from the public to County Council Scrutiny and the Somerset Waste Board Joint Scrutiny Committee. Two members wished it noted that they have reservations about whether Dimmer is an appropriate transfer site as they had seen no evidence.
- Members were pleased to note that review of the inter Authority agreement between Taunton and West Somerset will be of low risk as the breakdown of costs is based on the number of collections per area.

Loan to Somerset Waste Partnership for Waste Vehicles

- Members support the recommendation noting that the £29,255 interest is in addition to what is currently being received in terms of interest.

Heart of the South West Devolution Update

- Members were happy to support the recommendations but had concerns that they didn't have enough knowledge yet to make formal decisions.
- Scrutiny Committee will be discussing Devolution and the role of Scrutiny at its next meeting.

Revenue Budget 2017/18 Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme

- Para 37 page 50 refers to exploring fees and charges and specifically mentions car parking fees. Where are we with the Car Parking Strategy?
- Scrutiny Committee could consider a Task and Finish group with regard to Fees and Charges if this would be helpful.

2016/17 Revenue Budget monitoring report for the quarter ending 31st December 2016

- Para 10.1 on page 81 - Members were concerned of the number of outstanding applications for Discretionary Housing Payments(32),p articularly given the financial vulnerability of some of the applicants.

2016/17 Capital Budget monitoring report for the quarter ending 31 December 2016

- A member sought clarification regarding the Market Towns Vision (page 119) – with the changes that Transformation will bring will the Market Towns Investment Group continue and is the funding secure?
- Page 119 – New Car Parks - Some members queried the reason for delays regarding the progressing of the Millers Garage site in Crewkerne.

Public Space Protection Order for dog fouling, dogs on leads and dog exclusion.

- Some members queried if in general such Orders for dog exclusion could only be made for SSDC owned land or whether they could be made for any land used generally by the public e.g. recreation grounds owned by trusts or parish councils.

Allowenshay Private Water Supply

- Based on the report included within the agenda, members raised no comments.

Final Recommendation of the Community Governance Review of Brympton Parish

- No comments
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