

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY STREET SCENE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Tuesday, 28 November 2006

PRESENT: Councillor Church (Chair)
Councillor Crake
Councillor Duncan
Councillor Hill
Ms E Percival Co-Optee
Mr K Ingleson Co Optee

Councillor Glynane, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Carl Grimmer Corporate Manager
Nicci Marzec Corporate Manager
Tony Spiezick Street Scene and Environment Manager
Peter Hackett Waste Services Manager
Tracy Tiff Scrutiny Officer
Margaret Martin Consortium

1. APOLOGIES

There were none.

2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE STREET SCENE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

It was proposed by Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Duncan that Councillor Church be elected Chair of this Task and Finish Group.

It was:-

AGREED: That Councillor Church be elected Chair of the Street Scene Task and Finish Group.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first scoping meeting and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

4. SCOPING EXERCISE

The Task and Finish Group commented that there was a need to set a narrow, achievable scope for this review.

The Task and Finish Group scoped its review (copy attached at Annex 1 to the minutes).

In scoping the review, the Group heard and commented: -

- Abandoned vehicles, graffiti and fly tipping are critical issues to the Council

- Street scene encompasses waste and the new legislation Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, defines side waste as fly tipping
- Street scene in Northampton is no worse than other towns but the public's perception of street scene in the town is poor.
- A lot of houses in the town are multi occupied and often rubbish from these properties is put out directly onto the street or into street bins.
- Recycling boxes are not issued with lids but the public can request a net covering. It was suggested that a press release be issued informing the public of this.
- A representative of the ELVIS partnership would be invited to the next meeting to give an overview of the key objectives of the partnership
- Details of hotspots for abandoned vehicles be given to the next meeting
- A Neighbourhood Warden from a ward that has a problem with abandoned vehicles to give evidence to the next meeting
- A representative from Housing services be asked to attend a future meeting to give details of landlord's obligations in respect of side waste
- An overview of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 would be given to a future meeting
- The Chair to email all Councillors asking for their views and comments on abandoned vehicles, side waste and fly tipping problems in their wards
- The Chair to write to all Residents' Associations and Parish Councils asking for their views and comments on abandoned vehicles, side waste and fly tipping problems in their wards
- Benchmarking and desktop research be undertaken against other Local Authorities, including the other six districts in Northamptonshire, regarding abandoned vehicles, side waste and fly tipping processes.
- A short press release be issued after the next meeting to inform the public that this review is underway.

AGREED: -

- 1 That a representative of the ELVIS partnership would be invited to the next meeting to give an overview of the key objectives of the partnership
- 2 That details of hotspots for abandoned vehicles be given to the next meeting
- 3 That a Neighbourhood Warden from a ward that has a problem with abandoned vehicles to give evidence to the next meeting
- 4 That a representative from Housing services be asked to attend a future meeting to give details of landlord's obligations in respect of side waste
- 5 That an overview of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 would be given to a future meeting
- 6 That the Chair to email all Councillors asking for their views and comments on abandoned vehicles, side waste and fly tipping problems in their wards
- 7 That the Chair to write to all Residents' Associations and Parish

Councils asking for their views and comments on abandoned vehicles, side waste and fly tipping problems in their wards

- 8 That benchmarking and desktop research be undertaken against other Local Authorities, including the other six districts in Northamptonshire, regarding abandoned vehicles, side waste and fly tipping processes.
- 9 That a short press release be issued after the next meeting to inform the public that this review is underway.

5. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings was agreed: -

November 2006 to March 2007

28 November 2006	- Scoping meeting
18 December	- Evidence gathering
23 January 2007	- Evidence gathering
20 February	- Evidence gathering
15 March	- Finalise Chair's report

The possibility of changing the January meeting date would be investigated and an alternative date circulated.

The meeting concluded at 7:45 pm

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

STREET SCENE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To review poor performance on the collection of abandoned cars.
- To review the new legislation, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, and how it will impact on this Council, particularly in relation to dealing with problems of side waste and litter left following refuse collection and whether appropriate resources are available.

2. Outcomes Required

- To recommend the introduction of methods to improve the poor performance on the collection of abandoned cars.
- To report how the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 will impact on this Council.
- To recommend the introduction of methods to deal with problems with side waste and litter left following refuse collection.

3. Information Required

- Key objectives of the ELVIS partnership
- Briefing on the new legislation, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
- Baseline data for abandoned vehicles, including: -
 - Hotspots
 - Seasonal trends
 - Best practice external to Northampton
- Councillors, Residents Associations and Parish Councils' reports
- Briefing on Housing Landlord obligations regarding side waste on perceived problem areas of abandoned cars within their wards
- MORI Survey
- Comparison of local street scene surveys undertaken in October 2005 and October 2006

4. Format of Information

- Officer reports/presentations
- Baseline data
- Best practice external to Northampton
- Published reviews on street scene and abandoned vehicles
- Existing surveys
- Witness interviews/evidence

5 Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of the meetings
- Desktop research
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Interviews/evidence:-
 - Portfolio Holders
 - ELVIS partnership representative
 - Councillors
 - Parish Councillors
 - Residents' Associations
 - Neighbourhood wardens/PCSOs
- Benchmarking against other Local Authorities, including the other six Councils in the county.
- Press release

6. Co-Options to the Review

Mr K Ingleson
Ms E Percival

7. Evidence gathering Timetable

November 2006 to March 2007

28 November 2006 - Scoping meeting
18 December - Evidence gathering
23 January 2007 - Evidence gathering
20 February - Evidence gathering
15 March - Finalise Chair's report

8 Responsible Officers

Lead Officer Carl Grimmer
Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff

9 Resources and Budgets

T Spiezick, Street Care and Environment Manager Manager, and P Hackett, Waste Services Manager, to provide support and advice.

10 Final report resented by:

Completed by 15 March 2007. Presented by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27 March 2007 and then to Cabinet.

11 Monitoring procedure:

