

Communities and Place Review and Development Committee

Thursday, 01 April 2021 at 10:30

Virtual meeting, <https://www.youtube.com/user/nottsccl>

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---|--|---------|
| 1 | Minutes of last meeting held on 28 January 2021 | 3 - 4 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 4 | Recommendations Arising from the Review of the County Council's Green Spaces | 5 - 8 |
| 5 | Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract - Mid-Term Review Update Report | 9 - 14 |
| 6 | Work Programme | 15 - 18 |

Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Noel McMenamin (Tel. 0115 977 2670) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting Communities and Place Review and Development Committee

Date 28 January 2021 (commencing at 10:30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Gordon Wheeler (Chairman)
Errol Henry (Vice-Chair)

Richard Butler
Andrew Brown
Stephen Garner
John Longdon

David Martin
Liz Plant
Yvonne Woodhead

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Maureen Dobson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Nick Crouch	-	Place Department
Sally Gill	-	Place Department
Derek Higton	-	Place Department
Heather Stokes	-	Place Department
Noel McMenamin	-	Chief Executive's Department

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2020 having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4. REVIEW OF THE COUNTY'S GREEN SPACES

The Committee considered a report and presentation which set the context for a review of the Authority's green spaces, and to consider potential opportunities to enhance their value for wildlife and people.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and commended the Conservation Team for their achievements to date. The Committee also put on record its thanks to the volunteers in the community, without whose effort the achievements to date would not have been possible.

During discussion, a number of actions and areas for further consideration were identified, including the following:

- While there was good publicity around Country Parks, there was scope to advertise Green Spaces in general more widely, so that residents could learn about and access those spaces directly.
- This would be particularly useful to help residents become more active as lockdown eased, and could link with wider heritage attractions in the county
- That points made during discussion would be used to inform the review of the County Council's existing Green Estates Strategy;

The Conservation Team also undertook to provide:

- Details of where coal recovery had taken place and whether this would continue going forward;
- A list of recent and prospective disposals of green space;
- A list of bridges in the Green estate for which the County Council held responsibility;
- further data on the current environmental condition of the River Leen, but expressed the view that water quality had improved greatly in recent years;
- It was agreed to address a Committee member's specific concerns about the impact of a planning application on the Green Estate outside the meeting;

RESOLVED 2021/01

That the recommendations contained at paragraphs 5,6 and 7 in the report be taken forward to Communities and Place Committee

5 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2021/02

That the Committee's work programme be agreed

The meeting concluded at 12.10 pm

Chairman

1 April 2021**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT AND GROWTH****RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE REVIEW OF THE COUNTY
COUNCIL'S GREEN SPACES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to take forward the recommendations, as set out in the report, to the Communities and Place Committee.

Information

2. At its meeting of 28th January 2021, Committee received a report and presentation on the County Council's Green Spaces. The deliberations of Committee have given rise to the recommendations set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 below.
3. The Green Estate Development Strategy 2013-2023 was approved by Culture Committee at its meeting of 8th October 2013. It is recommended that the Strategy is now reviewed and a further 10 year Strategy developed, to include the following:
 - The contribution that the Green Spaces can make to delivering the objectives of the County Council's Environment Strategy in relation to protecting and enhancing habitats and species; achieving net gains in biodiversity; creating new woodlands; and, establishing nature recovery networks across the County to increase the resilience of biodiversity to the negative impacts of a changing climate.
 - Proposals for the designation of a new tranche of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) that are of significant value for wildlife and people from the Council's Green Spaces portfolio, in addition to the 7 LNRs currently under the Council's ownership and/or management.
 - Continuing a co-ordinated partnership approach to the eradication of harmful invasive non-native species of plants in Nottinghamshire.
 - Recognition of the contribution of volunteers to the management of the Council's Green Spaces and proposals for how volunteering can be better supported and promoted to attract a diverse range of volunteers.
 - Consideration of the role of the Green Spaces in health and well-being and opportunities for widening community participation and engagement with their local sites.
 - Identification of opportunities for delivering enhancements to the network of sites, subject to the availability of funding.
 - Exploration of the potential for further partnership approaches to tackling anti-social behaviour, including unauthorised access.

- Continuation of existing partnerships, for example with the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group and Greenwood Community Forest, and exploration of potential new partnerships to improve capacity for the support of volunteers and community groups involved in managing their local Green Spaces.
 - Consideration of provision of Green Spaces, particularly in areas close to centres of population, and to review the availability of funding for ongoing maintenance.
4. It is further recommended that, once approved, the revised Green Spaces Strategy is shared with key stakeholders and partners.

Reason for Recommendation

5. The recommendations set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 above have arisen from Committee's consideration of the report and presentation at its meeting of 28th January 2021.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the review of the Green Spaces Strategy will be included as part of future reports to the Communities and Place Committee.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

8. The implications for sustainability and the environment will be fully considered as part of the proposed review of the Green Spaces Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That Committee approves the recommendations contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 above for inclusion in a report to Communities and Place Committee.

Matthew Neal

Service Director, Investment and Growth

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Heather Stokes, Conservation Team Manager

Constitutional Comments (SJE – 23/02/2021)

9. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Communities & Place Review & Development Committee to whom responsibility for the review and development of all

functions falling under the remit of the Authority's Communities & Place Committee, including environmental awareness and sustainability, have been delegated.

Financial Comments (SES 23/02/2021)

10. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All

1 April 2021

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES

WASTE PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) CONTRACT – MID-TERM REVIEW UPDATE REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Committee on the progress of the Waste PFI Contract mid-term review.

Information

2. Members will recall discussing and agreeing the scope of the Waste PFI Contract mid-term review which was presented to Committee on 26 November 2020.
3. The mid-term review was requested by the County Council from Veolia as the contract is now over halfway through its 26 year term, recycling and composting rates both locally and nationally have plateaued, and the Governments Resources and Waste Strategy, which was published in December 2018, is going to require changes to services which need to be captured within the PFI contract. This may also require changes to the operation of the contract Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Mansfield.
4. The review identified a number of opportunities for improvement within all services the PFI Contract provides. At the meeting on 26 November, Committee endorsed the general approach proposed for the mid-term review, and in particular the focus on expanding current specification for recyclables and educating residents about recycling and contaminants.
5. The next step was for officers to consult with the Borough and District councils as Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) through the Joint Waste Management Committee (JWMC).

Update on Progress

Resources and Waste Strategy

6. As mentioned previously, Veolia's mid-term review has been informed by the Governments Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS), which set out a roadmap towards increasing recycling rates across England and supports the circular economy.
7. The Environment Bill which will embed these proposals into law started its route into legislation but unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, this work has been a delayed, and it is now expected that legislation will be in place by the Autumn.

8. Furthermore, the second stage of consultations is expected to take place between March and June this year, with three areas of legislation being the focus, including consistency in recycling. The County Council will respond to these consultations where appropriate.
9. It is suggested that any improvements to the PFI Contract are made in line with the proposals that come out of the RWS to ensure changes are consistent with legislation and any available Central Government funding to implement changes can be utilised.

Consultation with Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs)

10. The JWMC consists of Elected Members and Senior Officers of all the WCA in Nottinghamshire, as well as representatives from the County Council, City Council and Veolia.
11. The mid-term review was circulated and presented to the JWMC at the first available opportunity. Due to the cancellation and deferment of meetings resulting from the Covid-19 Pandemic this was not until 20 January 2021.
12. The JWMC was invited to submit comments on the contents of the review and the group requested that they were given until Friday 19 February 2021 to make their submissions. Responses were received from 5 of the 7 WCAs.
13. A summary of the key themes and issues is set out below, although it is also important to acknowledge each WCA also had specific comments relevant to their organisation. This report focuses on the key, common themes.
14. Overall the WCAs welcomed the mid-term review and the opportunity to comment. It was acknowledged by the WCAs that any changes to the Contract or introduction of new materials collected should be aligned with the outcome of the Resources and Waste Strategy and it was reiterated that any changes to current collection methods will need to be fully funded and sustainable and economically viable markets should be available.
15. In the responses received it was clear that there is overwhelming support for expanding the current input specification of the recyclable material collected at the kerbside in Nottinghamshire in line with the Resources and Waste Strategy and in some responses it was suggested that it should be set even wider. It was also noted that the input specification should be reviewed regularly.
16. Contamination in the kerbside collected recyclables was also a key concern for the WCAs with calls for a review of the current 5% contamination threshold in the Contract and questions about whether this figure was still viable given recent experience. Current contamination in the dry recycling is now on average almost 15% for the County, with some loads reaching above 20%. Whole loads of recycling with high levels of localised contamination are rejected from the MRF, and although this rejected material is not sent to landfill for disposal, it still means that some targeted recyclable material could potentially be lost.
17. It was also acknowledged separate kerbside food waste collections are likely to become mandatory, however an introduction of a food waste service would need to be fully funded. See more detail in paragraphs 20 to 23 of this report.
18. There was support for joint communications and engagement with the public and it was recognised that it was important to develop an informed and evidence-based communications plan to aid this.

19. Comments were made about the small trader's proposal at Newark Waste Transfer Station (WTS) and it was suggested that before a scheme was implemented a review of the locations and capacity of existing WTS should be undertaken to identify service gaps. It should be noted however that this proposal has been developed in discussion with Newark and Sherwood District Council who are fully supportive.

Separate Food Waste Collections

20. As mentioned in the report presented to the November Committee, subject to consultation, the Governments Resources and Waste Strategy makes a commitment to legislate that separate weekly kerbside food waste collections are in place from 2023.
21. Exploratory work on how separate food waste collections could be implemented across Nottinghamshire has begun and Bassetlaw District Council are leading on a Countywide project. Food waste collections are now a standard agenda item on Joint Officer Board meetings, and it is anticipated a project group to solely focus on an implementation plan will be established within the next few months to take the project forward as the national delivery timetable and process becomes clearer.
22. From the County Council's perspective, as Waste Disposal Authority, it is expected food waste disposal will be coordinated through the County's existing Waste Transfer Station network and Veolia have begun early discussions with companies who provide Anaerobic Digestion (AD) treatment of food waste. Once further detail from government is announced a decision will be taken on whether local capacity for food waste treatment should be considered and developed through the contract. This will also be subject to a business case model and dialogue with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) who are the governmental sponsor of the PFI contract, as well as the department with specific responsibility for waste treatment and disposal.
23. It is not yet known what (if any) funding will be provided from Central Government for the implementation of separate food waste collections although the RWS suggested any additional statutory obligations placed on councils would be fully funded.

Other Options Considered

24. To continue unchanged with the services currently provided through the Veolia Waste PFI Contract.

Reasons for Recommendations

25. Recycling performance has stagnated locally and nationally, and the quality of the dry recycling currently being collected is below the contract specification, impacting on the ability of the MRF to process the material effectively, and therefore the ability of the contractor to meet required market quality standards for material sales.
26. Government has published its Resources and Waste Strategy 2018 which presents a number of opportunities for improving recycling performance and is expected to legislate to deliver these improvements over the coming months and years.
27. There has been increasing public interest and demand to be able to recycle more material at the kerbside, and a growing awareness of the environmental impacts of poor waste management practices globally.

Statutory and Policy Implications

28. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

29. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report, however any improvements progressed will require a financial business case and will undoubtedly require capital investment and/or attract increased revenue costs which will be reported to the relevant Committee in due course.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee:

- 1) Approves officers developing outline proposals which may be required to reflect the requirements of the Resources and Waste Strategy and any subsequent legislation within the PFI Waste Contract, subject to further approvals as necessary.
- 2) Approves officers opening a dialogue with Veolia to explore the measures which may be necessary to expand the current input specification of recycling material collected at the kerbside in Nottinghamshire, in line with requirements set by Central Government and subject to an economically viable and sustainable business case and any further approvals as necessary.
- 3) Approves officers supporting the WCA in exploring the implementation of separate food waste collections across Nottinghamshire in line with requirements set by Central Government and subject to an economically viable and sustainable business case and any further approvals as necessary.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place and Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Mick Allen, Group Manager, Place Commissioning, Tel: 0115 9774684

Constitutional Comment (HD 24/02/2021)

26. The Committee is authorised to determine the recommendations within the report as they relate to review of services and development of proposals for future consideration. Any future financial or contractual implications arising from the proposals, once developed, will be determined by Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee

Financial Comment (RWK 24/02/2021)

27. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report. Any financial implications that arise as a result of changes and/or improvements to the waste collection and disposal processes in Nottinghamshire will be addressed in future reports to committees.

Background Papers and Published Documents

The following papers presented to Communities and Place Review and Development Committee on 26 November 2020.

- Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract – Mid-Term Review – Introductory Report
- Appendix – Waste Private Finance Initiative – Mid-Term Review

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

1 April 2021

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for the period up to July 2021.

Information

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The attached work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.
4. As part of the transparency introduced by the new committee arrangements, each committee is expected to review day to day operational decisions made by officers using their delegated powers. The Committee may wish to commission periodic reports on such decisions where relevant.

Other Options Considered

5. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human

rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee's work programme be agreed, and consideration be given to any changes which the Committee wishes to make.

Marje Toward
Service Director, Governance and Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Noel McMenamin, Democratic Services Officer on 0115 993 2670

Constitutional Comments (HD)

8. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (PS)

9. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- New Governance Arrangements report to County Council – 29 March 2012 and minutes of that meeting (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

COMMUNITIES & PLACE REVIEW & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**WORK PROGRAMME – APRIL 2021 – JULY 2021**

Report	Description	Lead Officer	Report Author
1 April 2021			
PFI Mid Term Review - Update	Mid Term Contract Review.	Derek Higon	Mick Allen/Rachel Fowler
Review of the County Council's Green Spaces - Recommendations	To enable the Communities and Place Review and Development Committee to review the Authority's Green Spaces and to consider potential opportunities to enhance their value for wildlife and people.	Matt Neal	Sally Gill/Heather Stokes
1 July 2021			
To be determined	Programme to be determined by new administration – May/June 2021		

