

AGENDA

SHEPPEY AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, 15 December 2020

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting Via Skype*

Membership:

Councillors Cameron Beart (Vice-Chairman), Richard Darby, Mark Ellen, Simon Fowle, Angela Harrison, Ken Ingleton (Chairman), Elliott Jayes, Peter Macdonald, Peter Marchington, Lee McCall, Pete Neal, Padmini Nissanga, Ken Pugh and Bill Tatton

Quorum = 4

Pages

Information for the Public

*Members of the press and public can listen to this meeting live. Details of how to join the meeting will be added to the website after 4pm on Monday 14 December 2020.

Privacy Statement

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1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves or their spouse, civil partner or person with whom they are living with as a spouse or civil partner. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

The Chairman will ask Members if they have any interests to declare in respect of items on this agenda, under the following headings:

(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) under the Localism Act 2011. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DPI, the Member must leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion or vote. This applies even if there is provision for public speaking.

(b) Disclosable Non Pecuniary (DNPI) under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in May 2012. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DNPI interest, the Member may stay, speak and vote on the matter.

(c) Where it is possible that a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts would conclude that there was a real possibility that the Member might be predetermined or biased the Member should declare their predetermination or bias and then leave the room while that item is considered.

Advice to Members: If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or DNPI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Legal or from other Solicitors in Legal Services as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2020 (minute Nos. 114 to 120) as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

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To consider matters arising from the last meeting held on 22 September 2020.

5. Public forum

The purpose of this item is to enable members of the public to direct questions to the Chairman or suggest agenda items for future meetings.

6. Waste Collection and Street Cleansing - future provision

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The Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Tim Valentine, will set out future provisions for waste collection and street cleansing.

7. Local issues

8. Funding considerations

- Post office services
- CCTV for Leysdown;
- The Glen environmental improvements;
- Thistle Hill Community Centre solar panels;
- Surfacing public footpath ZB50 linking Queenborough to Neats Court;
- Replacing banners in Sheerness High Street;
- Adult exercise equipment;

- Sea front lighting at Sheerness seafront/promenade
 - Queenborough Castle play area path;
 - Play area, Halfway.
9. Matters referred to Committee by Cabinet
10. Matters referred to Cabinet by the Committee

Issued on Monday 7 December 2020

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEMOCRATIC SERVICES on 01795 417330**. To find out more about the work of the Council, please visit www.swale.gov.uk

**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT**

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Sheppey Area Committee meeting: 16 September 2020 – Matters arising

Item	Who initiated?	Action
Brown tourism signs	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>To commence an audit of existing local brown signs in concert with parish and town councils. Progress to be reported at next meeting on 15 December 2020.</p> <p>Background: Cabinet adopted a Visitor Economy Framework Action Plan on 28 October 2020. This includes a medium term action to undertake a wayfinding audit of signage and identify any gaps. The delivery partners identified for this action are: SBC; town and parish councils; Visit Swale; Kent Highways; and local businesses.</p>
Heritage issues	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>Background: Cabinet adopted a Heritage Strategy and Action Plan on 18 March 2020. The Action Plan contains a programme of CA reviews. It has been suggested by the Cabinet Member that the Area Committee may want to fund CA reviews for areas which are outside of the planned programme of reviews in the Action Plan. No such proposals were forthcoming at the 16 September 2020 Committee meeting.</p>
Conservation issues, including ponds	Cabinet Member for Planning	<p>Policy and Performance Officer to explore with officers and other organisations what information currently exists on the areas ponds. Progress to be reported at next meeting on 15 December 2020.</p> <p>Background: SBC only has details of the ponds which it manages directly. There is a strategic and heritage, conservation and tourism need for information, including ownership, condition and management of the ponds in the area.</p>
Connectivity across Sheppey	Member of public	<p>Background: The Council is currently undertaking a review of its Local Plan. One of the documents that is being developed alongside this review is a Transport Strategy.</p>

Item	Who initiated?	Action
		The Cabinet would welcome any input from the Committee on walking and cycling to feed into the developing Transport Strategy which is being developed through the Local Plan Panel. It is important that there is no duplication of effort by the Committee's and Local Plan processes.
Levels of new housing development	Member of public	The Committee to prioritise which local issues should be added to future agendas for substantive consideration and discussion.
Queenborough and Rushenden regeneration	Member of public	“
Sheerness town centre regeneration	Member of public	“
Neighbourhood policing	Member of public	“
Tree planting in urban areas	Member of public	“
Safety and upkeep of playgrounds	Member of public	“
Access to promenade at Marine Terrace, Sheerness	Member of public	“
Publicising the existence of the committee	Member of public	Background: The Council's Communications and Democratic Services Teams are exploring further how to publicise the Committee and encourage public participation. We are actively seeking to engage the input of parish and town councils.
Restoration of war memorial, Sheerness	Committee members	<p>At the meeting held on 16 September 2020, the Committee resolved: That Cabinet be asked to reconsider providing match funding for restoration of the war memorial in Sheerness from the Special Projects Fund.</p> <p>Funding for the war memorial at Sheerness was also the subject of a question at Council on 11 November 2020 and the response from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance was as follows:</p>

Item	Who initiated?	Action
		<p><i>Thank you for your question. It is very appropriate on a day when we remember the loss of life in war, and especially in this question the loss of life on the Isle of Sheppey. I am assured by the Chair of the Area Committee that this project will be much appreciated on the Island. We are establishing a Sheppey improvement fund, for small capital projects on Sheppey. The fund will be for £250,000 and I would ask the Area Committee through its Chair to bid against that fund for the Memorial. This will enable the project to proceed without Island members having recourse to either their members grant or the Special Projects funding for the Area Committee. Apart from the Sheppey Improvement fund, further funding will be allocated to Sheerness Town Centre improvements and the administration is planning other larger capital investments on the Island. We are confident that this is the right thing to do considering our determination overall to improve the public realm in Swale, the need to equalise for Sheppey on the funding we have recently devoted to other areas of Swale and because Sheppey is acknowledged to have areas of deprivation in need of more public investment, not just from Swale Borough Council.</i></p>

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Sheppey Area Committee	
Agenda Item 6	
Meeting Date	Tuesday 15 December 2020
Report Title	Waste and Street Cleansing – Future provision
Cabinet Member	Cllr Tim Valentine, Cabinet Member for Environment
Lead Officers	Alister Andrews and Kelly Upson
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Commissioning, Environment and Leisure

Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1. This report is to raise awareness that the current Mid Kent Waste Contract is due to end in October 2023 and therefore work has started on the preparation for the new contract. The Mid Kent partner authorities (Ashford, Maidstone and Swale) and a working group of Swale BC Members are exploring the future opportunities to deliver these services. One action from the working group was to raise awareness at the four Swale Area Committees to enable discussion around what factors are important to residents with regards to future waste collection and street cleansing.

Background

2. In 2013, Swale Borough Council entered into partnership with neighbouring authorities Ashford and Maidstone Borough Councils and Kent County Council to deliver a Mid Kent Waste Contract. This provided consistency of service across the three Boroughs, delivered significant cost savings and improved recycling rates.
3. Biffa Municipal Ltd are currently contracted to deliver waste collection services for the Mid Kent Waste Partnership. In Swale this includes general waste, recycling, garden waste, clinical collections, and bulky collections. Biffa also deliver the Street Cleansing functions for Swale and Ashford (at Maidstone street cleansing is delivered in house).
4. Street Cleansing includes the emptying of public litter bins, litter picking of streets and the collection of fly tipping on public land. It is an outcome-based contract which means that all streets are classified within one of four different 'zones' (zone 1 includes High Streets and zone 4 may include remote rural roads). These are continually monitored. The amount of litter is graded from A to D as per national guidelines. If cleanliness falls below the accepted standard for that zone, the contractors respond within a pre-determined timescale e.g. Grade D litter in zone 1 must be collected within 1 hour.

5. The end of the current waste contract offers the opportunity to consider a wide range of factors including alternatives to how recycling is collected and how the service is to be delivered.
6. The Mid Kent partnership currently has a fully 'co-mingled' collection, where all recycling is collected within a single wheeled bin. Kent County Council, as the disposal authority, prefer the 'twin-stream' collection method, whereby paper and cardboard are collected separately to the other recycling i.e. plastic bottles and tubs, glass, and cans. This system is currently operated in East and South West Kent. Such a system would require an additional container for Swale residents.
7. The government sets recycling targets for local authorities. By 2020 household recycling should be at 50%. The national level of performance sits at around 43%. At the time of writing this report the Swale 2020/21 YTD figure for recycling is approx 44%. The government has determined that recycling should be at 65% by 2035.
8. There are many operational and legislative factors to be considered. Calculating potential costs will be complex but overall we are expecting a price increase to retain a similar level of service to current standards. Any improvements to current standards will likely be at additional cost.
9. The council will be considering further engagement in the New Year in the form of a resident satisfaction survey to seek opinion on the current and future services.

Points for discussion

- a) Co-mingled collection is a straight-forward system and as such it costs less to collect the waste (one bin). However, costs are higher when it comes to sorting the recycling at the material recycling facility (MRF). The cost benefits of residents separating out this waste stream are yet to be finalised. In principle, would residents be willing to accept and store an additional container for paper and card and separate these materials prior to collection, or is this a potential barrier to recycling?
- b) Do Members/residents see air quality improvements such as the use of electric power on refuse freighters as money well spent? How does cleaner air and environmental improvements rate on the list of resident's priorities regarding the waste and street cleansing contract. Where does this topic rate in relation to other Swale priorities?
- c) By 2023, every house in England must be able to recycle food waste. The vast majority of houses in Swale already have this option. Campaigns have been undertaken to reduce the amount of food waste created and to increase the number of households in the Borough that separate food waste. What are the barriers to recycling food waste and what could the council do to encourage residents to recycle more food waste?
- d) Contamination in wheelie bins affects recycling figures and costs much more to dispose of. Food waste (including unwashed cans and glasses); garden waste;

textiles; black plastic bags and used nappies are all items that regularly get placed in the recycling incorrectly. Swale BC undertakes regular campaigns to promote correct recycling. What further measures can Swale BC undertake to reduce these contamination rates?

- e) With regards to the street cleansing contract, do Members/residents feel that the current levels of street cleansing are acceptable?

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