

REGULATORY AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

25 FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT:

Councillors B Yeates (Chairman), Anketell, Binney, Eagland, D Ennis, L Ennis, Evans, Spruce and Warfield

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Parton-Hughes, Leytham and Salter.

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated. Councillor Evans confirmed that her declaration of interest was for being a Governor at two schools in the District and not the recorded one.

RESOLVED: That the minutes as amended be signed as a correct record.

22 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: The Work Programme was circulated and noted

23 FOOD SAFETY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN

The Committee received a report on the Food Delivery Plan for 2020-22 which covered the aims and key priorities of the service. It was reported that it was intended to deliver interventions and improve the percentage of broadly compliant premises as well as improve the poorer performing businesses. It was noted that it was planned to enhance food allergen awareness in food premises by giving advice through inspections as well as working with partners including Trading Standards. Members were pleased that this would be done as cross contamination was a real risk to people who suffer related conditions.

It was then reported that there would be changes to the current service including the agreement by Lichfield District Council and other Staffordshire Authorities to cease the Rate My Place scheme and website to focus on delivering the same via the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme which is overseen by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). It was noted that performance indicators would also change to be brought in line with how the FSA report data given by authorities as this would aid performance benchmarking with other areas.

Members noted that commercial opportunities would be explored through offering tailored services especially with new businesses.

Members asked if there was sufficient resources in the department and it was reported that Officers worked on a part time basis to allow them flexibility and this had led to a good calibre and retention of Staff. It was confirmed that the required continuation of training was funded by the Council.

Street Festivals was then discussed and it was asked how food safety was covered at such events and it was reported that a proactive approach had been taken and traders were only given consent if they had rating of 4 or more. Along with this, Officers attended the events to monitor standards. Food allergen advice was raised again as it was a challenge and foods were not always clearly labelled.

RESOLVED: That the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2020-2022 be approved.

24 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER FOR DOGS

The Committee received a report on a range of possible anti-social behaviour which those in charge of dogs could commit and whether Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) would help control these issues. It was reported that there was a current PSPO that covered a requirement to pick up dog fouling however it was proposed to consult on the potential to extend this to include the requirement to carry an appropriate receptacle to pick up dog fouling as banning dogs from entering any fenced off children's play areas on public land.

Enforcement was discussed and it was asked how it was currently undertaken. It was reported that there was a 0.6FTE resource who patrols ununiformed. It was also reported that intelligence cards had been introduced that had contributed to a 55% reduction in complaints. Members asked if Parks staff could be involved in enforcement and it was reported that this had been considered previously however it would create a change in their duties which had a significant cost implication. The Committee felt that enforcement was key to the success of any PSPO and so requested this be considered again. It was also suggested that PCSOs be considered to help enforcement.

It was suggested by the Committee to conduct more publicity around the subject of dog fouling to get the help from the public in gaining intelligence for enforcement.

The Committee were all in agreement that dogs should be banned from entering fenced play areas.

RESOLVED: (1) That a statutory consultation exercise be agreed to take place relating to a proposed PSPO covering:

- Picking up dog fouling throughout the District
- Banning dogs from entering any fenced off children's play areas on public land.
- A requirement for dog walkers to have with them an appropriate receptacle to pick up any dog waste.

(2) That if no significant objection emerges as part of the consultation and no issues arise as a consequence of legal compliance checks, the Head of Regulatory Services, Housing and Wellbeing be given delegated authority to create the Public Space Protection Order, in consultation with the Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman, as soon as possible following the end of the statutory consultation. If significant objection *does* occur then the matter be referred back to this Committee for a final decision on how to proceed.

(3) That the feasibility of using parks staff to undertake enforcement be considered

25 CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY 2020

The Committee received a report on the Contaminated Land Strategy which was due for review as it was last done in 2015. It was reported that only minor amendments to reflect changes in legislation was required.

It was reported that there had been no contaminated land declared to date and inspections had slowed down due to a reduction in priority sites.

The Committee agreed that this was an important issue as developers steered away from building on brown field sites in favour of green belt due to associated costs of cleaning the land.

RESOLVED: That the adoption if the updated Contaminated Land Strategy 2020 be approved.

26 PROPOSED DIVERSION OF PART OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO.0.26A IN THE PARISH OF ALREWAS

The Committee received a report on an application received from Sidley for a proposed diversion of part of Public Footpath No. 26(a) in the Parish of Alrewas.

It was reported that objections had been received from the Ramblers and the Open Spaces Society however the applicant had amended the route and the objections withdrawn.

RESOLVED: That the proposed diversion of Public Footpath No. 26(a) in the Parish of Alrewas be approved.

COUNCILLOR EAGLAND DECLARED A PERSONAL INTEREST AS THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR THE AREA.

27 PROPOSED DIVERSION OF PART OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO.1R 2579 IN THE PARISH OF SHENSTONE

The Committee received a report on an application received from Fisher German on behalf of Seven Trent Water Ltd for a proposed diversion of part of Public Footpath No. 1R/2579 in the Parish of Shenstone.

It was reported that no objections had been received

RESOLVED: That the proposed diversion of Public Footpath No. 1R/2579 in the Parish of Shenstone be approved.

(The Meeting closed at 7.10 pm)

CHAIRMAN