

# **SCRUTINY PANEL MINUTE EXTRACT 19 JULY 2016**

## **77. Year End 2015/16 Performance Report including progress on Strategic Plan Action Plan**

**Councillor Davies (in respect of being employed by the Rural Community Council of Essex) declared a non-pecuniary interest pursuant to the provision of Meetings General Procedure Rule 9(5).**

Matthew Sterling, Assistant Chief Executive, introduced the report which requested that the Panel consider the performance of the authority for 2015/16 and whether the proposed targets for next year are sufficiently realistic and ambitious. The report will then be sent to Cabinet for further consideration and comment.

Matthew Sterling highlighted that the report includes 14 different key performance indicators, with twelve of the KPI's achieving the target set. Two key performance indicators were categorised as red; amount of residual household waste per household and the amount of household waste reused, recycled and composted both missed the targets set.

Matthew Sterling also highlighted particular successes for the Council, this included the net additional homes provided reaching 933 with an original target of 830, and achieving the target for the sickness rate in working days. With regard to future years targets these will be tougher or similar to those that are existing for the current year.

The third part of the report includes all of the actions taken throughout the year to reach the objectives in the Strategic Plan Action Plan. Matthew Sterling highlighted the new Charter Market which has higher than average occupancy rates and the fixing the link scheme which provides guidance for visitors walking from the railway station to the Town Centre. Matt Sterling also highlighted the local festivals that had taken place in Colchester, and the aim to have a cleaner town centre with the use of the hot wash machine.

Councillor raised the following issues;

- Councillor Coleman – Are there any plans for a Winter Wonderland in 2016?
- Councillor Arnold – Is there an indication of the split between those applications that were rejected following an officer recommendation to refuse and those that were rejected when Councillors went against the recommendation from officers? Requested that the information be included in future reports. Also questioned why the houses built target was included as Colchester Borough Council does not build the properties.

- Councillor Arnold – Questioned the reasons behind the increase in residual waste per household, and asked for the number of households in the Borough that do not recycle.
- Councillor Davies – Questioned whether there had been a high number of residents reporting missed collections as a number of comments through the Gazette highlighted issues of missed collections and not being provided with recycling facilities. Councillor Davies also highlighted recycling from flats and the need for this to be improved.
- Councillor Coleman – Are there any plans for further roll out of education through schools, residents or press?
- Councillor Higgins – Highlighted issues with recycling at flats due to the space available and the need to increase students awareness of recycling at the end of University terms.
- Councillor Arnold – Questioned whether the application for the digital trail focusing on the Roman and Norman heritage of the town had been officially launched as it is on the application stores but does not included much information.

In response to issues raised by Councillors, Matthew Young and Cllr Tim Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Regeneration provided the following responses;

- In response to Councillor Coleman, Councillor Tim Young stated that there will not be a Winter Wonderland taking place for 2016. There is an aim to hold an event during 2017 as there is demand for an event of this type to take place. There will still be a number of events taking place in 2016 in Colchester.
- In response to Councillor Arnold's query on Planning Applications, Matthew Sterling stated for the year so far, 33.3% of decisions taken by Officers have been successfully appealed, but there have been none so far in this quarter from Councillor decisions. For the last financial year, there were 38 appeals against officer decisions of which 36% were successful; there were 5 appeals against Committee decisions of which 20% were successful. With regard to the housing figures these are included at Colchester Borough Council does a significant amount of work to enable the houses to be built; the wording in the report is based on a national indicator.
- In response to Councillor Arnold's query on household waste Matthew Young, Head of Operational Services, stated that the increase in residual waste is due to households increasing the amount of waste they put out; the lower level of recycling is due to a reduction in the green waste that was collected in the previous year. Matthew Young highlighted that the trend over the past ten years in Colchester is a reduction in the amount of residual was produced by households from 63,000 to 58,000 whilst there has been an increase in the number of properties by 7,000; this is one of the best records across Essex.

With regard to the number of homes that do not recycle, or only recycle one particular material, it is estimated that this totals around 25% of households. Zone teams do visit those households who do not recycle to try and educate and encourage them to do so. Councillor Young stated that incentives may no longer be providing the stimulus necessary and enforcement may be required. Councillor Young also stated that with regard to the Waste consultation the administration will soon be analysing the results.

- In response to Councillor Davies, Matthew Young stated that he would look at the comments raised. With regard to flat recycling this is something that is being worked on. Councillor Young stated that he does not receive indication of missed collections from residents in his ward.
- In response to Councillor Coleman, the zone teams provide a lot of support for residents, alongside work with schools and the junior zone team programme. Work is also undertaken with Essex for educations around the county.
- Councillor Tim Young responded to Councillor Higgins highlighting that flat recycling is impacted by planning. Matthew Young stated that the Waste Team in partnership with Planning Services have devised a supplementary planning document to help identify the requirements for recycling facilities in flats so that the bins are accessible to the crews. Colchester Borough Homes flats have helped to create recycling areas, but further work is required with private developers and management companies to provide additional space.
- Councillor Tim Young stated that he would find out further information on the application and inform the Scrutiny Panel in due course.

*RESOLVED* that the Scrutiny Panel considered and commented on the Year End 2015/16 Performance Report including progress on Strategic Plan Action Plan.