

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Council	REPORT NUMBER: BC/19/23
FROM: Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	DATE OF MEETING: 22 October 2019

The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee met on the 19th September 2019

Chair: Keith Welham (MSDC Co-Chair)

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVE (CIL) EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK REVIEW

The committee examined a report on the above from the Corporate Manager for Professional Lead Key Sites and Infrastructure. This followed on from a previous review by the committee in 2018, designed to help and inform the Joint Member Panel on CIL's work programme.

We had before us evidence of a Draft Timetable for Review by the Panel, Progress of previous Bids, Learning Points captured in the process and several witnesses. These were a Parish Councillor, a member of the Joint Member Panel (Cllr. Arthey, also Babergh Cabinet Member for Planning), and representatives from Suffolk County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group-Health and Network Rail. The Corporate Manager and the Assistant Director for Planning and Communities were also able to take questions and comment.

In hearing from, and questioning, the witnesses, it became apparent that the size and scale of CIL bids and the range of bidders was changing, moving from a focus on local community-based bids (Parishes) to larger ones (SCC, CCG, Network Rail) up to potential cross authority bids (Network Rail). This had been foreseen in the long-term planning of our CIL Framework. Both the CIL bidding procedures and the eventual allocation of CIL funds were well in hand. The framework was under constant review through the work of the CIL team and the Joint Member Panel.

It was RESOLVED:

That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorses the work of the CIL team (and the Joint Member Panel) and notes that a fit and proper process is in place in respect of the bidding and allocation of CIL funds.

(Since the meeting, I understand that other authorities are using the BMSDC approach to a CIL Framework as a model.)

WASTE COLLECTION ROUTE CHANGES JULY 2019

The committee considered a report from the Corporate Manager for Waste Services covering the above. This covered the reasons for the changes, timing, planning and implementation, communication approach, lessons learnt and missed collection statistics.

The committee decided that examining individual cases on a ward by ward basis would be unproductive, but some were given in discussion, by way of example.

The following key points emerged from the report, questions and comments.

All costs associated with the route changes had been borne by Serco. For example, temporary crew put up in a hotel.

The peak number of weekly collections missed was 528 (0.63%) in the first week. By week 7 that had fallen to 0.19%. Our Q1 average was 0.11% (94 missed weekly collections).

At the time of the meeting the figure had fallen even lower to 48 missed collections.

The impact on communities overall had been small, but those affected would obviously disagree.

Some local knowledge may have been temporarily lost due to crews being transferred to other routes.

There were issues with the higher volume of customer calls, resulting confusion, double reporting and some communication issues within parishes. It was suggested that waste collection information be included in Parish Council newsletters.

The respond times for the public calling Customer Services were less than satisfactory peaking in W2 but falling to normal levels after W7 and lessons were learnt.

All lessons learnt were summarised within the report.

Feedback from the waste team for route changes was a constant process. Recycling waste going into refuse bin collections had occasionally taken place. These were very isolated incidents due to confusion over which bin collection was due. The Babergh Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr Malvisi encouraged members to visit the Waste Management Facility.

The optimisation of routes was designed to provide an effective and efficient service, reduce non-productive travel time and thus diesel/CO₂ emissions.

It was RESOLVED:

1.1 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee extended thanks for the report.

1.2 That the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee commend the Waste Team on the successful introduction of the new Bin Collection Routes.

1.3 That the points learnt during the implementation of the new Bin Collection Routes be forwarded to the Senior Leadership Team for consideration in future similar projects.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

IMPACT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT ON INCOME MANAGEMENT (BMSDC HOUSING SERVICE)

The committee received an updated bulletin introduced by Jan Osborne, Babergh Cabinet Member for Housing and presented by the Corporate Manager for Tenant Services.

This followed on the bulletin received in February 2019.

The bulletin showed that relevant roll out of UC was 32% within Babergh, and 23% within Mid Suffolk. Rent Arrear figures for both councils had marginally improved in the last two quarters although UC claimants' arrears figures were rising.

Mitigation of the effects of Universal Credit was in place. The Housing team, working with Citizens Advice, the Income Team, the Tenant Board, and the DWP were taking effective action. As far as something outside our direct control could be dealt with by the Housing Team, the committee were satisfied that it was being managed well. The committee felt that no further Information Bulletin would be required unless the situation were to change markedly for the worse. The report was noted with thanks to the Housing Team.

I'm happy to take any questions on this report, or our future work plans, either within the meeting or afterwards.

Alastair McCraw.
Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee, BDC.
7th October 2019.