

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2020

Present:

Councillors H Cox (Chair), Jenks (Vice-Chair), Clarence, D Cox, Eden, Gribble, Hocking, Mullone, Nutley, Patch, Rollason and Thorne

Members Attendance:

Councillors Connett, Dewhirst and MacGregor

Apologies:

Councillors Foden

Officers in Attendance:

Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer

Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Chris Braines, Waste & Cleansing Manager

12. MINUTES 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September were confirmed as a correct record and would be signed at the earliest convenient time.

It was noted that additional information requested had been provided to Members.

13. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The following Members advised that they represented wards that currently had skips provided by the Council, and which was the subject of Minute 16 below:
Councillors Clarence, Patch, H Cox, Gribble, and Nutley.

Councillor Mallone declared an interest in Minute 16 below on the grounds that he had a licence which enabled him to dispose of waste. Councillor Mullone did not vote on this matter.

14. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

15. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

None.

16. CALL-IN RURAL SKIP SERVICE

Councillor Mallone declared an interest in Minute 16 below on the grounds that he had a licence which enabled him to dispose of waste. Councillor Mullone did not vote on this matter.

The Chair advised he had called-in the Executive decision of 6 October, 2020 regarding the rural skip service because he believed there should be an opportunity for affected towns and parishes to have their say on the matter and further questioning and debate to take place. The call in was supported by Councillors Clarence, Gribble, Hocking, Nutley and Patch.

The decision of Executive was that the non statutory service be discontinued and necessary arrangements be made with the existing contractor for early contract termination; and that support be provided to the town and parish councils impacted to assist them with their own arrangements where requested.

In support of his call-in the Chair acknowledged that the service could not continue in its current form due to budget constraints. However town and parish councils had various options to enable a service to continue, and the Council should delay the cessation of the service and engage with them to explain and explore the options.

During debate issues raised by committee members included: there should be a 12 month transitional period before withdrawing the service; increased fly-tipping would result; the service benefitted only a few parishes and towns but was being provided for by all Teignbridge tax payers; Teignbridge was the only District in Devon which provided such as service; and the service should continue until the service expires in 2022.

In response the Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste and Environmental Health advised that: difficult decisions were required in relation to the budget; the service had not been provided since the start of Covid lockdown in March 2020; there had been no overall consequential increase in fly-tipping, and fly-tipping had decreased over recent years; free bulky waste collection provided by charities was available to residents; a number of parish councils had objected and Teignbridge would assist and facilitate those wishing to continue the service to do so; continuing the service until 2022 was not viable and not an option because continuing with the service would result in another service being cut in order to fund the rural skips; statutory services and other valuable services such as opening public toilets were continuing.

The Waste and Cleansing Manager advised that the cost of the rural skip service contract was approximately £51,000, and approximately £9,000 for disposal of the waste.

The Leader of the Council added that parish and town councils had until January 2021 to submit their precept requests, in which time they could identify means to continue the service, and work together to potentially reduce costs.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (19.10.2020)

It was proposed and seconded that the Executive reconsider the timing with a view to delaying for 12 months to enable parish and town councils to arrange the continuation of the service.

An amendment was proposed and seconded that financial information be provided to affected parish and towns within four weeks to enable them to make a decision whether they wish to take on and continue the service.

A roll call was taken on the amendment as follows:

For the proposal: Chair, Vice Chair and Cllrs Clarence, D Cox, Eden, Gribble, Nutley, Patch and Rollason -Total 9

Against the proposal: Nil

Abstention: Cllrs Hocking, Mullone and Thorne – Total 3

A roll call was taken on the substantive motion. The result replicated the above voting. The amendment was carried.

It was proposed and seconded that £10,000 from the savings be used to help parish and town councils fund the service within the first 12 months.

For the proposal: Cllr Gribble, Hocking and Patch – Total 3

Against the proposal: Chair, Vice Chair and Cllrs D Cox, Eden, Nutley, Rollason, and Thorne -Total 7

Abstention: Cllrs Clarence and Mullone – Total 2

The proposal was lost.

RECOMMENDED – The following decision be referred to the Executive for consideration:

That financial information be given to affected parishes and towns within four weeks to enable them to make a decision whether they wish to take on and continue the service.

CLLR H COX
Chairman