

## Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

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Date of Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Briefing of Portfolio Holder: Janet Clowes: Adult Social Care, Health Integration and Communities

Subject/Title: Environmental Services in Crewe

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### 1. Report Summary

1.1: In June 2018 the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the recommendations 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 below.

1.2: Cllr Janet Clowes was invited to convene a cross-party 'Fly-tipping Monitoring Group' to provide oversight of progress to meet the recommendations.

#### **(Extract) 2. Recommendations (7<sup>th</sup> June 2018)**

*2.1. To support the continuation of the "No Rubbish Excuses" Campaign at a cost of £18,800 for 12 months through an allocation from environmental enforcement FPN income reserve.*

*2.2. To note plans to extend ANSA's waste education role in schools, so that it covers wider waste management issues and includes those schools in the hotspot areas.*

*2.3. To support a recommendation to the Portfolio Holder to endorse £5,000 for specific bin identification marking equipment to increase public ownership and care of their bin in affected areas through an allocation from environmental enforcement FPN income reserve.*

*2.4. To support the recommendation that the Portfolio Holder agrees a one-off payment and agrees with Crewe Town Council what the funding will be spent on to add value to the work of the team already in place. To support the allocation of a one off sum of £74,000 from the 2017/18 FPN Income reserve to add value to the work Crewe Town Council are leading on. This will be a one-off payment as there is an income target of £118k pa from April 2018 onwards.*

1.3: The Monitoring Group members are:

- Cllr Janet Clowes (Chair)
- Cllr Brian Roberts
- Cllr Jill Rhodes
- Cllr Steve Edgar
- Cllr Rhoda Bailey
- Cllr Michael Parsons

1.4: Since June 2018, the Monitoring Group has met on four occasions with officer representation from: Caroline Griffies (ANSA: Street Cleansing)

Andrew Dunstone (CE Waste Strategy Monitoring)

Richard Christopherson (Local Area Partnership Manager)

Laura Woodrow-Hirst (ASB Team Leader).

Other officers (Housing and Planning) have also attended to provide additional data intelligence.

1.5: Crewe Town Council are represented by Lindsay Lewis and Steve McQuade.

## 2: Addressing the Recommendations

*2.1. To support the continuation of the “No Rubbish Excuses” Campaign at a cost of £18,800 for 12 months through an allocation from environmental enforcement FPN income reserve.*

*2.2. To note plans to extend ANSA’s waste education role in schools, so that it covers wider waste management issues and includes those schools in the hotspot areas.*

- The Campaign, implemented in 2017, was successful in meeting its objectives in many areas across the Borough, however specific areas of Crewe remained resistant to this kind of engagement.
- The materials and educational toolkits produced remain valuable resources that ANSA use in their engagement with schools and community groups.  
Further support is to be provided by a new ANSA post (Education, school-based, communications role but NO door-knocking)  
Work with schools remains on-going and ANSA is currently engaging with 85-90 schools across Cheshire East (including those in the hotspot areas).  
ANSA continue to produce specific language information leaflets about waste management when and where required.
- Alternative ‘localised’ approaches were felt to be necessary in ‘Hotspot’ areas in Crewe. Therefore the group have approved the development of a localised campaign to be initiated through a new post (2.5 days per week). This post-holder will work in conjunction with the ‘Crewe Town Rangers’ (2 posts funded by Crewe Town Council (CTC) and a new full-time post appointed to add value to the work already being undertaken by CTC as part of recommendation 2.4.

*2.3. To support a recommendation to the Portfolio Holder to endorse £5,000 for specific bin identification marking equipment to increase public ownership and care of their bin in affected areas through an allocation from environmental enforcement FPN income reserve.*

- Two ‘heated stylus’ identification marking units have been purchased and are in daily use to mark all new and replacement bins being provided across the Borough.
- 40-50 bins are being embossed each day before delivery and to date over 1,500 bins have been marked. Where old bins are recovered by ANSA, they are recycled wherever possible.
- Once new staff are in place (2.2 and 2.4), Street Initiatives will be organised to emboss bins in hotspot areas (Spring 2019).

*2.4. To support the recommendation that the Portfolio Holder agrees a one-off payment and agrees with Crewe Town Council what the funding will be spent on to add value to the work of the team already in place. To support the allocation of a one-off sum of £74,000 from the 2017/18 FPN Income reserve to add value to the work Crewe Town Council are leading on. This will be a one-off payment as there is an income target of £118k pa from April 2018 onwards.*

- Following due process, CTC accepted the funding allocation in September 2018, which will be used to fund a F/T post for two years.
- The job description has been drawn up, the role advertised and interviews have taken place. Two candidates were appointed (one F/T post as recommendation 2.4 and one

P/T post for six months as recommendation 2.2) CTC will fund the extension of the P/T post for a further 6 months.

- The F/T post will focus on hotspot areas and areas highlighted by local community groups with whom EC, ANSA and CTC have good links.  
This will involve co-ordinating partner agencies to work on specific areas; engaging with residents, education and timetabling of area clearance, cleansing and maintenance, including the Crewe Rangers, ANSA and Community Pay-back teams.  
This approach was piloted on West Street and McNeill Avenue in Crewe in early September which whilst very successful over the two-day clean-up, highlighted the need to:
  - engage with residents before, during and after the initiative.
  - take advantage of opportunities to deliver waste management advice and support,
  - emboss the relevant bins for those streets at that time, with residents.
  - identify, with residents, appropriate places to store bins when not awaiting collection.
  - Identify with residents, specific waste management problems and issues in that area and help co-produce practical solutions.
- The two appointments will also enable further focussed work to be carried out in areas where there are intransigent waste management problems; for example; Houses of Multiple Occupation, cultural and/or communication barriers, lack of appropriate bin storage space, alley (or 'backs') maintenance.
- The newly appointed staff are currently undertaking appropriate training and induction with CTC.

### **3. Other related issues discussed by the Monitoring Group.**

- The Group have explored with relevant officers the potential impacts of Legislation related to Registered Landlords (October 2018) and how this might offer alternative enforcement options for HMOs. It is currently too early to evaluate the actual impact but Housing Officers will report back later in 2019.
- Discussions have taken place regarding changes in National Planning Policy and permitted development rights where commercial buildings may be converted to accommodation and potentially exacerbate waste management problems in urban areas. These are ultimately planning matters and would have to be dealt with through the planning process with robust conditions.
- The Group discussed the possible introduction of an "Article 4" Direction (in this case to limit the concentration of HMOs in any given geographical area). The potential for these Directions is severely constrained but are being explored and data collected, as part of a wider evidence base by Housing and Strategic Planning as part of the Part 2 Local Plan Document and supplementary planning policies.

Cllr Janet Clowes 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019.