

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee,

14th December 2020

**Present-Councillor Khonat, in the Chair, Councillors Batan, Hardman, Marrow,
McFall, Shorrocks, Sidat, Taylor,**

Also Present- Martin Eden, Director of Place

Tony Watson, Environment Services

Paul Conlon, Democratic Services

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2020.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

3. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

4. Waste Collection, Disposal and Recycling and the introduction of the Blue Bin service.

The Committee received an in depth presentation on the work of the Environment Services Department that addressed the scope and focus agreed by the Committee and the issues that members wished to see.

The meeting looked at two key areas in particular this time. The first of these was the waste collection, disposal and recycling. The Committee had previously been informed that the contract for the collection of waste and recycling had been brought back in house and had looked at how this was to be achieved. The Committee were also aware that the blue bin service was to start in the summer and how this was expected to increase recycling rates.

The Committee were informed that the transfer had taken place as proposed and the services had continued. The staff had been transferred and the new fleet of vehicles commenced service delivery on time with a seamless transfer. The Committee looked at-

- How the transition had taken place
- How the household recycling centres had changed work practices and allotted times for use
- The ways that fly tipping was being tackled
- The introduction of the blue bins and how this had affected recycling of paper and card
- How operatives were kept safe and safer working practices were introduced
- The way that services were maintained throughout the period and continue to be delivered.

The Committee were informed that no collection times had been missed and that the service had been maintained throughout lockdown periods.

The Committee also looked at the Public Protection Service and how this had been meeting the challenges that were presented due to the pandemic. The Committee looked at how the role of the service had changed to include test and trace roles and ensuring that lockdown restrictions were being maintained. The Committee were informed that the service had also given information and advice to businesses in the borough about safe practices and restrictions and had where necessary issued restriction notices where rules were being broken or safe practices not followed.

The Committee looked at the effect the change of focus had on existing workloads and duties and how officers had delivered throughout this very challenging and difficult time.

RESOLVED-

That the department be congratulated on the way they had responded to the multiple challenges that had been presented by the COVID19 pandemic and the positive way that they had done so whilst recognising the difficulties that had been faced by such an front facing service.

Chair at the meeting that the minutes were signed.....

Date.....