

To: Cabinet

Date: 6 February 2025

Report/Comments of: Scrutiny Committee

Title: Scrutiny feedback to Cabinet – Cleaner, Greener Melton: Collaboration to support environmental quality.

<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT CONSIDERED</b>	
<b>Report Title:</b>	Cleaner, Greener Melton: Collaboration to support environmental quality
<b>Purpose/Description of Report:</b>	To provide an overview of the work of the teams that work directly on ensuring a cleaner, greener Melton.
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Cllr M. Brown, Scrutiny Committee Chair
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr M. Glancy, Portfolio Holder for Governance, Environment and Regulatory Services (Deputy Leader)

## **1. Introduction and Overview**

The Scrutiny Committee met on 3 December 2024 to consider a report and presentation on the Cleaner, Greener Melton report, which focuses on the support the Council would provide to improve environmental quality within the Borough.

The report provides an overview of the work of the teams that work directly on ensuring a cleaner, greener Melton. It also provides a progress update on corporate strategy commitments, highlights notable achievements across the borough and sets out the ongoing work that is planned to further strengthen and enhance the Council's commitment and delivery of a cleaner, greener Melton.

## **2. Summary of Feedback/Recommendations for Cabinet Consideration**

- A comment was made that the list of assets was useful, because once the Council understood what it owned, the amount of time that can be

saved knowing is worthwhile. It was recognised that, on its own, it is a good piece of work as queries can be reported and triaged and directed to the relevant body quickly.

- Members recognised the importance of volunteers and queried how the Council recognises them. Although it was recognised that using volunteers creates the risk that coverage becomes uneven. Also, as volunteers fall away, gaps are created. In response, it was confirmed that an event would be established to recognise and celebrate volunteers. In addition, the Council actively recruits volunteers in order to ensure there aren't any gaps in coverage.
- The Committee were keen on how the work of the team can be measured and benchmarked. Members were informed that the Pride of Place group establish the Terms of Reference and so there is a reference for people to refer to, in order to establish whether the group is fulfilling its duties. In terms of the team, the Waste and Environmental Services Manager is looking at implementing performance indicators and establish the quality of work. In terms of Biffa contract, the Waste and Environmental Services Manager is working closely with Biffa and is looking to do similar set up.
- Concern was raised on how ad hoc enquiries are handled, however Members were reassured that, although they are difficult to deal with, by using online forms and a single point to coordinate the responses, they are easier to manage.
- A discussion ensued regarding dog fouling and the nuisance it causes in Melton Mowbray. In response, Members were informed that with the constraints of resource need to work out what is best. It was noted that people can report dog fouling and that this is encouraged because, if the Council knows about it, something can be done about it. It was recognised that the Council needs to be clear about its messaging and raising awareness as the information needed from a public health perspective is different to the information needed to prosecute a person for an offence. It was confirmed that the approach needs to be sensible approach, with campaign-based work being effective.
- Members stated that there is a need for the Council to publicise its actions in order to engage the public and as a response to comments and reports.
- Members raised concerns regarding littering from fast food outlets, however the Committee were informed that the Pride in Place Group could work with the fast food outlets in order to resolve this issue.
- In discussing emergency response arrangements, Members were informed that the Council would enhancing its sandbag policy, with one of the measures being introducing limit on the number of sandbags issued per house, however Members noted that one household's

needs could be vastly different to another's needs and that there needs to be a balance between where the houses are and how they are affected by the flood. It was noted that the Council is not the responsible flood authority but it does have a responsibility to report on the safety of vulnerable residents.

- A comment was made that there appears to be less bins available in Melton Mowbray. In response, the Waste and Environmental Services Manager stated that he would work with Biffa to calculate utilisation rates and establish if more bins are required.
- Members requested visibility of the schedule for different pieces of work, e.g. grass cutting and cutting of hedges, this is because Members receive a lot of queries from the public and if the schedule was available, then Members could answer the queries and set expectations.

**Written by: Scrutiny Committee Chairman in consultation with Members of the Scrutiny Committee.**