



CABINET WORKING PARTY – ENVIRONMENTAL STREET SCENE AND ENFORCEMENT

25th September 2025 at 1.30pm

Present: Councillor Aisthorpe (in the Chair)
Councillors Bright, Shepherd and Shutt.

Officers in attendance:

- Carolina Borgstrom (Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure)
- Kath Jickells (Assistant Director – Environment)
- Kate Fox (Waste Team Manager)
- Beverly O'Brien (Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Chris Whitfield (Fleet and Garage Manager)

SSE.10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hudson for this meeting.

SSE.11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made from Members with regard to items on the agenda for this meeting.

SSE.12 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Environment Street Scene and Enforcement Cabinet Working Party meeting held on 28th July 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

SSE.13 REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS STREET SCENE WORKING GROUPS

The working party reviewed the recommendations from previous street scene working groups. The working party went through each recommendation noted in the report.

At recommendation 2.1, Members requested that the most recent Code of Practice be sent to them, so they had a better understanding of the zones. The Chair noted that for some time East Marsh didn't have any barrow operatives, only street cleansers. She welcomed the additional barrow operatives that were now in more wards. She also noted that the report mentioned that the work they had been doing had had a significant impact on the street scene. She wondered how they were proving it. Ms Jickells explained that they took photographic evidence and inspected areas. The Chair wondered if less complaints had been reported. Ms Jickells stated that she would have to take that away and let the Working Party know at a later date.

At recommendation 2.2, Members understood why Officers avoid using Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) but having spoken to a previous Portfolio Holder who looked after this area, they had a different experience and thought it worked. Ms Jickells explained that there was currently a year-long backlog for TROs and that they could be difficult to put in place. However, she noted that barrow operatives were able to get closer to parked cars, so if there were places that had been missed by the Street Cleansing team, then it would be helpful if these were reported and then barrow operatives would be deployed to the area.

Recommendation 2.3 focused on Operation Gateway. Members noted that the project was complete but wondered whether we could use this targeted approach somewhere else. Officers explained that a project like that would require about £200k to implement. To do something like this, evidence would be needed to prove that the resource would have a beneficial impact on the area.

At recommendation 2.4, a panel member asked about overflowing bins. They wondered if they were emptied at the same time as residential bins. Ms Jickells stated that the collection service worked to a schedule. If public bins were overflowing on their route, they would be expected to collect them.

At recommendation 2.5, the Chair mentioned that it had been seven years since the Street Cleansing service had been reviewed. She wondered whether it was time for it to be reviewed again. Ms Jickells believed that the street cleansing service was above the standard it needed to be. The service was currently compliant, moving to a flexible seven-day service had been very effective.

At recommendation 2.6, Members asked for an up-to-date report on unadopted walkways.

Members found it surprising at recommendation 2.7, that it was costing a lot to have wildflowers. They wondered whether this would potentially be used somewhere else in the borough. Ms Jickells explained that it took a lot of work to prepare the site for wildflowers and it could be hard to maintain. They used to have a farmer who helped them, but unfortunately that resource was no longer available.

At recommendation 2.8, Members were keen to carry on with this work, especially highway sightlines. Officers said that a lot of different options were available, and they were currently identifying areas to try it. They also added that weed control trials were about to start in certain areas in the Borough and they would be measuring the impact.

At recommendation 2.9, Members noted that the 'Skip It' scheme had been successful but were not sure how much it helped with fly tipping and educating people. The Cabinet Working Party discussed the cost of the scheme and noted that the 'clear it' scheme was more cost effective and was specific to need.

There were no questions for recommendation 2.10.

At recommendation 2.11, the Cabinet Working Party mentioned the need to explore using an external reporting portal like FixMyStreet. They believed it would be easier for individuals to use as it was available on their smartphones through a direct app. However, Members welcomed the need to explore our current reporting portal and thought it would be useful to invite ICT to a session to discuss what could be done to make it better.

Members also welcomed the new enforcement procedures. They felt they now were able to target hotspots. Officers mentioned how they now had a better structure around cameras and were utilising the public network to identify flytippers. This had helped to start the enforcement procedures a lot quicker.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That an up-to-date report on unadopted walkways be submitted to this Working Party.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.