

Coastal Waste Scrutiny Review Report

Overview & Scrutiny Panel 19 April 2022

Report Author	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bob Bayford, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Special Projects
Status	For Recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

This covering report is to introduce the report by the Coastal Waste Scrutiny Review Working Party after their investigations that started in October 2021, into how the Council could develop practices for keeping the district's beaches, promenades and the coastline clean and welcoming for visitors and the local communities. This scrutiny review led to some findings and proposals being identified through a report which is attached as Annex 1 to this covering report..

Recommendation(s):

The Panel is asked to consider the report and twenty recommendations from the Coastal Waste Scrutiny Review Working Party and decide whether to adopt all or part of those recommendations and forward them for Cabinet consideration.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

The report recommends the prioritising of resources for coastal waste activities. Due to our limited resources any prioritisation for these activities would most likely require the council to consider what other activities would need to be deprioritised in order to release and reallocate funding.

In other words, the council would need to reduce funding on other service areas or activities (via savings or service reductions) to provide the funding to pay for increased spending on Coastal Waste, if the council so wished.

As per recommendation 2, the need to reduce funding in other areas could be avoided if a broader range of income sources could be secured to fund these income. However, it would be necessary for the council to have assurance that any income estimates were robust, reliable and sustainable before they could be included in the budget.

Legal

The role of scrutiny is set out in section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000. The council must also have regard to the statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny from the ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government when exercising its functions.

Risk Management

There are risks arising directly from this report.

Corporate

This report is a result of the work undertaken by a working party that was tasked by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel to conduct an investigation into how best the Council could keep the district coastline and beaches clean. Any findings would need to be shared with Cabinet to consider and make a decision.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty: -
(Delete as appropriate)

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

No implications arise directly but the Council needs to retain a strong focus and understanding on issues of diversity amongst the local community and ensure service delivery matches these.

It was important to be aware of the Council's responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and show evidence that due consideration has been given to the equalities impact that may be brought upon communities by the decisions made by Council.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- Growth
- Environment
- Communities

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 At the meeting on 26 August 2021, the Panel set up a five member Coastal Waste Review Working party to conduct a scrutiny review of coastal waste collection practices in the district. The review topic was picked out of a list of topics that were identified by the Panel and that list forms part of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel work Programme.

1.2 The working party was given specific terms of reference as follows:

- a. To review how the Council ensures that its promenades and beaches are kept clear of rubbish and litter, compare this with other coastal authorities and make any recommendations that the panel feel will improve the service;
- b. To review the current replacement waste/dog bin process at Thanet Council, compare this with other local authorities and to make any recommendations that the Panel feel will improve the service.

2.0 Review Activities

2.1 The working party met for their first formal meeting on 6 October 2021 and agreed a work programme for conducting their review work. They identified the key witnesses (witness groups) to talk to in order to gather evidence for their report.

2.2 On 21 October 2021 the working party met council senior officers from Operational Services. These included the Corporate Director of Communities and Director of Operations. They also met the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Special Projects. On 4 November 2021 they met representatives from parish and town councils who oversee a partition of the district's coastline.

2.3 On 10 November 2021, the working party met two more council officers from the Tourism department (the Director of Regeneration and Tourism Manager). On 15 November 2021 met a number of volunteer litter group representatives.

2.4 The working party then considered the evidence that had been received over a series of private sessions and produced the report that is attached as Annex 1 to the covering report. Annex 2 contains the terms of reference for the review.

3.0 Options

3.1 The Panel is asked to consider the report and the twenty recommendations from the Coastal Waste Scrutiny Review Working Party and decide whether to adopt all or part of those recommendations and forward them for Cabinet consideration;

Or

- 3.2 Members may opt to reject the report and recommendations and thereafter provide some steer on the way forward.

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 If the Panel adopts the recommendations from this report, it will be forwarded to Cabinet on 16 June 2022.

Contact Officer: *Charles Hungwe (Senior Democratic Services Officer)*

Reporting to: *Nicholas Hughes (Committee Services Manager)*

Annex List

Annex 1: Coastal Waste Scrutiny Review Working Party report

Annex 2: Coastal Waste Scrutiny Review Working Party TORs

Background Papers

None

Corporate Consultation

Finance: *Chris Blundell (Director of Finance)*

Legal: *(Insert name and job title)*