

Environment and Climate Change Meeting	
Meeting Date	3 October 2024
Report Title	Swale Waste and Street Cleansing Scrutiny Review – deferral request
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment and Leisure
Lead Officer	Janet Dart, Policy & Engagement Officer
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. To agree that the Waste & Street Cleansing Scrutiny Review report timelines are extended and the report is presented and discussed at the Environment & Climate Change Committee Meeting on 15 January 2025 instead of 20 November 2024.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report gives a short update on the progress of the Waste Scrutiny Panel and asks the Environment & Climate Change Committee to agree to moving the presentation and discussion of the Waste & Street Cleansing Scrutiny Review Report from 20 November 2024 to 15 January 2025.

2 Background

- 2.1 It was proposed at the Environment & Climate Change meeting on 16 July 2024 that a formal Scrutiny Panel be formed to undertake a scrutiny review, reporting back to an Extraordinary Environment & Climate Change Committee meeting on 20 November 2024.

- 2.2 The panel is made up of the following Members:

- Cllr Rich Lehmann (Chair)
- Cllr Chris Palmer
- Cllr Hannah Perkin
- Cllr Julien Speed
- Cllr Dolley Wooster

- 2.3 The panel have met 4 times, an initial scoping meeting, followed by workshops looking in detail at themes on resources and staff, data and rounds, and contracts and project management. As part of those meetings the panel have been provided with a large amount of data and information. The panel have further themes they will be investigating in the coming weeks on communications and a direct session with the contractor.

- 2.4 A public survey on the waste service is ongoing and at the time of writing this report there had been 1,917 responses.
- 2.5 When the panel met on 25 September 2024, they felt that to effectively carry out the scrutiny review and to analyse all the data, information and responses to the survey, they would like more time to come to conclusions and make recommendations.
- 2.6 The Panel realise that the residents are keen to hear the outcome of the scrutiny review but are of the opinion it should not be rushed so that all issues are carefully considered. Furthermore, Members of the Panel noted that regular changes are being made, so a delay in delivering the report will not delay service improvements.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 To agree that the Waste & Street Cleansing Scrutiny Review report timelines are extended and that the report is presented and discussed at the Environment & Climate Change Committee Meeting on 15 January 2025 instead of 20 November 2024

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 To complete the scrutiny review in time for the Extraordinary Environment & Climate Change Committee on 20 November 2024. This is not recommended as the panel feel that they will not have time to carry out their investigations and analyse all feedback and data in a way that will produce satisfactory conclusions and recommendations.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 No consultation has been taken on the decision to move the date of presenting the Waste & Street Cleansing Scrutiny Review Report from 20 November 2024 to 15 January 2025 other than bringing it to this evening’s meeting for discussion with Committee members.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Environment – to provide a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable and enjoyable environment, and to prepare our borough for the challenges ahead.

Financial, Resource and Property	There are no financial implications in holding a Scrutiny Review, however considerable officer resources will be required to support and feed into the review.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	The review may wish to scrutinise the procurement process which was completed in line with our Commissioning and Procurement Strategy and national legislation. The Panel may wish to look at the service Contract.
Crime and Disorder	Despite an understandable frustration from residents who have received disrupted collections, physical and verbal abuse to staff at SBC and contractor has been unacceptable.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	One of the key benefits of the contract and a strategic objective agreed at the start of the tender process was the environmental gains we will make on the service's carbon footprint.
Health and Wellbeing	The delivery of a successful waste contract is imperative for public health reasons. It is acknowledged that through the mobilisation period there have been instances of vermin, detritus in the streets which is not good for public health and wellbeing.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	Some residents require additional services such as clinical and assisted collections. The Panel may wish to focus on whether the disruption impacted those residents.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Major contract failure risk is one of our corporate risks and has clear mitigating actions set against it. This action has been reviewed throughout the mobilisation period and reported to Audit committee.
Equality and Diversity	The disruption will have impacted some of our more vulnerable residents – assisted and clinical collections
Privacy and Data Protection	n/a

7 Appendices

7.1 None.

8 Background Papers

None.