

Local Environmental Quality Outline Plan

Report to Cabinet – 14 December 2021

Background

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 10 November 2021 to the submitted report which provided the five key principles and three workstreams to be developed into the proposed Local Environmental Quality Action Plan. The Interim Chief Operating Officer and Director of Place, Kevin Mowat, responded to questions and received observations from the Board in respect of the following:
 - How would SWISCo engage with the public and also consider local businesses and our tourism sector.
 - How would the complications between ownership of land be managed to ensure that action was taken and people were not passed onto other people or organisations to resolve issues of concern.
 - What zero tolerance would look like and what sort of breaches this would apply to.
 - Issues around fly tipping.
 - Concerns about how the Council/SWISCo dealt with unauthorised encampments, homeless people in tents and visitors pitching up tents due to lack of capacity or other options for holidays.
 - Query about the tone of the wording in paragraph 1.5 'Activity will emphasise that the local environment is not owned by the Council or other agency and that the people of Torbay are its ultimate custodians.' and how this would be perceived by the public.
 - Reassurance that engagement activity would be carried out by officers as well as Councillors.
 - How the work around enforcement would link in with the work of the Enforcement Agency.
 - What action would be taken against owners of holiday lets who had been using domestic waste and recycling collections instead of organising separate commercial waste collections.
 - The adequacy of public bins across Torbay to meet the demands and if they were sited in the most appropriate locations.
 - How to make it easier for the community to take action themselves without legal barriers relating to issues such as insurance if they carry out work on Council owned land.
 - Issues in connection with enforcement and which Law it falls under.
 - Concern over private landowners burning commercial waste and the environmental impact and nuisance of this.

- The outcome of the dual bin trial in Babbacombe – the results of the trial would be shared with all Councillors once finalised.
 - What enforcement measures were proposed in respect of our green spaces.
2. Members noted that the Action Plan would be developed and delivered within finite resources and there would be a need to be open and honest about what could be delivered and to manage expectations working jointly with the public and partners to improve environmental quality within Torbay.
 3. The Board recommended (unanimously):

That the Board endorses the suggested five guiding principles and three work streams identified in the Local Environmental Quality outline proposals and requests that the Interim Chief Operating Officer of SWISCo and the Director of Place consider the feedback highlighted above and raised at the meeting.