

AGENDA

Meeting: Environment Select Committee
Place: Committee Room III, County Hall, Trowbridge
Date: Wednesday 2 March 2011
Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Sharon Smith, of Democratic and Members' Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 718378 or email sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Membership:

Cllr Chuck Berry	Cllr Alan Hill
Cllr Rosemary Brown	Cllr Chris Humphries
Cllr Nigel Carter (Vice Chairman)	Cllr Tom James MBE
Cllr Peter Colmer	Cllr Ian McLennan
Cllr Peter Doyle	Cllr Stephen Oldrieve
Cllr Jose Green	Cllr Leo Randall
Cllr Mollie Groom (Chairman)	

Substitutes:

Cllr Jane Burton	Cllr George Jeans
Cllr Trevor Carbin	Cllr Julian Johnson
Cllr Chris Caswill	Cllr Howard Marshall
Cllr Nick Fogg	Cllr Jeffrey Ody
Cllr Russell Hawker	Cllr Anthony Trotman
Cllr Charles Howard	

PART I

Items to be considered while the meeting is opened to the public

1. **Apologies and Substitutions**

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 1 - 8*)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Environment Select Committee meeting held on 11 January 2011.

3. **Declarations of Interests**

To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4. **Chairman's Announcements**

5. **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

Statements

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named above for any further clarification.

Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public or members of the Council received in accordance with the constitution. Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named above (acting on behalf of the Director of Resources) no later than **5pm** on **Wednesday 23 February 2011**. Please contact the officer named on the first page of this agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

6. **Waste Collection and Recycling Service** (*Pages 9 - 16*)

The Select Committee has been fully involved in reviewing the transformation of the Waste Service. The Chairman recognising this has requested an overview of the implementation plan to deliver the new service model, as agreed by Cabinet on 19 October 2010.

Attached is a report from the Director of Neighbourhood and Planning, which provides details of the timetable in place to implement the harmonisation of the

waste collection and recycling service to Wiltshire households and the associated risks and challenges of delivering this project. The new service will replace the different patterns of service provision across the Council inherited from the former District Councils.

The Committee is asked to consider the report and determine whether that based on the evidence provided and responses to questions whether they wish to make any representation to the Cabinet member.

- Relationship to Business Plan

Page 57 Invest in the future: waste management

“One of our key priorities is to divert waste from landfill to reduce the local and global environmental impact and, in the medium to long term, secure significant cost savings for residents through the reduction in payment of Landfill Tax.”

7. Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (Pages 17 - 22)

The Select Committee considered a report on 6 July, 2010 which included an overview of the progress made against the council’s Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). In January 2011 a number of stories were published in the media about the Council being liable for a £600k ‘tax’ or ‘fine’. These related to the Council’s liability under the CRC. In response the Chairman has requested more information and clarification about this issue.

Attached is a report from the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood and Planning which provides an outline of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme and what it means for Wiltshire Council.

The Committee is asked to consider the report and determine whether that based on the evidence provided and responses to questions whether they wish to make any representation to the Cabinet member.

- Relationship to Business Plan

Page 65 Invest in: energy efficiency

“What we are trying to achieve – To reduce our liabilities under the Carbon Reduction Commitment by reducing our carbon emissions.”

8. Local Transport Plan (Pages 23 - 30)

The Environment Select Committee at its meeting held on 11 January 2011 considered a report on the initial and general analysis of the consultation process undertaken on the Wiltshire Local Transport Plan for 2011-2016 ahead of the draft Plan’s submission to Cabinet.

To allow scrutiny of the Plan ahead of Cabinet approval, the Committee resolved to establish a Rapid Scrutiny Exercise the findings of which would be submitted

to Cabinet at its next meeting to be held on 15 February for potential inclusion within the final Plan.

A copy of the report submitted to Cabinet is attached, together with details of the recommendations to be included.

The Committee is asked to note the report and response from Cabinet provided.

9. **Budget Monitoring**

The latest monitoring report was considered by Cabinet on 15 February 2011 and can be found following the below link:

<http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=512&Ver=4>

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will consider the reports as available, highlight any areas of concern with the relevant officers and provide feedback to the Committee accordingly by exception.

10. **Housing Commission Board**

The Scrutiny Representative, Cllr Ian McLennan, has provided key points arising from the recent Housing Commission Board meeting as follows:

- Many of the council houses were currently under occupied due to tenants remaining in properties where capacity exceeded family need. In order to address this, government was expected to bring forward a scheme to incentivise tenants to relocate to smaller properties.
- The many reasons that tenants were reluctant to move included:
 - a reluctance to change
 - loss of contact
 - a need to accommodate guests
 - the 'hassle' involved
 - not wanting something 'new'
- Under occupation was being researched and an action plan considered.

Improvement Plan Update

- Initial improvement actions had been successful. The 'Lean Review' was focussing on the Repairs Service and was aided by specialist support.
- The new focus plan included rent arrears, income management and anti social behaviour. A focus on rent arrears was required owing to the current economic downturn and a central contact point would be designated for anti social behaviour.
- The task of cleaning community areas would be agreed with the Tenants Panel, who were supportive of discussions.

- The Housing Asset Management Plan included an emphasis on debt servicing, maximisation of income and stock to determine outcomes against available resources.
- The staff and management structure would be reviewed in order to better meet demand.
- IT Improvements would require a new tender. The project costs were circa £300k-£400k.
- A quality audit was being considered where Cabinet would have an input.
- Plumber, John Godwin, became employee of the month for December after working extensively over Christmas which included working until 2am.

The Committee is asked to note the update provided.

11. **Forward Work Programme** (*Pages 31 - 34*)

A copy of the draft Forward Work Programme is attached for consideration.

12. **Date of next Meeting**

10 May 2011.

13. **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

PART II

Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

NONE