

ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2011 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM.

Present:

Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Rosemary Brown, Cllr Trevor Carbin (Substitute), Cllr Nigel Carter (Chairman), Cllr Christopher Cochrane, Cllr Alan Hill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Chris Humphries, Cllr Howard Marshall, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Leo Randall and Cllr Anthony Trotman (Substitute)

Also Present:

Cllr Linda Conley, Cllr Keith Humphries, Cllr Toby Sturgis and Cllr Dick Tonge

159. **Election of Chairman**

Cllr Nigel Carter was appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

160. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Alan Hill was appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

161. **Apologies and Substitutions**

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Doyle, Cllr Jose Green and Cllr Steven Oldrieve. Cllr Trevor Carbin substituted for Cllr Steven Oldrieve.

162. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record.

163. **Declarations of Interests**

Cllr Chuck Berry declared a personal interest in Item 168 – Delegation of Services to Town and Parish Councils as the Director of Healthmatic, specialists in the design and management of public toilets.

Cllr Trevor Carbin also declared a personal interest in Item 168 – Delegation of Services to Town and Parish Councils as a member of Southwick allotments (mentioned with the report).

164. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman thanked the Committee for his appointment and expressed gratitude for the work undertaken by the previous Chairman, Cllr Mollie Groom.

165. **Public Participation and Councillors Questions**

There was no public participation although questions were received from several Councillors in relation to the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Members had been made aware that the consultation undertaken in relation to the Southern Core Strategy would be amalgamated within the Wiltshire Core Strategy but expressed concern that this had not been widely communicated.

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Property, Environment and Development Control Services clarified that the Wiltshire Core Strategy following the consultation exercise would be circulated to Parish Council's for consideration prior to its submission to the Inspectorate.

To address the concerns of the Committee the Chairman confirmed that invitations would be given to officers to provide a response on how the Salisbury Core Strategy and Wiltshire Core Strategy were to be amalgamated and the policies in place. The Chairman was also minded in November to invite a report which provided an overview of the results to emerge from the consultation exercise.

166. **Air Quality Strategy**

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection Services was in attendance to present a verbal update on the Air Quality Strategy ahead of its submission to Cabinet on 13 September 2011.

Clarification was provided that feedback received from previous Committee scrutiny had been fed into the revised strategy document. A copy of the revised strategy would be presented to the Committee at its next meeting in September for consideration.

The Cabinet Member requested that the Committee take into consideration several key points as follows:

- Air quality was an emotive issue and a complex and technical area. With this in mind the revised strategy would be simplified into distinct areas as follows:

- Part 1 - To outline in simple terms the complexities of Air Quality (in line with guidance from the DEFRA publication).
 - Part 2 – To provide more detailed technical.
 - Part 3 – To provide details of the proposed strategy itself.
 - Part 4 – Action Plan arising from the Air Quality Strategy.
- There was a desire to install a ‘traffic light’ system on the Council’s website that would allow monitoring of air quality figures across the County in real time. A pilot scheme was currently in place within Salisbury.
 - There would be budgetary implications in relation to the equipment required with monitoring stations equating to approximately £45k each with an additional cost of approximately £4k to update systems.

Whilst taking into consideration the information provided, the Cabinet Member requested that the Committee upon consideration of the Strategy also consider whether Part 4 of the Strategy document may be better placed as a separate document in its own right.

Ensuing discussion included that there was a need for behavioural change within the wider community including the use of vehicular transport through problematic areas where the Council had little or no control.

The Cabinet member recognised that the behaviour of residents across the county was also required to ensure better air quality but stressed the importance of a strategy to ensure the local authority was doing what it could to address the problem itself. Localised air quality plans would be developed following approval of the Strategy.

There were several ‘hot spot’ areas within Wiltshire that were recognised as having poor air quality, including Bradford-on-Avon, Devizes, Calne and Salisbury. Discussions continued with these local communities to find the most appropriate avenue to reduce the poor air quality.

Members recognised that a more joined up approach across the Council was required to continue to address poor air quality and this would be included within the revised strategy.

Members also questioned whether the air quality limit values for nitrogen dioxide issued by DEFRA were likely to impact on Wiltshire Council in the future. The Cabinet Member confirmed that further investigation in this area would be undertaken and findings reported back to the Committee accordingly.

The Committee discussed areas in which poor air quality could be reduced which included the use of park and ride initiatives. Evidence had shown that the

park and ride site within Salisbury had resulted in improved air quality within this area.

Upon taking the Committee's considerations into account, the Cabinet Member clarified that although Wiltshire Council had several hotspots of poor air quality around the County, air quality as a whole for Wiltshire was reasonable compared to many other areas across the country.

Resolved:

- 1) To thank the Cabinet member for his attendance.**
- 2) That the Committee would receive the revised Air Quality Strategy document at its meeting in September 2011; where it will also determine whether part 4 of the strategy may be better placed as an individual document of its own right.**

167. Waste Recycling and Collection Service

A report on the work taking place to deliver a single waste collection and recycling service cross Wiltshire was presented by the Cabinet member for Waste, Property, Environment and Development Control Services.

This followed a request made by the Committee at its meeting in March 2011 when a report on the proposed harmonisation of the service was presented.

The Service Director for Waste Management Services was also in attendance to answer any questions arising.

Clarification was provided that in relation to the MBT plant to be constructed on the Northacre Trading Estate in Wesbury a sod cutting exercise was to be undertaken within the next week ahead of the scheduled building works to commence in August 2011. It was expected that the plant would become operational in financial year 2013/14 as planned.

In relation to additional capacity required to accommodate the increased volume of both plastic and cardboard, Portmarsh Trading Estate in Calne would be used on a short term basis whilst planning permission was sought by Hills Waste for a longer term solution. Contingency plans were in place should permission not be achieved.

The awarding of the contract to Hills had taken into consideration the existing costs associated with differing service providers across the County at present. The service provisions in place with other authorities had also been researched to ensure value for money was achieved. A built in review of the contract would ensure that value for money remained applicable.

It was understood that residual waste from the existing MBT plant would continue to be exported overseas until the new MBT site was opened although the Cabinet Member was confident that Hills would ensure due process continued to be adhered to during this time.

In relation to the garden waste collection opt-in service being offered by the Council, approximately 20,000 applications had been received to date.

In relation to Household Recycling Centres and 'bring sites' currently in place, these would be reviewed once the revised collection service was underway to ensure that they were still being utilised by the public.

Although in principle members were positive of the new service provision across the County, concern was raised in relation to those properties (i.e. flats and terraced houses) where the use of wheelie bins may not be practical. Clarification was provided that in these circumstances residents were able to apply for the use of bags as a replacement and confirmed that communication of this fact would be addressed.

Resolved:

- 1) To thank the Cabinet member and officer for the update provided;**
- 2) That the Committee receives a further update on delivery of the Waste Transformation Programme to its November meeting.**

168. Delegation of Services to Town and Parish Councils

The Cabinet member for Highways and Transport was in attendance to present a report on the Delegation of Services to Town and Parish Councils. This item had been requested at the previous meeting of the Committee when it was resolved that an update would be requested on the programme in place with specific reference to public conveniences.

The officer responsible for delegated services was also in attendance to answer any questions arising.

The Cabinet member opened discussion by clarifying that several services had been delegated to Parish and Town Councils with other applications under consideration, details of which were provided within the report.

It was understood that several councils had been deterred from receiving delegated services as many did not have the facilities in place to address the statutory legislation obligations attached, such as TUPE arrangements and the control of litter regulations.

With specific note to public conveniences confirmation was provided that both Tisbury and Mere now had delegated responsibility of services with contracts being processed in relation to Salisbury.

Resolved:

To thank the Cabinet member and officer for their attendance and for the update provided.

169. **Procurement & Commissioning Task Group**

Members of the Committee noted the update provided with the agenda which confirmed that the Task Group had now been formed and that its first meeting was to be held on Thursday 28 July 2011.

170. **Project Board Update**

There were no updates available in relation to either the Housing Commissioning Board or the Gypsy and Traveller Project Board as neither had met since the Committees previous meeting.

However clarification was provided that Cllr John Thomson was now the appointed Chairman of the Housing Commission Board.

171. **Forward Work Programme**

The Forward Work Programme was noted and would be amended to reflect the inclusion of Waste Management where a further update would be provided in November 2011.

172. **Date of next Meeting**

6 September 2011 - Monkton Park, Chippenham.

173. **Urgent Items**

Cllr Alan Hill raised concern in relation to parking conditions for members of the Council.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.20 pm)

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