

AGENDA

Meeting: Environment Select Committee
Place: Committee Room III, County Hall, Trowbridge
Date: Tuesday 2 March 2010
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

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

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Membership:

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

Substitutes:

Cllr Chris Caswill	Cllr George Jeans
Cllr Peter Colmer	Cllr Julian Johnson
Cllr Nick Fogg	Cllr Howard Marshall
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 held on 12 January 2010.

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.

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. The Chairman will, however, exercise his discretion in order to ensure that members of the public have the opportunity to contribute.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question should give written notice (including details of any question) to the officer named above by **12:00 noon on Friday 26 February 2009**.

6. **Making Best Use of Existing Housing - Empty Private Sector Home** *(Pages 9 - 20)*

The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), published in December 2009, highlighted the way Wiltshire managed its affordable housing. Within its commentary the Audit Committee stated that "The Council is not making the most of the existing housing in the county" and "Few empty homes had been brought into use".

In response a report is attached from the Head of Private Housing which provides an overview of the measures that are being developed by the Council to encourage owners of empty homes to bring them back into use.

The Committee is asked to comment on the report and to consider any future role of scrutinising this area.

7. **Climate Change Update** *(Pages 21 - 36)*

A report is attached from the Service Director for Economy & Enterprise which provides an update to members on progress against climate change objectives and the resources available to deliver these objectives as requested following the report presented on 3 November 2009.

The Committee is invited to note and comment on:

- a) progress made against climate change objectives
- b) proposed work programme for 2010/11
- c) resources available to deliver against climate change objectives.

8. **Flood Risk Management** *(Pages 37 - 58)*

At its meeting on 11 September 2009 the committee considered the proposed arrangements for flood risk management for Wiltshire Council and updated on progress with regard to the Pitt Review recommendations.

The attached report from the Corporate Director for Transport, Environment & Leisure provides the current position with regard flooding risk management and response arrangements within Wiltshire.

The Committee is invited to note the report and comment as appropriate.

9. **Gypsy & Traveller Strategy - Progress Report** *(Pages 59 - 72)*

The Committee considered at its last meeting on 12 January 2010 a progress report from the Project Team responsible for developing the Gypsy and Traveller Strategy. A draft copy of the strategy is attached for consideration.

The Committee will also recall that Cllr Jose Green was appointed as a scrutiny representative on the board and will provide an update on her work in this role.

The Committee is asked to note the report and comment as appropriate In advance of the submission of the final strategy to Cabinet in April.

10. **Waste Strategy**

The recommendations to emerge following the recent review of Waste have been forwarded to the Cabinet member for response however, the Cabinet issued a press release on 16 February to defer the planned consultation into possible changes to Wiltshire's waste and recycling until after the General Election.

"The consultation was due to start shortly but it became clear that differing national policies emerging from Whitehall have caused confusion and uncertainty regarding future waste and recycling services. It would, therefore, not be appropriate to hold a consultation until the council has a clear steer on the national policy."

The Leader confirmed that in the meantime the waste and recycling services will continue to operate as currently provided.

11. **Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 73 - 74)*

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

12. **Date of next Meeting**

18 May 2010.

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