

ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2012 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 1ER.

Present:

Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Rosemary Brown, Cllr Trevor Carbin (Substitute), Cllr Nigel Carter, Cllr Peter Doyle, Cllr Jose Green, Cllr Alan Hill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Charles Howard, Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman) and Cllr Leo Randall

Also Present:

Cllr Richard Gamble

35 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian McLennan and Cllr Stephen Oldrieve and Cllr Chris Cochrane. Cllr Trevor Carbin substituted for Cllr Stephen Oldrieve.

36 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 November 2012 were approved and signed as a correct record.

37 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

38 **Chairman's Announcements**

No announcements were made.

39 **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

40 **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group - Interim Report**

The Chairman of the CIL Task Group, Cllr Tony Trotman, was in attendance to present an interim report on the work of the Group to date.

In presenting the report clarification was made that the Group had considered consultation documents prior to the first round of public consultation which commenced on 1 October 2012 and had sought the views of stakeholders on the implications of the CIL.

The Committee were drawn to the recommendations contained which requested that the work of the Task Group be put on hold until further clarification had been provided from central government, noting that the views of local authorities were currently being sought which could result in revisions to the guidance issued.

The Chairman thanked the Task Group members on behalf of the Committee for the hard work undertaken and upon vote all were in favour of the recommendation provided.

Resolved:

That the Committee agree to the work of the Task Group being held in abeyance until the latest guidance from Central Government on CIL is published.

41 **Community Teams**

Following agreement by the Committee on 1 November 2012 a request for expressions of interest was circulated for participation in a Rapid Scrutiny Exercise to consider the new Community Teams.

As no interest was received a report from the Head of Local Highways and Street Scene, Adrian Hampton, was presented for the Committee's consideration.

In presenting the report clarification was made that the formation of the Community Teams within the new Highways and Streetscene Contract would help to alleviate the duplication of work that currently existed and bring together generic officers to ensure robustness across the service.

Current trials had highlighted the benefits of the revised structure with officers working to community area priorities as set by Community Area Boards. Continued feedback between the new Co-ordinator post, the Community Area Transport Group (membership as set by the Area Boards) and Town and Parish Councils would provide a consistent line of communication and ensure the priorities of each area were addressed.

In highlighting the scope of services that could be identified as priorities within each area, it was noted that future provision would be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the service demands of the individual communities.

The Committee noted the report, thanked the officer for his attendance and resolved as follows:

Resolved:

- 1) **That the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee be requested to consider the impact on town and parish councils as a result of available resources; and**
- 2) **That the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee at the appropriate time be requested to consider the IT system being implemented to support the revised structure and how this would fit into other client facing systems.**

42 **Wind Farm Visit**

A number of members undertook a visit to the Westmill Community Wind Farm (WCWF) on 8 October 2012 following an invitation extended by Mark Luntley, Chair of the WCWF Cooperative.

A report, prepared by Cllr Chris Cochrane, providing information on the visit undertaken by the Group was included with the agenda.

Unfortunately none of the members who undertook the visit were in attendance to present the report or to answer questions arising.

Resolved:

To note the report.

43 **Street Light Saving - rapid scrutiny exercise**

A report on street light savings plans, arising from the rapid scrutiny exercise undertaken on 7 December 2012, was circulated as an agenda supplement on 14 December 2012 to allow members time to consider the report ahead of its submission to Cabinet on 18 December.

The lead member of the rapid scrutiny exercise, Cllr Nigel Carter, introduced the report and confirmed that a healthy debate was undertaken when the report had been presented to Cabinet and the recommendations duly considered.

Although a response had yet to be formally received from the Cabinet member to the recommendations of the rapid scrutiny exercise, it was noted that the recommendation proposed by the Task Group that option 4 (installation of LED lighting) be considered alongside option 3 was not favoured by Cabinet but that option 4 would be reviewed in 12 months.

In noting that the report had been circulated to all members ahead of the meeting to allow for comment prior to consideration by cabinet it was resolved as follows:

Resolved:

- 1) **To note the report; and**
- 2) **That the response from Cabinet to the recommendations of the Committee would be circulated once received.**

44 **Task Group Updates**

The Committee considered the updates as provided and the additional information as detailed below:

Low Carbon and Renewables rapid scrutiny exercise

In noting that only one expression of interest had been received, Cllr Nigel Carter agreed to meet with climate change officers and report back to the Committee thereafter. A further scoping meeting would, if required, take place thereafter if so agreed by the Committee.

Resolved:

The updates as provided were noted.

45 **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme and acknowledged that final reports from Task Groups and Rapid Scrutiny activity would need to be presented to the Committee ahead of elections to ensure business had been duly concluded where possible.

Resolved:

To note the Forward Work Programme.

46 **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 21 February 2013.

47 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items for consideration.

(Duration of meeting: 10:30 am – 12:25 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Sharon Smith, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718378, e-mail sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

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