

AGENDA

Meeting: Environment Select Committee

Place: Council Chamber - Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, SN15 1ER

Date: Tuesday 11 June 2013

Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kieran Elliott, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718504 or email kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Membership:

Cllr Rosemary Brown
Cllr Brian Dalton
Cllr Dennis Drewett
Cllr Peter Edge
Cllr Peter Evans
Cllr Jose Green
Cllr Mollie Groom

Cllr Alan Hill
Cllr Magnus Macdonald
Cllr Ian McLennan
Cllr Horace Prickett
Cllr James Sheppard
Cllr Bridget Wayman

Substitutes:

Cllr Terry Chivers
Cllr Tony Deane
Cllr Nick Fogg
Cllr George Jeans
Cllr Bob Jones MBE
Cllr Jacqui Lay

Cllr Christopher Newbury
Cllr Stephen Oldrieve
Cllr Jeff Osborn
Cllr Ian Tomes
Cllr Nick Watts
Cllr Ian West

AGENDA

1 Membership and Apologies

The Democratic Services Officer will open the meeting.

1) To note the membership of the Committee following Council on 14 May 2013.

2) To receive any apologies or substitutions for the meeting.

2 Election of Chairman

To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year.

3 Election of Vice-Chairman

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (*Pages 1 - 6*)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Environment Select Committee meeting held on **04 April 2013**.

5 Declarations of Interest

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

6 Chairman's Announcements

To receive any announcements through the Chair.

7 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 **no later than 5pm on Tuesday 04 June 2013**. 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.

8 **Legacy and Forward Work Programme** *(Pages 7 - 12)*

A report from the Senior Scrutiny Officer is attached reporting on the overview and scrutiny forward work programme as agreed by the O&S Management Committee at its meeting on 25 May 2013.

9 **Urgent Items**

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

10 **Date of Next Meeting**

To confirm the date of the next scheduled meeting as **27 August 2013**.

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ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2013 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 1ER.

Present:

Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Rosemary Brown, Cllr Nigel Carter, Cllr Christopher Cochrane, Cllr Jose Green, Cllr Alan Hill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Charles Howard, Cllr Jon Hubbard (Chairman), Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Stephen Oldrieve and Cllr Leo Randall

Also Present:

Cllr Toby Sturgis

48 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Peter Doyle.

49 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on **20 December 2012** were presented for consideration.

It was,

Resolved:

That subject to the inclusion of Councillor Chris Cochrane among the list of apologies, to APPROVE as a true and correct record and sign the minutes.

50 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

51 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following series of announcements:

- 1) Thanks - To thank the members of the Committee for their efforts over the past few years, and also to thank the officers who supported the Committee for their assistance.
- 2) Scrutiny Dates - To confirm that from the next meeting of the Committee, 11 June 2013, all Overview and Scrutiny Meetings would take place on Tuesdays unless otherwise stated.
- 3) Energy Efficient Homes - It was noted that the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise that had been requested with regards this item would not take place, as the guidance to be scrutinized had not been issued.
- 4) Low Carbon and Renewable energy - It was confirmed that owing to lack of expressions of interest from Members, the proposed Task Group had not taken place, and it was suggested an officer update be presented to the first meeting of the new Council's Environment Select Committee, and for them to determine any further action.

52 **Public Participation**

The Committee noted the rules on public participation.

There were no questions or statements submitted.

53 **Report of the Waste Task Group and Update**

On 30 August 2012, the Environment Select Committee established the Waste Task Group to consider the future options for the delivery of the waste services. This was endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management on 6 September 2012. The Committee had determined to receive a report from the Task Group to pass on recommendations to any future Environment Select Committee following the May 2013 Local Elections, as well an update from the Waste Service.

Councillor Alan Hill presented the report of the Waste Task Group to the Committee, stating that the Task Group had met on four occasions since inception, and thanked the Task Group members for their efforts.

Councillor Hill detailed the investigatory work of the Task Group regarding the forthcoming waste contract terminations in the next several years, and efforts to identify opportunities to scrutinize Waste Service delivery as this progressed, with officers keen for further Scrutiny involvement in what is a very publicly visible and popular service. Councillor Hill praised the leadership of officers in assisting the Task Group.

Councillor Hill stressed the recommendations of the Task Group to a future Committee were a potential selection of issues from which deeper scrutiny exercises could be conducted, should that Committee determine to do so.

The Service Director (Waste Management Services) and the Cabinet Member for Waste, Property, Environment and Development Control Services then updated the Committee on early preparations for future Waste contracts, including consultations with contractors, with business cases for options to be prepared for June 2013.

The Committee then debated the Task Group Report and update from the Service Director (Waste Management Services). Details were sought on increasing the range of plastics recycling, and it was stated that any increase would need to be financially viable. It was also confirmed that due to the phased rollout of the new Green Waste service, there was not currently 12 months of data to examine for the whole service. The Committee were informed officers were happy to report back regarding the commissioning process for the Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant in Westbury.

At the conclusion of debate,

Resolved:

That the Committee thank the Task Group for their report and make the following recommendations:

- 1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agree to the Environment Select Committee within the newly-elected Wiltshire Council establishing a Waste Task Group for 18 months to action the recommendations below.**
- 2) The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that the Waste Management Services team has sought and considered advice from independent advisors regarding waste management strategy; in particular, to review the performance of the current contractor in managing Wiltshire's waste and identifying potential improvement areas.**
- 3) The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that the Waste Management Services team has taken the proximity principle into account in the development of its waste strategy. The Task Group believes that the creation of the site at Porte Marsh Industrial Estate in Calne has demonstrated good practice in materials recycling, embracing the proximity principle, and forms a good template for similar facilities to be considered in other Wiltshire communities.**
- 4) The Council reviews its terminology to reflect the concept of waste being a resource.**
- 5) The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that the Council reflects the recent trend for shorter contracts in waste management, to ensure that the Council benefits more than under the current long-term contracts and to retain flexibility.**

- 6) **The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that no opportunities for the encouragement of green technology are lost.**
- 7) **The Task Group should consider the lines of enquiry identified in Appendix 1 of the report, along with others it may indentify, to ensure that it is fully informed in respect of the future delivery of the waste and recycling collection services.**

54 **Report of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group and Update**

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a proposed new charge that local authorities can choose to impose on development in their area. It will contribute towards bridging the funding gap between the total cost of infrastructure necessary to deliver new development and the amount of funding available from other sources.

Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team identified the introduction of CIL as one of its corporate priorities and were supported by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. The CIL Task Group was established by the Environment Select Committee, endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and held its inaugural meeting on 24 September 2012. The Committee had determined to receive a report from the Task Group to pass on recommendations to any future Environment Select Committee following the May 2013 Local Elections, as well an update from Development Services.

Councillor Tony Trotman introduced the report of the CIL Task Group, and thanked its members and the officers who supported its work. The Task Group met on five occasions, which involved the questioning of witnesses, including major and more minor developers. It was noted that national guidance on CIL had been altered, requiring the Task Group to be continually updated, with much additional work still needed as a result, and that any members with further comments should contact the Task Group should it be recreated by the future Environment Select Committee.

The Team Leader (Minerals and Waste Policy, Spatial Planning) then updated the Committee and confirmed a CIL item would be going before the Cabinet in June 2012.

A debate followed, where the extent of administration costs in implementing the CIL was discussed, along with implications of CIL on the aims of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and infrastructure plans. It was suggested by some that comparisons with similar authorities and their CIL implementation would be useful, and that Scrutiny would need to be kept informed of the information being taken to Cabinet.

At the conclusion of debate, it was,

Resolved:

In the light of evolving guidance and the requirement for further statutory consultation, that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agree to the Environment Select Committee, within the newly-elected Wiltshire Council, establishing a CIL Task Group to undertake further work considering possible new guidance coming forward, consultation results and other relevant evidence, and any information to be presented to Cabinet.

55 **Report of the Air Quality Joint Task Group**

The Environment Select Committee has held a longstanding interest in the development of the Council's Air Quality Strategy and considered drafts in the run up to its adoption in July 2010 and 2011 and November 2011. Wiltshire Council adopted its Air Quality Strategy in December 2011.

At its meeting on the 17 July 2012, it was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee that air quality should be a part of its forward work programme, and a Task Group reporting jointly to the Environment Select Committee and Health Select Committees was established in February 2013.

Councillor Alan Hill presented the report of the Air Quality Joint Task Group, thanking the members and assisting officers, explaining that it had met formally on two occasions to identify Scrutiny potential for a future Committee or Task Group to consider. The legislative framework regarding air quality was also noted, as well as the general high quality of air in Wiltshire.

A debate followed, where the equipment to monitor air quality assessment and their use across the county was discussed, and the scope of any future Task Group to monitor and scrutinise Air Quality was discussed. It was also suggested that the new council should be reminded that membership of Task Groups was open to all non-executive members

Resolved:

- 1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agree to the Environment Select Committee within the newly-elected Wiltshire Council establishing an Air Quality Joint Task Group with the Health Select Committee to action the recommendations below.**
- 2) Oversight of the monitoring regime and the equipment be undertaken to ensure it is fit for purpose.**

- 3) **The Task Group believes that, whilst Wiltshire Council is not legally obliged to achieve national air quality objectives, we are required to work towards the objectives by drawing up action plans setting out the measures we intend to take in pursuit of them. It is incumbent upon us as a responsible Authority to attempt to reduce the exceedances to below recommended levels.**
- 4) **That Air Quality Alliances review all the Council, school and business travel plans in their area.**

56 **Environment Select Committee Work Programme for O&S Management Approval**

The Committee discussed the proposed Work Programme for the Environment Select Committee. In addition to the three Task Group recommendations from Minutes 53-55, the Committee discussed other potential Scrutiny topics to be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for approval, including Lorry Watch schemes and Development Control.

After debate, it was,

Resolved:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agree to the Environment Select Committee, within the newly election Wiltshire Council, establishing a Task Group to look at issues around Development Control and timely delivery of adoptable estates.

57 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 11 June 2013.**

58 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

11 June 2013

Forward Work Programme

Purpose of report

1. To report on the overview and scrutiny work programme as agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee at its meeting on 23 May 2013.

Background

1. The current Environment Select Committee was formed following a review of the overview and scrutiny arrangements in May 2012, when it was agreed that the approach to the development of future work programmes should be as follows:
 - a) A single work programme to be developed, co-ordinated and controlled by the Management Committee;
 - b) The work programme to be developed in consultation with the Cabinet and Corporate Leadership Team/Extended Leadership Team, linked to the Business Plan (focusing on policy development and outcomes);
 - c) Each select committee to recommend content, subject to endorsement by the Management Committee;
 - d) The relevant chairman and vice-chairman to set agendas for their select committees based on the agreed work programme;
 - e) The committees should be mindful of the number of task groups running at any one time, matched to resources and councillor capacity.
2. Since then the Environment Select Committee has been responsible for the following topics in the work programme.
 - a) Air Quality
 - b) Review of Bus Services
 - c) Community Infrastructure Levy
 - d) Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Plans
 - e) Street Light Savings
 - f) Highways and Amenities Contract Update
 - g) Waste – future service delivery project
 - h) Energy Efficient Homes
 - i) ECO Team Development.
3. In the run up to Council elections in May 2013, the Management Committee asked that each of the select committees review their respective parts of the then current work programme and recommend ongoing pieces of work for

possible inclusion in the overview and scrutiny work programme of the new Council. The Environment Select Committee had been planning for this situation and by February 2013 it had completed much of its work. However, there were some topics that were being considered by task groups whose work would need to continue into the new Council; the position reached on each was reported on 4 April 2013. Each task group, in reporting to the Environment Select Committee, made a number of recommendations which are included in Appendix 1. Should members require more information on each task group the final reports can be viewed on the intranet.

4. The Environment Select Committee subsequently agreed to forward the following topics to the Management Committee for approval for inclusion in the forward work programme in the new Council as legacy items.
 - a) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
 - b) Waste – future service delivery
 - c) Air Quality (joint with the Health Select Committee)
 - d) Development Control and delivery of adoptable estates

Task Groups existed in respect of items a – c, item d was a new item on which work had yet to start.

Post elections

5. The new Management Committee, on 23 May 2013, agreed to the work programme proposed by the former Management Committee and that the select committees should be advised accordingly.
6. The Management Committee also agreed to consider topics for the work programme that had been raised at the O & S Induction Event held on 16 May. Topics raised that fall within the remit of this Committee are as follows:
 - Availability of affordable housing and allocation of social housing
 - The amount of green and recreational spaces, particularly sports pitches
 - The impact of large developments on infrastructure e.g. highways and ground drainage
 - Parking – charges in town centre car parks and lack of residential parking
 - Public transport in rural areas – cost to the Council and the public
 - Affordable transport for post-16 students and the elderly
 - Improving traffic-calming and the enforcement of speed limits
 - More consistency across the county in the setting of speed limits
 - Improving and maintaining roads and pavements
 - Improving dog-fouling enforcement, litter clearance and green space maintenance.

The Management Committee agreed that officers would undertake initial investigations into each of the topics raised and report back to the relevant committee for consideration for possible inclusion in the work programme.

7. Much of the work on topics on the work programme is undertaken by task groups. The Management Committee decided that, in respect of filling vacancies on task groups, it would re-appoint those members who remain councillors, subject to their wish to continue, and delegate the chairman and vice-chairman of the Environment Select Committee to fill vacancies as necessary. In support of this, the scrutiny team has been asked to canvass all non-executive councillors over their desire to be involved in the overview and scrutiny function and to establish their specific interests.
8. Memberships of the previous task groups are listed below:

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group

Cllr Tony Trotman

Cllr John Hubbard

Cllr Chris Humphries - no longer a member of the Council

Cllr George Jeans

Cllr Ian McLennan

Waste Task Group

Cllr Alan Hill

Cllr Rosemary Brown

Cllr Nigel Carter - no longer a member of the Council

Cllr Brian Dalton

Cllr Jose Green

Air Quality Task Group (joint with Health Select Committee)

Cllr Alan Hill

Cllr Rosemary Brown

Cllr Nigel Carter – no longer a member of the Council

Cllr Chris Cochrane – no longer a member of the Council

Cllr David Jenkins

Cllr Bill Roberts – no longer a member of the Council

Next steps

9. The Committee will have appointed its chairman and vice-chairman at today's meeting, which will provide leadership of the Committee and allow for informal discussion meetings to be arranged with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors in order to gain common understanding and support over priorities in the work programme, as directed by the Management Committee.
10. It is understood that a review of the Council's current Business Plan, which sets out its priorities and how those will be delivered, will be conducted in the near future. This will provide an opportunity for the Management Committee to review where it focuses its attention, which may have implications for the work of the Environment Select Committee.

Recommendations

11. To note the decision of the Management Committee to endorse the legacy topics and specifically those that are the responsibility of the Environment Select Committee as identified in paragraph 4;
 12. To appoint the memberships of the proposed task groups in line with the approach indicated in paragraph 7;
 13. Following initial investigations by officers, to consider the topics listed in paragraph 6 for inclusion in the work programme;
 14. To note that arrangements will now be made for early discussions between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with cabinet members, portfolio holders and service directors to gain a more informed understanding about Executive priorities, findings to be reported back to the Committee;
 15. To note the intention of the Council to review its Business Plan and the potential implications for Overview and Scrutiny's work programme
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Report author: Maggie McDonald, Senior Scrutiny Officer

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Appendix 1

Recommendations resolved from task groups made to the Environment Select Committee on 4 April 2013.

Waste Task Group

Resolved that the Committee thank the Task Group for their report and make the following recommendations:

- a) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agree to the Environment Select Committee within the newly-elected Wiltshire Council establishing a Waste Task Group for 18 months to action the recommendations below.
- b) The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that the Waste Management Services team has sought and considered advice from independent advisors regarding waste management strategy; in particular, to review the performance of the current contractor in managing Wiltshire's waste and identifying potential improvement areas.
- c) The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that the Waste Management Services team has taken the proximity principle into account in the development of its waste strategy. The Task Group believes that the creation of the site at Porte Marsh Industrial Estate in Calne has demonstrated good practice in materials recycling, embracing the proximity principle, and forms a good template for similar facilities to be considered in other Wiltshire communities.
- d) The Council reviews its terminology to reflect the concept of waste being a resource.
- e) The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that the Council reflects the recent trend for shorter contracts in waste management, to ensure that the Council benefits more than under the current long-term contracts and to retain flexibility.
- f) The Waste Task Group should seek assurance that no opportunities for the encouragement of green technology are lost.
- g) The Task Group should consider the lines of enquiry identified in Appendix 1 of the report, along with others it may identify, to ensure that it is fully informed in respect of the future delivery of the waste and recycling collection services.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group

Resolved that:

- a) In the light of evolving guidance and the requirement for further statutory consultation, the Environment Select Committee, within the newly-elected Wiltshire Council, should establish a CIL Task Group to undertake further work considering possible new guidance coming forward, consultation results and other relevant evidence, and any information to be presented to Cabinet.

Air Quality Task Group (joint with Health Select Committee)

Resolved:

- a) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agree to the Environment Select Committee within the newly-elected Wiltshire Council establishing an Air Quality Joint Task Group with the Health Select Committee to action the recommendations below.
- b) Oversight of the monitoring regime and the equipment be undertaken to ensure it is fit for purpose.
- c) The Task Group believes that, whilst Wiltshire Council is not legally obliged to achieve national air quality objectives, we are required to work towards the objectives by drawing up action plans setting out the measures we intend to take in pursuit of them. It is incumbent upon us as a responsible Authority to attempt to reduce the exceedances to below recommended levels.
- d) That Air Quality Alliances review all the Council, school and business travel plans in their area.