

AGENDA

Meeting: Environment Select Committee
Place: Kennet Room - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN
Date: Tuesday 18 February 2014
Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Eleanor Slack, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718255 or email eleanor.slack@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

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Membership:

Cllr Rosemary Brown	Cllr Alan Hill (Chairman)
Cllr Brian Dalton	Cllr Magnus Macdonald
Cllr Dennis Drewett	Cllr Ian McLennan
Cllr Peter Edge (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Horace Prickett
Cllr Peter Evans	Cllr James Sheppard
Cllr Jose Green	Cllr Bridget Wayman
Cllr Mollie Groom	

Substitutes:

Cllr Terry Chivers	Cllr Stephen Oldrieve
Cllr Tony Deane	Cllr Jeff Osborn
Cllr Nick Fogg	Cllr Ian Tomes
Cllr George Jeans	Cllr Nick Watts
Cllr Bob Jones MBE	Cllr Ian West
Cllr Jacqui Lay	Cllr Philip Whalley
Cllr Christopher Newbury	

AGENDA

PART I

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

1 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies or substitutions for the meeting.

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

To approve and sign the minutes of the Environment Select Committee meeting held on 10 December 2013.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

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

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements through the Chair.

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 no later than **5pm on Tuesday 11 February 2014**. 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 Final Report of the joint Air Quality Task Group (Pages 9 - 16)

The Air Quality Task Group was established in September 2012 as a joint task group reporting to both the Environment and Health Select Committees. The Task Group presented its final report to the Health Select Committee at its meeting on 14 January 2014, which endorsed the recommendations in the final report of the Air Quality Task Group.

Cllr Peter Evans, Chairman of the Air Quality Task Group will present the final report of the Task Group.

The Committee is asked to consider the recommendations of the joint Air Quality Task Group.

Recommendations:

- 1) The 'template' created by the Calne Area Board to stage their Environment Event should be made available to other interested Area Boards.
- 2) A mechanism/process should be developed to allow Area Boards to share examples of good practice/templates for other successful activities;
- 3) Having completed its work, the Task Groups stands down.

7 Update on Highways and Streetscene Contract (BBLP) rapid scrutiny (Pages 17 - 26)

At its meeting on 5 November 2013, the O & S Management Committee agreed to a number of actions in respect of the Highways and Streetscene Contract (BBLP) following a request for its consideration by Councillor Jeff Osborn. They were that:

- 1) A Rapid Scrutiny Exercise would be conducted on the content of the report (from the Cabinet member) to enable greater clarity on the concerns raised.
- 2) A progress report would be presented to the Environment Select Committee after the winter, addressing operational performance.
- 3) Environment Select Committee to conduct a full scrutiny exercise in June 2014 after the first full operational year of the contract.

The Rapid Scrutiny Group referred to in 1) above met on 10 December 2013 and presented its report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee at its meeting on 7 January 2014 (*pages 17 - 26*). It was agreed that the rapid Scrutiny Group should meet again to follow up two elements on which it required further

reassurance and present its second report to the Environment Select Committee.

It was also agreed that the second report would be presented to the Committee at the same time as the progress report from the service on operational performance over the winter period referred to in 2) above. It is anticipated that this will be at the April meeting of the Committee.

The Committee is asked to note the update.

8 Response to Waste Task Group

The Cabinet received the report of the Waste Task Group at their meeting on 21 November 2013. The Task Group had scrutinised:

- the high level service specification for the new waste contracts;
- the criteria to be used to develop the quality element of the tender evaluation models;
- the proposed re-modelling of waste collection and recycling rounds.

Throughout the course of their meetings the Waste Task Group had worked constructively with officers responsible for the service and provided them with a copy of their final report. The Task Group was pleased to note that their report had been taken into account in the drafting of the Executive report presented to Cabinet.

In particular the report supported the views of the Task Group that the Council should derive greater financial benefit from the sale of recyclable materials collected.

The report also supported the view of the Task Group that the Council should also benefit from any unforeseen additional revenue when considered with a contractual mechanism for sharing such income.

The Waste Task Group believed that the proximity principle should be referred to wherever relevant and consequently the contract specification should not just focus on existing sites but that additional sites should be sought. The report made clear that was no requirement for individual authorities to be self sufficient in terms of waste infrastructure and transporting waste to existing infrastructure to deliver the best environmental solution should not be considered a barrier. It stated that any proposals for new sites would be evaluated on their merits, including the cost of their development.

The Task Group considered the appropriate price/quality ratio for each of the five contract lots. The ratios proposed by the Task Group placed a high emphasis on the quality evaluation of submitted tenders, which reflected the Council's approach to delivering services. The Executive report placed a higher weighting on price. It was mindful of the Government's reduction in funding from central Government over the next four years the service pressures and inflation costs of all Council services over the same period and believed that it could retain a high

quality service by specifying its requirements in the new contracts.

The Committee is asked to note the response.

9 **Response to CIL Task Group**

Cllr Tony Trotman, chairman of the CIL Task Group, presented the final report of the CIL Task Group at the Cabinet meeting of 17 December 2013.

The Task Group recommended that the Council should adopt several rates on their charging schedule for CIL, based on the viability of those rates within specific settlement categories. They also advised that student housing should be included in the residential rates as it was considered a lucrative market and could withstand the higher charges.

The Task Group agreed that strategic sites contributed significantly to on-site infrastructure, schools and strategic transport through section 106, and so considered that these sites should be charged at 50% of residential sites.

The original Executive Report to Cabinet had recommended a single, flat rate of CIL for residential properties. It was welcomed that a split rate was now being recommended, although it did not go as far as the Task Group had recommended. Rapidly changing CIL legislation had impacted on the work of officers and the Task Group throughout this exercise.

Although the Task Group had completed its work in relation to its remit, the Cabinet member welcomed the continuation of the CIL Task Group in the light of recent legislation and emerging Government guidance.

The Committee is asked to note the response and the continuation of the CIL Task Group, as agreed at its last meeting, pending the latest Government guidance.

10 **Forward Work Programme (Pages 27 - 28)**

To note and receive updates on the progress of items on the forward work programme.

Under the revised Overview and Scrutiny (OS) arrangements there is now a single OS work programme controlled by the OS Management Committee, linked to priorities in the Business Plan.

Therefore it should be noted that, whilst any matters added by Members are welcome, they will be referred to the OS Management Committee for approval before formal inclusion in the work programme for the Environment Select Committee.

A copy of the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme for the

Environment Select Committee is attached for reference.

'Investing in Highways'

As agreed at the last meeting of the Committee, Cllr Alan Hill and Cllr Peter Edge met with Cllr John Thomson, Cabinet member for Highways and Streetscene and broadband, to consider the focus of scrutiny involvement following the presentation of the 'Investing in Highways' report.

Cabinet have agreed to increase investment in highways to £21 for 6 years and also to involve the Area Boards in helping to set local priorities for roads to be treated. The mechanism for the involvement of area boards and allocation of funds has yet to be developed and it was suggested that scrutiny could review these processes. Cllr Thomson has welcomed this suggestion and it was agreed that he will alert the Committee when work on the involvement of area boards begins to enable its review.

11 Task Group Update

To receive further updates on Environment Select Committee Task Group activity.

12 Urgent Items

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

13 Date of Next Meeting

To confirm the date of the next scheduled meeting as 15 April 2014, Kennet Room, County Hall.