

AGENDA

Meeting: Environment Select Committee
Place: Kennet Room - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN
Date: Tuesday 2 September 2014
Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Libby Beale, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718214 or email elizabeth.beale@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

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Membership:

Cllr Brian Dalton
Cllr Dennis Drewett
Cllr Peter Edge (Chairman)
Cllr Peter Evans
Cllr Jose Green
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Magnus Macdonald

Cllr Ian McLennan
Cllr Christopher Newbury
Cllr Linda Packard
Cllr James Sheppard
Cllr Tony Trotman
Cllr Bridget Wayman (Vice-Chairman)

Substitutes:

Cllr Rosemary Brown
Cllr Liz Bryant
Cllr Trevor Carbin
Cllr Terry Chivers
Cllr Tony Deane
Cllr Nick Fogg MBE
Cllr Mike Hewitt

Cllr George Jeans
Cllr Bob Jones MBE
Cllr Jeff Osborn
Cllr Ricky Rogers
Cllr Ian Tomes
Cllr Ian West
Cllr Philip Whalley

AGENDA

PART I

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

1 **Apologies and Membership Changes**

To receive any apologies or substitutions for the meeting and any membership changes.

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

To approve and sign the minutes of the Environment Select Committee meeting held on 10 June 2014.

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 26 August**. 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 Highways and Streetscene Contract BBLP - Report on Annual Performance
(Pages 7 - 22)

At the meeting of the Committee in April 2014, it was agreed that the Highways and Streetscene Rapid Scrutiny group should form a Task Group to undertake a review into the performance of the first full year of operation of the Highways and Streetscene Contract.

Prior to the end of the first year's operation, a number of issues were raised in relation to the grass cutting element of the contract. Whilst it was agreed that a meeting would be useful to address these issues, due to time constraints, it was not possible for this to be organised. Subsequently, it was agreed that the issues around grass cutting would be raised within the meeting to review the first year's performance of the Highways and Streetscene contract.

The report of the Highways and Streetscene Task Group addresses both the review of annual performance and the issues around grass cutting. The report is presented by the Chairman of the Task Group, Cllr Jeff Osborn.

The Committee is asked to endorse the recommendations in paragraphs 31 to 35 and refer the report to the relevant Cabinet members for response.

7 Climate Local Initiative Briefing *(Pages 23 - 48)*

At its meeting on 16 September, Cabinet will be recommended to sign up to Climate Local and publish the action plan on the Council's website.

In advance of Cabinet, the Committee will receive a briefing from Ariane Crampton, Head of Service – Account Management, and Clare Langdon, Green Economy Manager, on the Climate Local Initiative and an update on the Council's activity on climate change.

The Committee is asked to note the report.

8 Wiltshire Council Post Incident Report - Learning from the Emergency Response to Flooding *(Pages 49 - 70)*

The Flood Plan, which the Committee has a duty to scrutinise, sets out Wiltshire Council's flood management arrangements and takes into account the Council's responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Reservoirs Act 1975. It details the coordinated response that would be required from Wiltshire Council in the event of severe flooding in the County.

In April the Committee was updated on progress of the comprehensive review of

the Flood Plan. The Committee supported and noted the update, it was agreed that the Committee would receive the findings of a review carried out in light of this year's extreme weather period.

The Committee now receives the Council's response to the unprecedented flood events that took place between December 2013 and March 2014, following a comprehensive and systematic review of the county's response to these events. This report informs the overall review of the Flood Plan on the emergency planning aspects of dealing with flooding during and after the event. The review of the Flood Plan is still underway and will be made available to the Committee on completion.

Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding, will be present to respond to any questions the Committee may have.

The Committee is asked to:

Consider the report and its actions to reduce flood risk and support plans for improving the Council's ability to respond to future emergencies.

9 **Forward Work Programme** (Pages 71 - 72)

To note and receive updates on the progress of items on the Forward Work Programme.

A relevant extract from the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme is attached for reference.

Meetings with the Executive

A round of meetings are currently being held (based on those held following the Council election in 2013) between the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Select Committees and the relevant Cabinet members, Portfolio-holders and Associate Directors to review and develop Overview and Scrutiny's Work Programme aligned to the Council's Business Plan. As before, a focus on outcomes and invitations to develop policy with use of single-topic, time-limited Task Groups should feature significantly adding value to Council decision-making.

A meeting between the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr de Rhé-Philippe has been arranged and will be reported. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will meet with Cllrs Sturgis and Thomson on 2 September and 9 September respectively.

Major Contracts

At its meeting in March 2014 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agreed to leave it to each Select Committee to determine if they felt specific contracts required scrutiny. The Committee already scrutinises two of the largest contracts that fall within the remit of the Committee, Hills Waste Solutions and Balfour Beatty Infrastructure.

A list of the 50 largest contracts has been reviewed and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman do not consider that any others require the Committee's attention at this time. They propose that the major contracts list should be reviewed annually.

Investing in Highways

The Committee had intended to undertake a piece of work on this topic, however, it has been agreed that it has been overtaken by events. The Committee is asked to endorse removal of this item from the Forward Work Programme.

10 **Task Group Update** (*Pages 73 - 74*)

Written updates on Environment Select Committee Task Group activity are attached.

11 **Urgent Items**

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

12 **Date of Next Meeting**

To confirm the date of the next scheduled meeting as 28 October.