

ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2017 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Sarah Gibson, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Nick Murry, Cllr Steve Oldrieve, Cllr Sue Evans (Substitute), Cllr Jose Green (Substitute) and Cllr Mollie Groom (Substitute)

Also Present:

Cllr Alan Hill and Cllr Philip Whitehead

16 **Election of Chairman**

The meeting was introduced by Edmund Blick- Democratic Services Officer, who called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Cllr Matthew Dean was proposed by Cllr Peter Evans, which was seconded by Cllr Sue Evans. There were no further nominations.

Resolved:

Cllr Matthew Dean elected as Chairman by unanimous vote.

17 **Election of a Vice-Chairman**

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their support in his election and he called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

Cllr Bob Jones MBE was proposed by Cllr Stephen Oldrieve, which was seconded by Cllr Nick Murray. There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

Cllr Bob Jones elected as Vice- Chairman by unanimous vote.

18 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from; Cllr Peter Fuller who was substituted by Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Tony Jackson who was substituted by Cllr Jose Green and Cllr Derek Brown who was substituted by Cllr Mollie Groom.

19 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2017 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

20 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

21 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced that Agenda Item 9 - Procurement of Housing Repairs & Maintenance Service, had been deferred, as it was no longer being discussed by Cabinet on Tuesday 20 June 2017. The Chairman signalled that this item would return to the Committee, prior to its consideration at Cabinet.

It was also announced that Agenda Item 11 - Forward Work Plan and the Agenda Supplement - Notice of Motion: Single-use Plastics, would be moved forward in the agenda, so that the appropriate Senior Officers could be present.

22 **Public Participation**

There were no public questions or speakers.

23 **Forward Work Programme**

The Chairman introduced the Forward Work Programme, explaining that it contained the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee under the last Council. These recommendations were formed following a "legacy process", which included a councillor workshop event in January, 'end of term' style reports to the select committees in the Spring, and, finally discussion and agreement by Management Committee at its final meeting on 28th March.

Attention was also drawn to the Municipal Waste Management Strategy listed on page 28 of the agenda pack. The Chairman raised the proposition of the Waste Management Team, that they would like to arrange a seminar, to which all Members would be invited, to help inform a wider consultation with the public.

A verbal update was given by Tracy Carter- Associate Director for Waste and Environment, who explained that the purpose of the seminar would be to notify members of the current service and ask a series of questions; the responses to which would help to inform a wider consultation through area boards and direct with residents.

Several Members expressed the view that it was important that the Scrutiny Committee was involved throughout the process, and that scrutiny should look at the implementation of existing contracts, along with future arrangements.

Tracy Carter, assured Members that the process would be open and transparent and that there would be an opportunity for the proposed strategy to be scrutinised at all levels.

The Chairman also drew attention to an amendment made by the Management Committee in regards to the 'planning' item, where it was felt this was a governance issue within their remit, rather than that of the Environment Select Committee.

The Chairman explained that the proposal was to support the establishment of a task group, headed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, to review the council's planning committee system, of which Environment Select Committee Members would be invited, with the Chairman and Vice-chairman authorised to bring detailed proposals back to a future meeting.

The point was raised that there could be an opportunity for scrutiny involvement in regard to outcomes and delivery around the planning process. In the debate that followed, it was confirmed that there was a distinction between the issues relating to 'planning process'; such as the administrative procedures (which would be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee task group), and the issues of outcomes and delivery; such as poor planning and provision of infrastructure, to accommodate large numbers of new homes. Members expressed a willingness to approve the proposals in regards to the Management Committee's 'planning process' task group, but they voiced an interest in addressing the other substantive issue in 'planning outcomes and delivery'.

Resolved:

- 1. To support the arrangement of a seminar, to inform all Members of the work of the Waste Management Service and allow them to ask questions and make proposals for a new strategy, prior to a wider public consultation.**
- 2. To:**
 - a. Support Management Committee's establishment of the Planning Committee System Task Group on 6 June 2017, with its Chairman and Vice-chairman authorised to take this work forward.**
 - b. Note that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Environment Select Committee, plus other interested Members, will be invited to contribute to discussions of the Task Group's scope.**
- 3. That authority be delegated to the Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as Cllrs Lay and Murray, to liaise with relevant officers in regards to issues with 'Planning Outcomes and Delivery', to consider options and then to bring these recommendations back to Committee for approval.**

24 **Notice of Motion: Single-use Plastics**

The Chairman introduced this Supplementary Item, which asked Members to review the Notice of Motion and decide whether input from scrutiny could be beneficial.

Tracy Carter - Associate Director for Waste and Environment gave a brief overview as to the Council's current approach to recycling plastics and some of the options that were being considered.

Members spoke about the issue of single use plastics being a global issue, as opposed to a local one. Councillors were clear in offering their approval to an improved strategy in this area, but were keen to have the opportunity of considering all the relevant information, prior to passing judgement.

The Chairman explained that the options available to the Committee regarding scrutinising this item were as follows:

- A report at the next meeting of the Committee
- A rapid scrutiny exercise
- Await the outcome of the Waste Management Team's seminar before considering the best approach for scrutiny

Resolved:

The Committee resolved to await the Councillors' seminar on the Waste Management Strategy before considering scrutiny of waste plastics management and to ask the service to include a question on single use plastic at the seminar to inform the development of proposals.

25 **Wiltshire Council's Resident Engagement Strategy**

The Chairman introduced the Item, explaining that it was an update report on the progress of Wiltshire Council's Resident Engagement Strategy and its outcome, it having been agreed during 6 June 2016 meeting to provide a further update to Committee after 12 months.

James Cawley - Associate Director Adult Care Commissioning & Housing provided an update, stating that no decisions had yet been made and that all options were still on the table. He referred Members to the details of the report. He explained that the strategy would be brought to the Committee for approval, once it had been formulated.

Cllr Chuck Berry - Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Housing was present and gave his support to the representations made by James Cawley.

Members were asked to note the update report.

Resolved:

To note the update on the Wiltshire Resident Engagement Strategy.

26 **Procurement of Housing Repairs & Maintenance Service**

As mentioned in the Chairman's Announcements, this item was deferred.

Resolved:

For the Committee to note that this item will come to a future meeting of the Environment Select Committee, prior to consideration at a future Cabinet meeting.

27 **Re-commissioning of Housing Service Support Contracts Rapid Scrutiny Final Report**

The Chairman introduced the report and invited James Cawley - Associate Director of Adult Care Commissioning & Housing to provide additional comments.

Cllr Bridget Wayman - Lead Member for the rapid scrutiny exercise and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste also spoke in regards to the Final Report.

A question was asked as to the potential role of Environment Select Committee in monitoring the on-going work of the Housing Service Support Contracts, in addition to the work already done under the rapid scrutiny project. It was discussed that whilst the role of the Committee was primarily in scrutiny, there could be some scope for future monitoring.

Members also asked questions regarding the likely implementation of the 7 recommendations listed in the report proposals. James Cawley - Associate Director of Adult Care Commissioning and Housing, confirmed that there was no objection to any of the proposals and the Housing Team would look at implementing them all.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee approved the recommendations of the Rapid Scrutiny Report.

Resolved:

That Wiltshire Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Housing note the following recommendations when considering the development of the re-commissioning of Housing Service Support contracts:

- 1. To implement a system of monitoring and management of housing related support contracts.**
- 2. To investigate offering contractors suitable incentives to move people on from the Housing Service Support process once they are ready.**
- 3. To regularly review resource demands on the service to ensure that the service is meeting up-to-date needs and reacting to any changes in demand.**
- 4. To retain the current high-level offender locations in Wiltshire.**

5. To recommission high-risk offender services separately to other support services.
6. To reduce the amount of temporary accommodation with support attached from 44 units to 38.
7. To recommission the domestic abuse services together with public health outreach services.

Also, that the Environment Select Committee:

1. Continues scrutiny engagement in some form with the recommission of the Housing Service Support contracts process up to 1st April 2018.

28 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

29 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was set as Tuesday 19 September 2017.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 - 11.40 am)

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