

ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2018 AT KENNET COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Derek Brown OBE, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Peter Fuller, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Nick Murry and Cllr Steve Oldrieve

Also Present:

Cllr Brian Mathew, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Atiqul Hoque, Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Horace Prickett and Cllr Bridget Wayman and Dr Carlton Brand.

1 **Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

2 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved:

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2017.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

5 **Public Participation**

The Chairman drew attention to the public questions which were available in the agenda supplement and advised he would allow 15 minutes for questions.

It was noted that some questions required a verbal response due to them not being submitted in time for a written response, the following answers were provided by the Director of Waste and Environment:

- The council manages waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy where it is technically, economically and environmentally practicable to do so. The range of materials which the council collects at the kerbside for recycling will extend from 30 July 2018 to include plastic pots, tubs and trays and food and drink cartons. However, manufacturers and producers of goods and packaging continue to use materials which cannot be recycled. Residents continue to purchase such goods and packaging and put them out for collection as residual waste which the council has a duty to collect and dispose of. To avoid disposing of such waste to landfill the council will continue to deliver these materials to the Lakeside energy from waste plant or to the mechanical biological treatment plant at Westbury where it is used to produce solid recovered fuel. In accordance with the waste hierarchy it is better to recover value in the form of energy than to landfill this non-recycled waste. In response to a question on energy from waste, 75% of respondents strongly agreed or tended to agree with the council building an energy from waste plant in Wiltshire if it would be financially beneficial.
- To obtain more information on how residents would like the council to communicate with them about recycling, the following question was included in the Waste and Recycling Survey.
 Q5. Which form of communication would most encourage you to recycle more at home? (Up to two options could be chosen).
 The most popular options were firstly 'stickers on the bin specifying what can and can't go into them' and secondly 'an information leaflet posted to all households'. These are the two most expensive options of those listed. The council will take these responses into consideration but has to do so in the context of the budget available for communication.
- Another question which is of relevance to this subject is set out below.
 Q23. Would you be interested in becoming a local recycling or composting champion?
 Over 10% of respondents said yes, which means there may be 398 residents who would be prepared to communicate with residents in their locality. The council should contact these potential volunteers to identify how they could best distribute information to the public.
- The full response to Q5 is set out below.
 More information available on the council's website- 555
 Regular emails from the council's waste and recycling team with recycling information and updates- 693
 Social media updates from Wiltshire Council regarding recycling information and facts- 451
 Stickers on the bin specifying what can and can't go into them- 1883
 An information leaflet posted to all households- 1265
 None of these I recycle all I can anyway- 1168

Supplementary questions were invited in response to which the Director for Waste and Environment explained the impact of incineration of waste was compared against landfill in the waste hierarchy as landfill was a lower option

and created more greenhouse gases. It was confirmed CO2 emissions of transporting waste were factored into environmental assessments and incineration was primarily a method of waste treatment rather than energy generation. The Director also advised the Council promoted more expensive compost bins for treatment of food waste because they allowed all food waste to be treated. Anaerobic Digestion plants were considered by the Council to be more efficient when used for commercial waste as this generally had lower contamination than food waste collected from households.

Mr Chris Walford made a statement urging engagement between local councils and central government on waste management issues.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending to speak and ask questions.

6 Wiltshire Council Waste Management Strategy

A report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste which provided an initial overview of the results of a public consultation on the Council's proposed Waste Management Strategy. Response rates had been about 4,000 and had included detailed comments. The key themes in the public responses were as follows:

- Households wanted the Council to help reduce unnecessary waste
- Some households would travel further to Household Recycling Centres if they had a re-use option
- Residents wanted to recycle more and would welcome further information
- Residents supported generating energy from waste.

Tracy Carter, Director for Waste and Environment advised she would bring the Draft Waste Management Strategy to the March meeting of Committee, this report would also consider the implications for waste management of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

The Committee was pleased with the engagement of residents in the public consultation, however was divided on the benefit of incineration of household waste. Other comments included that HRC's offering re-use facilities would be welcome however should be an option in every location. Members considered that the council could change the culture on recycling by improving communication and information on how to recycle. Councillors noted the issues around managing food waste however suggested more information about the benefits of different means of food waste management would be a useful addition to future reports.

The Committee agreed the Council had a duty to consider the long-term implications of waste management and encouraged the service to consider how to engage with residents, particularly school age children about recycling and food waste. Members also encouraged officers to consider the offer from

residents to become Waste Champions and suggested these champions could be used to communicate key messages to the wider community.

Resolved:

To accept the revised timetable for the consideration of a Draft Waste Management Strategy.

To note the overview of the results of the Wiltshire Council Waste and Recycling survey 2017, the key themes emerging and initial proposals of how these will be used to inform and develop a draft strategy.

7 **Amendments to the Wiltshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026 - Car Parking Strategy**

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste presented a report with the outcomes of the public consultation on the Council's Car Parking Strategy.

Members suggested some of the questions in the survey had been leading and questioned why options suggested by respondents hadn't been taken forward. In response the Head of Local Highways advised all suggestions had been thoroughly considered, however upon investigation were not cost effective and did not work alongside traffic movements as part of the wider strategy. The Committee expressed support for cashless parking, the Cabinet Member was also supportive of this however explained it was a significant cost to install. Other comments from the Committee included that policies on Resident Parking Zones should be considered in the strategy, and that responses to the survey may have been higher if it had indicated price rises. The impact of the proposals on individual car parks was also discussed.

Resolved:

To note the contents of the report and agrees that members continue to make individual representations to the Cabinet Member, in order to continue to help influence the Cabinet report.

8 **Local Provision on Public Transport - Rail**

The Committee considered the local provision of public transport, with particular reference to rail travel. Officers advised rail provision was currently invested around the largest settlements and busiest commuter routes. The South West network was investing in routes near London and quicker routes through Salisbury and into Devon. In response to questions it was heard that potential station sites should be considered as part of the Core Strategy and that, whilst securing station locations was important, ensuring an operator would stop there was as a challenge as increased stops would increase commuting times. In response to a request, officers advised they would be responding to a survey on working with rail franchises.

The Cabinet member advised she would investigate the possibility of a pedestrian link from Salisbury Station to the Maltings development. Officers acknowledged issues at Tisbury station and advised there were meetings arranged to discuss this imminently, likewise they were in discussions for increased train capacity around Westbury and Bath.

Resolved:

That:

- (i) The Committee supports the content of the report.**
- (ii) The Committee endorses the interim strategy, while awaiting the outcome of the SWLEP-sponsored work**
- (iii) The Committee requests that the final strategy return to ESC in due course**

9 Highways and Streetscene Task Group - Executive Response

A report presented the response of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste to the Final Report of the Highways and Street Scene Task Group. It was noted all of the recommendations had been accepted by the Cabinet Member, who advised she would report back on the matter annually.

Resolved:

To note the executive response to the Final Report of the Highways and Street Scene Task Group.

To note the development of the public satisfaction KPIs for street scene will be part of the Highways annual report.

10 Updates from task groups and representatives on programme boards

In November 2017 it had been agreed to establish a Waste Task Group, and proposed Terms of Reference were attached to the agenda. The Chairman thanked councillors for expressing their interest in joining this task group and advised any councillors that had not been selected were welcome to attend in an observer capacity.

Resolved:

That the Environment Select Committee endorse:

- i) The membership of the task group, as listed in the report**
- ii) The Terms of Reference for the task group, as listed in the report**
- iii) That Cllr Oldrieve be listed as an 'observer' and not a reserve member, as listed in the report.**

11 Forward Work Programme

The Senior Scrutiny Officer introduced the Committee's Forward Plan, highlighting there were many items to be considered and therefore the work

would be prioritised. It was noted that a response from the Head of Spatial Planning on the local plan and carbon emissions was to be circulated to members, Cllr Oldrieve requested this matter be further considered at the next meeting.

Members suggested it would also be appropriate for the Committee to consider the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and implications for the Council. The Committee also questioned the status of the Council's Eco Strategy, it was noted there was now not a specific service dedicated to this and that each service was responsible for considering the environmental implications of their service decisions. Officers advised a position statement summarising activity could be brought to the next meeting.

Resolved:

To request a position statement on the Council's Eco Strategy be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

To request an item on the Government's 25 year Environment Plan be provided to a future meeting of the Committee; this would sit with the 'Emissions' item

That the Forward Work Plan be updated to reflect the changes detailed above.

12 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

13 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was to be held on 13 March 2018 at 10:30am.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 1.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Libby Johnstone of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718214, e-mail libby.johnstone@wiltshire.gov.uk

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