

Environment & Regeneration Select Committee

A meeting of Environment & Regeneration Select Committee was held on Tuesday, 22nd August, 2006.

Present: Cllr Mrs J Beaumont(Chairman), Cllr J A Fletcher, Cllr C Leckonby, Cllr W Noble, Cllr Mrs A Norton, Cllr Mrs B Robinson, Cllr M Smith.

Officers: P K Bell, S Connolly, P J Mennear(LD); T Andrew, A Briggs, B Buckley(DNS).

Also in attendance: No other persons present.

Apologies: Cllr Cains, Cllr Larkin, Cllr Salt, Cllr Teasdale, Cllr Walmsley and Cllr Woodhead.

453 Draft minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2006.

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2006 were given consideration.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be forwarded to Council for consideration.

454 Review of Street Lighting - To take evidence from the following witness:- John Angus (Stockton on Tees Borough Council - Development and Regeneration).

Members were provided with a report which detailed Middlesbrough Council's street lighting delivery. The report covered the following main areas:-

1. Background/History of Middlesbrough Council's Contract
2. Planned maintenance
3. Age of columns
4. Capital Funding
5. Performance Figures

Members were then given the opportunity to compare the figures with Stockton on Tees Borough Council's figures. As some of the figures from Stockton on Tees Borough Council were not available at the meeting Members requested that all the comparison figures be made available to Members of the Committee.

Members were informed that with regard to some of the performance figures for David Webster Ltd they had had a huge problem with a sub station in North Yorkshire which had taken up some of their resources from the Stockton area. Officers also indicated that Middlesbrough Council were not given any more priority than Stockton on Tees Borough Council.

Members were also informed that NEDL had staffing issues which were affecting performance figures.

Members also requested that Officers meet with Middlesbrough Council Officers to discuss the £2.5 Million Middlesbrough Council had reportedly spent on street lighting.

Mr A Briggs (Development and Regeneration) was in attendance at the meeting and provided Members with a report on sourcing and external funding for street

lighting. The report covered the following main areas:-

1. Previous Projects
2. Possible Future Funding

In conclusion the report outlined that if any external funding was to be considered for street lighting improvements any application would clearly have to demonstrate additionality or innovative methods to improve energy efficiency.

There was no guarantee that funding programmes would be available for these projects or that an application would be successful.

Members requested Officers look into the possibility of putting something into Section 106 Agreements that would secure funding for street lighting.

Also Members requested Officers investigate the situation and building works that had taken place at Hardwick and how the new columns were funded.

The issue of prudential borrowing was also discussed and Members felt that Officers should investigate if any other Local Authorities were using this option.

CONCLUDED that the evidence received from Officers be noted.