

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 17th May, 2010.

Present: Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Chair); Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Womphrey

Officers: R McGuckin (DNS); G Birtle, Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: No other person's were present

Apologies: Cllr Mick Stoker

ENV 1/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

ENV 2/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2010

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2010.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2010 be agreed as a correct record and forwarded to Council.

ENV 3/10 EIT Review of Built and Natural Environment

The Acting Head of Technical Services presented the possible scope of the review based on the Built and Natural Environment budget headings. It was suggested that the review included Urban Design, Car Parking and Driver Improvement Schemes.

Discussion took place regarding car parking charges, including whether they could be used to encourage greener travel. Members suggested that a review would include parking within other towns in the Borough.

The Committee established that if the blue badge scheme was reviewed, the availability of disabled car parking would be included in the review and the review should not result in the penalisation of disabled people.

Members requested that a baseline document be written to include Urban Design, Car Parking & Driver Improvement Schemes

Members noted that there were many driver improvement schemes and therefore requested that other schemes were examined to ascertain whether the Council run scheme provided value for money.

Members also requested that the base line report addressed school crossings.

CONCLUDED that a base line report will be prepared by the Acting Head of Technical Services on Urban Design, Car Parking, Driver Improvement Scheme and School Crossings and be presented at the next meeting.

ENV Quarterly Progress Update on Previously Agreed Recommendations

CUSTOMER FIRST

Members were advised that mystery shopping was taking place to ensure that voice mail messages were being used correctly. The Scrutiny Officer would enquire if there were any early indications from the exercise and would feed back to Members. However, once the exercise had been completed the final results would be provided to Members.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Following the roll out of plastic and cardboard recycling, Members expressed interest in seeing the final draft of the report regarding Waste Management, prior to it being presented to Cabinet. The Scrutiny Officer advised that he would make enquiries and report back to Members.

Members queried whether there had been any progress in relation to anaerobic digestion and were advised that it was an on going consideration especially as there were issues relating to commercial sensitivity. The Corporate Director would provide more information when available.

The varying levels of recycling collected by Council's around the country was discussed.

Discussion took place regarding the replacement of plastic bags for the removal of green waste, to one green recycle bag. It was felt that the size of the bag did not accommodate the green waste for an average sized garden. Ward Councillors had received many complaints relating to this matter; however the change had been made so as to be more environmentally friendly and more cost effective.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Scrutiny Officer would enquire if there were any early indications from the exercise and would feed back to Members.
3. Upon the completion of the Customer First voicemail exercise the final results will be provided to Members.
4. The Scrutiny Officer will make enquiries regarding Environment Select Committee seeing the final draft of the waste management report prior to it going to Cabinet.
5. The Corporate Director will provide information about the progress on an anaerobic digester in the Borough when available.

Work Programme

All matters regarding the work programme were discussed as part of the EIT Review of Built and Natural Environment item.

**ENV
6/10**

Chair's Update

The Chair had nothing further to report.