

# Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 13th October, 2008.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Chairman), Cllr Michael Smith (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Andrew Larkin, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Bill Woodhead

**Officers:** Mark Berry, Mike Batty (DNS), Debbie Hurwood (RES) Mrs Tanya Harrison, Roy MacGregor, Kirsty Wannop (LD)

**Also in attendance:** None

**Apologies:** Cllr Mick Womphrey

## 1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2 **Draft minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2008**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2008.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2008 be approved and forwarded to Council for consideration.

## 3 **Review of Animal Welfare Service and Dog Fouling:-**

**As part of Local Democracy Week, a small group of young people have been invited to attend the Select Committee for approximately half an hour to observe proceedings and participate in a short question and answer session about the democratic process and the two scrutiny reviews:-**

**Information for consideration:-**

**Gender analysis of Fixed Penalty Notices issued**

**Legal issues**

**Location of dog bins**

**Operational aspects under CFYA**

As Part of Local Democracy Week 2008, a small group of invited schoolchildren and staff from Crooksbar Primary and St Mark's Elm Tree CE Primary attended the Select Committee meeting for approximately half an hour to observe proceedings and to participate in a short question and answer session in connection with the dog fouling scrutiny review.

The Chair, on behalf of the Select Committee, welcomed the schoolchildren and staff to the meeting and then gave a brief outline of the dog fouling review following which the schoolchildren and staff contributed to a general discussion on various matters related to the review including the cost of providing dog bins, their location across the Borough, emptying dog bins, ways to stop dog fouling, enforcement action, fining of offenders and use of cameras and signage.

Following the discussion, the Chair thanked the schoolchildren and staff for attending and for their contributions.

There was a short adjournment before the meeting resumed to consider the following evidence presented by the Principal Environmental Health Officer.

Location of dog bins across the Borough. Members were advised there were 250 dog bins in the Borough which started off as 125 in 2002 and had built up over the years; Members also received maps of where the dog bins were located. The Committee was informed that the bins were emptied once a week, sometimes twice. In relation to costs of providing dog bins, Members were advised bins cost £275 together with an installation fee of £45. Limited resources meant that it was not possible to put too many up each year.

Publicity - Members were also advised there were 6,500 signs around the Borough on lampposts. However, attention was drawn to the fact that once these had been seen initially by the general public, they tended to be forgotten about. In 2002 dog fouling awareness campaign was promoted through a publicity campaign that included T.V, radio and billboard advertisements. Information is also on the internet.

Gender and age analysis of Fixed Penalty Notices issued

Dog fouling complaints by month and ward

Legal issues in relation to dog control orders

The Committee was advised that the evidence relating to operational aspects under Care For Your Area would be brought to the next meeting.

A Member of the Committee tabled a photograph which they had seen when travelling around different Boroughs depicting a painted on picture on the ground of a dog fouling and underneath the slogan 'CLEAN IT UP'.

RESOLVED that the information be noted

#### **4 Review of Customer First:-**

##### **Consideration of the draft report**

Consideration was given to the draft report of the scrutiny review of Customer First. The Committee's attention was brought to a slight change to the wording of Recommendation 11 of the report to include at the end 'The North East Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership could, potentially, provide additional funding.' The Committee was advised a change needed to be made in the body of the report where it stated that the target to answer phone calls was 15 seconds, This was incorrect and needed to read '80% of calls within 20 seconds and the remaining 20% within 45 seconds.'

CONCLUDED that the changes be made and then the report be forwarded to Cabinet.

