

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 24th November, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Chairman), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr Bill Woodhead

Officers: M Batty, C Snowdon, C Willows (DNS), G Birtle, Mrs T Harrison and R MacGregor (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons were present.

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Larkin and Cllr Michael Smith

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes to be signed by Chair - 21st April, 9th June and 21st July 2008

The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

3 Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2008.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2008 be approved and forwarded to Council for consideration.

4 Review of Rats and Pigeons

Members were presented with Rats and Pigeon Action Plan. The Action Plan detailed the original recommendation made by the Committee, proposed action/progress, success measures, responsible officer and the dates for completion/implementation.

The Environmental Health Manager (DNS) detailed the Action Plan and highlighted any issues.

Members were informed that the actions relating to rats would be in place by April.

Members were advised that a bid had been submitted for funding to help fund the actions required, however it was not looking hopeful.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the Action Plan.

Discussion took place regarding pigeons as Members felt that the pigeon problem needed to be addressed quickly. It was also agreed that the Action Plan be brought back to the Committee in 6 months time for further consideration.

Members made no further amendments to the Action Plan and were happy with the progress officers had made to date.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Action Plan will be brought back to the Select Committee in six months for a progress report.

5 Review of Customer First

Members were presented with the Customer First Action Plan. The Action Plan detailed the original recommendation made by the Committee, proposed action/progress, success measures, responsible officer and the dates for completion/implementation.

The Head of Customer Services and Taxation (RES) detailed the Action Plan and highlighted any issues.

Members were advised that Cabinet had approved the Customer First scrutiny report, including the decision to move forward in 2009/10 with the Customer Service Excellence (CSE) standard, a customer service model produced by HM Government's Cabinet Office. Tender documents were being drawn up to appoint an assessment body. The aim is to achieve the CSE standard across the Council by 2010.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the Action Plan.

Members made no further amendments to the Action Plan and were happy with the progress officers had made to date.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Action Plan will be brought back to the Select Committee in six months for the progress report.

6 Review of Dog Fouling

Members were provided with a presentation from the Service Development Manager in Care For Your Area, advising the method and problems of removal of dog fouling especially on grassed areas; the monitoring of dog bin usage to identify use and areas of demand.

Members queried whether cleansing requests were dealt with straight away and were advised that the Council's Care For Your Area receive 250 requests per month which get dealt with within 48 hours, many of which were actually dealt with within 24 hours. In a typical year enforcement officers issued 20 Fixed Penalty Notices, however wardens had not been able to patrol to the extent of previous years due to the significant increase in the number of stray dogs which

became the responsibility of Care For Your Area at the beginning of 2008. Changes would take place in 2009 which would enable wardens to spend more time to patrol.

Discussion took place regarding dog fouling related enforcement on private land. Members were advised that under certain laws enforcement could take place on private land, other methods such as deterrent and patrol were used rather than enforcement as in many cases it was difficult to prove.

Discussion took place regarding the dog fouling signs and times some dog walkers went out to ensure that they were not caught.

CONCLUDED that the presentation be noted.