

# Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 11th February, 2009.

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

**Officers:** Jamie McCann, Sheree Daniels, Jayne Robins, Sue Daniels, M Berry (DNS); G Birtle, S Johnson (LD)

**Also in attendance:** No other persons in attendance

**Apologies:** Cllr Andrew Larkin, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Michael Smith

## **1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2 Minutes of the meetings held on 13 October 2008 and 24 November 2008**

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 October 2008 and 24 November 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **3 Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 January 2009**

Two amendments to the minutes of the 19 January were noted:-

- Item 1 Declarations of Interest - Councillor Smith's declaration of interest be deleted.

- Item 4 - Review of Dog Fouling - In the sentence: 'If people considered that sentences passed out by magistrates were too harsh they could go to a regular court which could result in the original ruling being overturned'. The word 'regular' to be replaced with the word 'Crown'.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2009 be approved subject to the amendments outlined above.

## **4 Review of Animal Welfare/Dog Fouling**

The Committee reviewed the evidence collected for the review and formulated draft recommendations.

The Environmental Health Officer circulated further statistics in relation to Stray Dogs.

The Committee discussed issues relating to dog fouling complaints. It was agreed that dog waste bins should be GIS located, under the assets section, and those contacting the Council to report dog fouling incidents should be asked for the nearest lamp post reference if available.

The Committee also considered that those areas that were not over-looked or easily seen by the public could have more signage to discourage dog fouling.

Consideration was given to issues surrounding publicity. The Committee considered that a national publicity campaign should be delivered through Central Government and agreed that the Council should write to the local MP's about the issue. The Committee also considered that the Council should write to the local MP's requesting a national registration scheme to replace the voluntary scheme.

The Committee considered the issues surrounding the Dog Control Order provisions of the Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. It was considered that the possibility of control orders on enclosed play areas and the seating areas surrounding them could be explored further.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The information be noted.

2. The recommendations identified be included in the Committees final report to Cabinet.

## **5 Monitoring Reports**

- Wastes Management**
- Cemeteries**

The Committee was presented with and discussed the following Monitoring Reports:

### Wastes Management

The Committee discussed recommendation 14 regarding waste kits being issued to new homes in the Borough. The Head of Direct Services explained that the assessment of progress could be changed to a 1 (completed) as it was a case of as new homes were being built, waste kits were being issued. The Committee agreed to change the assessment of progress to '1'.

### Wastes Management and Recycling

The Committee discussed recommendation 14 regarding food waste. The Head of Direct Services advised that this was an ongoing project. The Committee requested that an update report on this issue be presented to the Committee in 6 months time.

### Cemeteries

#### Phase 2

The Head of Performance & Business Services provided details of progress of the 11 original recommendations with 2 being fully complete and 1 due for completion in April; 7 were on track with target dates and 1 (No 9) had slipped. The Committee discussed the progress at recommendation 9 regarding Unauthorised Memorials. The Officer advised that an updated 'Clear Graves Policy' would be circulated to the Committee prior to its next meeting.

#### Phase 1

The Committee was informed that of the original 28 recommendations, 19 were fully complete and of the remaining 9, six were on track with 3 actions either on

hold or delayed. The Officer advised that updates on recommendations 15 and 24 would be provided by the appropriate Officers at its next meeting.

CONCLUDED that the Monitoring Reports be noted.

**6 Work Programme**

The Committee considered the Work Programme.

CONCLUDED that the Work Programme be noted.