

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 2nd December, 2009.

Present: Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Chair), Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr Bill Woodhead

Officers: Mrs S Daniels, P Diggins, P Dobson, J McCann and R McGuckin (DNS); G Birtle, Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons were present

Apologies: Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Andrew Larkin and Cllr Michael Smith

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2009**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2009.

CONCLUDED that the minutes be agreed upon amendments as follows:-

- Page 2, first paragraph, removal of apostrophe in areas.
- Page 2, Conclusion 3, should read MP's and registration instead of fouling.
- Page 3, Paragraph 9 and page 4, conclusion 2 should both read completion of the study for crematorium.

3 **Environment Service - Overview**

To receive an update based on progress toward service objectives including available performance information

Members were provided with a presentation from Direct Services and Technical Services providing an overview of progress, service area responsibilities, key achievements, performance and emerging issues within the Environment portfolio.

Members discussed the limited use of the Council owned electric vehicles and their cost effectiveness.

Members discussed the challenges of achieving the targets for recycling and schemes which were being investigated that would contribute to recycling rates. Members also noted residents' high satisfaction levels with all cleansing related services.

Members expressed concern that due to the fire that had taken place at the energy waste plant the recycling and performance targets were affected. Members wished it to be recognised that the fire had been beyond the control of Development and Neighbourhood Services.

Members discussed charging facilities around the Borough for electric vehicles and the use of alternative fuel sources, however it was agreed that until the technology was improved such changes would not be of benefit to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

Officers advised that funding had been received from Sports England and Salix to assist in the carbon management programme which enabled a marketing campaign, installation of voltage regulators and installation of pool covers. Funding had also been received for the installation of electricity readers in all schools.

Members were advised that an insulation survey had been undertaken.

Officers and Members felt that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council should be proactive and lead the way in relation to recharging points and flood defences. It was observed that Council's could not plan for huge flooding situations but shifts in emergency planning placed flooding as a high matter to be addressed.

Members queried the progress of the crematorium study as were advised that land availability was an issue. The matter would be taken to Corporate Management Team and then be reported back to Environment Committee at the appropriate time.

Members expressed concern to the Cabinet Member for Environment regarding the issues of lack of funds to deal with the rats and pigeons recommendations from the related scrutiny review.

The Cabinet Member advised that she would further explore ways of securing funding and therefore achieving the recommendations.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.