

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 15th February, 2010.

Present: Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Chair), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Kevin Faulks (Vice Councillor Larkin), Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr Bill Woodhead

Officers: G Birtle and Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons were present.

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Larkin

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the meetings held on 16 November 2009 and 2 December 2009.

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

3 To consider the draft minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2010

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2010.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2010 be agreed as a correct record and be forwarded on to Council.

4 Progress Updates of Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members considered the progress on the previously agreed recommendations of the following scrutiny reviews provided in the progress update:

Cemeteries

Members noted that the out of hours pilot for registration bereavement services had been very popular and officers were undertaking consultation with the intention of making it a permanent arrangement.

Members observed that the recommendation regarding the redevelopment of disused chapels had combined the issue of storing equipment and memorials and requested that the storage of memorials be considered individually.

Members queried why the follow-up report regarding the feasibility of a crematorium in Stockton had not been presented to the Committee as previously reported. The monitoring report now suggested that the options are to be considered at a future Cabinet meeting.

Members queried whether the reason for the slippage of the recommendation relating to the woodland cemetery and woodland burial sites were due to the work of the Capital Asset Strategy Group.

Management of Memorials

Members noted the target dates set for recommendations but requested clarification of the timescales being used.

Customer First

Members accepted the progress report but noted that some council officers had still to adopt new voicemail standards.

Animal Welfare and Dog Fouling

Members were concerned that all but one of the outstanding recommendations had slipped and requested more information regarding:

- The reason for the slippage of the outstanding recommendations
- The number of prosecutions and fixed penalties issued
- Clarification on the training given to deal with this issue and who were being trained
- How education in schools was being undertaken
- How best to educate adult dog owners about responsible dog ownership

Consideration would be given to inviting the Cabinet Member/Corporate Director to discuss the issues raised.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The updates be noted.
2. The Chair to enquire about the storage of memorial items and equipment in disused chapels recommended for redevelopment.
3. The Chair to request a report regarding the result of the business case and feasibility study relating to the building of a crematorium in Stockton.
4. Enquiries to be made regarding the reason for slippage relating to the woodland cemetery and burial sites.
5. Clarification to be provided to Members regarding the timescales used when monitoring the management of memorials.
6. Officers with responsibility for dealing with dog fouling and animal welfare be asked to attend a future meeting to:
 - Provide reasons for the slippage of outstanding recommendations
 - Provide a report on prosecutions and fixed penalties issued
 - Clarify what training is given and to whom to deal with dog fouling
 - Provide more information of how the education in schools is being undertaken
 - Explain how best to educate adult dog owners about responsible dog ownership

