

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 4th October, 2010.

Present: Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Chair), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr Bill Woodhead

Officers: M Chicken, N Gibb, B Trewick (DNS); A Bryson (R); Mrs J Ballinger (CESC); G Birtle Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: no other persons were present

Apologies: Cllr John Gardner and Cllr Roy Rix

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the meetings held on 4th January 2010, 15th February 2010, 29th March 2010 and 28th June 2010

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meetings held on 4th January, 15th February and 29th March were signed by the Chair.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2010 will be signed by the Chair upon the deletion of the paragraph 'Members were advised that, following consultation with dog owners at Preston Park, the proposal to consider the introduction of Dog Control Orders had now been withdrawn'

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2010.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2010 be agreed as a correct record.

4 EIT Review of Built and Natural Environment

Members were provided with information regarding car parking charges with comparisons to other authorities including the provision of blue badge parking. Discussion took place regarding investigating the incorporation of charges in car parks for blue badge holders.

Officers noted the need to consider how charges encouraged or discouraged visitors and consumers to the Town Centre.

Members received further information with regards to the school crossing patrols service.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.

5 Progress Updates of Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members received progress updates on the previously agreed recommendations for Customer First, Waste Management and Carbon Management

Members discussed the fact that building schools for the future had been abandoned and therefore recommendation 20 of the Carbon Management review would not be achieved therefore the Committee agreed that the recommendation would be shown as having slipped with an additional paragraph advising the it would not be possible to achieve that recommendation.

Members requested results from the mystery shopping undertaken in respect of Customer First. The Scrutiny Officer advised that he would obtain the information and provide it at a future meeting.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The updates be noted.
2. Recommendation 20 of the Carbon Management review be amended to show that it has slipped but a paragraph be added to explain that it will no longer be achievable due to the abolition of Building Schools for the Future.
3. The Scrutiny Officer will provide Members with the results of the mystery shopping undertaken in respect of Customer First.

6 Work Programme

The Scrutiny Officer informed Members that they would be advised if any additional meetings needed to be scheduled. For this review it was hoped to receive a presentation from Sunderland City Council at the next meeting to learn what improvements had been introduced regarding the Blue Badge Scheme.

A query was raised as to whether there would be any more meetings to discuss rats and pigeons; the Scrutiny Officer advised it would be part of the annual overview meeting.

Discussion took place regarding long life light bulbs and their safe disposal. It was suggested that Stockton Council could lobby supermarkets to provide collection bins for long life bulbs as was done for batteries. The Chair advised that she would make enquiries and then it could be put to full Council.

CONCLUDED that the Chair will make enquiries as to whether it would be possible for Stockton Council to lobby supermarkets to provide long life bulb bins for the safe disposal of used bulbs and will then put it to full Council.

7 Chairs Update

The Chair had nothing further to report.

