

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 24th November, 2010.

Present: Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg (Chair), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr Bill Woodhead

Officers: M Chicken, B Trewick (DNS); Mrs J King (R); G Birtle, Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: Cllr Andrew Sherris (Ward Councillor for Yarm); J Stockill (UNISON)

Apologies: None

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Smith and Mrs Rigg declared personal non prejudicial interests in relation to the EIT Review of Built and Natural Environment item due to having a relative each that held a blue badge.

2 Minutes for signing - 9th August 2010

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

3 Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2010

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2010.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2010 be agreed as a correct record.

4 EIT Review of Built and Natural Environment

Members discussed and began to formulate recommendations on the following options which had been provided by officers.

School Crossing Patrols

1. Seven sites would be closed where a puffin or pelican crossing were available or where the sites no longer met the criteria.
2. Six further sites would be surveyed to assess their position against criteria.
3. Annual surveys would be conducted at all sites to determine if they met national criteria. Those that do not would be closed.

Blue Badge Scheme

1. The Sunderland City Council model for the issue of blue badges would be adopted with some adjustments to meet local needs and circumstances.
2. The blue badge scheme would be delivered by the Contact Centre when fully operational in 2011. The issue of the blue badge would be charged at £2 with

an additional £3 for the photograph to be taken digitally at the centre.

Car Parking Charges

1. Introduction of free two hours car parking in all short stay car parks on Saturdays with the loss of income being recouped by increases to the long stay car parking charges. Savings from this proposal would be zero but it supported the regeneration of the town centres.
2. As for action proposed above but increase the long stay car parking charges to achieve an overall 5% revenue increase.
3. Introduction of medium stay car parking charges in two sites in Yarm and long stay at Yarm Rail Halt.

Urban Design

1. Reviewing the trading account arrangements with a view to bringing the service into a revenue funding position.
2. A management review of staff roles would be undertaken where there were clear synergies with those of the Countryside Team, with a view to achieving further efficiency savings.

CONCLUDED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The draft recommendations will be presented at the next meeting.