

# Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 20th June, 2011.

**Present:** Cllr Nigel Cooke (Chairman), Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr David Wilburn, Cllr Bill Woodhead

**Officers:** Richard Bradley, Sue Daniels, Paul Diggins, Richard McGuckin (DNS); Fiona McKie, Judith Trainer (LD); Vanessa Shiel (R).

**Also in attendance:** Cllr David Rose (Cabinet Member).

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Cllr Jean Kirby, Cllr Ray McCall, Cllr Mick Womphrey.

## 1 Declarations of Interest

None

## 2 Minutes for Signing - 24th January 2011

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on 24th January 2011. These were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AGREED that the minutes be signed.

## 3 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2011.

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2011.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

## 4 Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Consideration was given to progress of the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the reviews of Cemeteries 1 and 2, Waste Management 2, Customer First, Carbon Management and Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation (EIT) review of Built and Natural Environment.

The Committee requested an update on the following issues:-

- Woodland Cemetery. Members were informed that a scheme was being proposed and would be discussed with ward members in the near future.
- Automated Voicemail when an Officer from the Council calls a Councillor. Officers had been requested to leave a voicemail message so that Councillors knew who had called them. Judith Trainer to ask for further reminders to be sent out to Officers.
- A co-ordinated approach to ICT for the new academies. Richard McGuckin to come back in the Autumn with an update.

AGREED that:-

1. The progress updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed.

2. The further information be provided as requested.

## **5 Environment Services Overview**

Members were provided with an overview of Direct Services by Richard Bradley and Technical Services by Richard McGuckin and Bereavement Services by Sue Daniels. The key achievements for each service were highlighted together with emerging issues. The following points were highlighted by the Committee:-

- High customer satisfaction levels for refuse collection, recycling facilities and street cleansing.
- Lack of Council control regarding with cleansing of privately owned areas such as shopping parades etc.
- High performance levels for street cleansing.
- Numbers of missed bins extremely low.
- Lack of facilities for disposal of food waste, although there was commercial interest in developing an anaerobic digestion plant. This would need to be taken forward in conjunction with other Tees Valley Council's.
- Carbon Management programme was on target.
- Street Lighting, photocell replacement and dimming programme complete.
- Rolling out installation of electric car recharge points at various locations within the Borough.

AGREED that the overview of the Service be noted.

## **6 EIT Review of Care for Your Area Services**

Consideration was given to the Scope and Project Plan for the EIT Review of Care for Your Area (CFYA). Richard Bradley provided an overview to Members. Members were also provided with a pack of baseline information that they were requested to consider prior to the next meeting. The CFYA EIT review would examine the following areas:-

- Refuse Collection
- Street Cleansing
- Horticultural Services
- Countryside Parks
- Recycling Service
- Highways Maintenance
- Urban Parks
- Public Conveniences
- Vehicle Maintenance and Workshops

Members raised the following issues:-

- The impact of rising fuel costs
- Damage to footpaths due to tree roots
- Types of receptacles for recyclable materials
- Arrangements for disposal of prunings etc. that need to be carried out later in the year when there are no green waste collections.

AGREED that:-

1. The draft scope and project plan be approved.
2. Members comments be noted.

## **7 Work Programme**

The next meeting would be held on 18th July 2011. This meeting would also consider the scope for the Officer led review of waste disposal which would be subject to challenge by the Environment Committee at key stages.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.