

# Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 18th July, 2011.

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

**Officers:** R Bradley, Mrs S Daniels, P Diggins, J McCann (DNS); Mrs T Harrison, Miss M Jones (LD)

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Rose (Cabinet Member for Environment)

**Apologies:** Cllr Jean Kirby

## 1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2 **Minutes to be signed by the Chair - 18th April 2011.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th April were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

AGREED that the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

## 3 **Minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2011.**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2011.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

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

Members received information regarding Care For Your Area, from the Head Of Direct Services, Care For Your Area Service Manager, Improvement Manager and the Head of Performance and Business Services which included:

- History of the service and how it had been developed
- How the service was performance managed
- Key achievements following the development of the service
- Current performance (2010/11)
- Nearest neighbours comparison data
- Summary of financial data

Members were presented with the baseline information on the following topics:

- Green Waste
- Horticultural Services
- Kerbside Recycling
- Plastic and Cardboard Recycling
- Public Conveniences
- Domestic Refuse Collection
- Street Cleansing
- Urban Parks
- Vehicle Workshops
- Markets

The main issues that were discussed were:

- The service was highly valued and performed well, however efficiencies were still required.
- Bedding plants were bought from a private nursery. This was more cost effective than operating a nursery to produce plants and increased the quality of the plants used in displays.
- Kerbside recycling was collected separately, rather than operating comingled collections, as this

increased the value of the waste collected.

- Reduction in green waste, plastic and cardboard, and kerbside recycling collections would impact upon the amount of domestic refuse to be collected, as residents dispose of recycling items as regular waste, which would ultimately cost the service more money.
- Fortnightly collection would impact on recycling.
- There was a market to tap into for vehicle workshops that would provide MOT and servicing which would save the Council money in the long term, however the lack of workspace capacity was an issue. This required further investigation.

The Committee requested the following further information:

- Breakdown of how the greenwaste service labour and vehicles were utilised in periods of reduced tonnage
- How the allotment rents compared to other Local Authorities

AGREED that:

1. The information be noted.
2. Further information be provided as requested.

## **5 Officer Led Gateway Review of Waste Management**

Consideration was given to the draft scope. It was noted that the service was part of a 20 year Joint Tees Valley Waste Management Agreement which was in Year 11, therefore transformation of the service was limited in the short to medium term. However there were strategic decisions to be taken in the long term which could lead to transformation.

AGREED that the item be noted.

## **6 Member Development**

Discussion took place regarding training and development needs of Scrutiny Members.

AGREED that the item be noted.