

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 30th April, 2012.

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: M Chicken, P Diggins, N Ellison, J McCann, Richard McGuckin (DNS); G Birtle, T Harrison, M Jones (LD)

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

Apologies: Cllr Jean Kirby

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes for signature - 16th January 2012**

The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AGREED that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 **Draft Minutes - 27th February 2012**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2012.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

4 **Environment Overview**

Members were provided with an overview, highlighting the responsibilities, key achievements, current performances and emerging issues of the following service areas:

DIRECT SERVICES

- Care For Your Area
- Waste Management
- Fleet Management
- Countryside and Greenspace

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Domestic Energy Advice and Fuel Poverty
- Environmental Policy
- Food Risk Management
- Power Purchase and Energy Supply
- Climate Change
- Carbon Reduction Agenda
- Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Active Travel

Discussion took place regarding damage caused by parking on grass verges.

Members noted that parking on grass verges was not illegal, however, if it was proved to be unsafe, or an obstruction, action could be taken. Members were advised that advice should be sought on an individual basis from the relevant officer. A leaflet regarding parking on pavements and grass verges would be circulated to the Committee.

Members discussed litter prevention and recycling and expressed the need for a strategy to promote these issues to young people via schools, particularly in secondary schools.

AGREED that:

1. the report be noted.
2. Officers would circulate leaflets providing more information regarding parking on pavements and grass verges.

5 Update on the Progress of Previous Reviews

Members were provided with further detailed progress of the EIT Reviews of the Built and Natural Environment Service Areas and the Carbon Management Programme.

Members discussed the new Blue Badge scheme application process. The Committee requested that the process be monitored and that regular advertising take place directing people to the contact centre in Stockton Library, rather than Gloucester House.

The use of tablets at committee meetings and wifi was discussed and it was noted that trials with wifi were taking longer than expected.

AGREED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The Blue Badge Scheme be monitored.
3. Regular advertising be undertaken to direct people to the Contact Centre in Stockton Library for blue badge applications, rather than Gloucester House.

6 Review of Affordable Warmth

Members considered the scope and project plan.

The Scrutiny Officer recommended an additional meeting be arranged to accommodate the review in lieu of the August recess.

AGREED that the scope and project plan be approved and an additional meeting be scheduled.

7 Work Programme

The Scrutiny officer advised that an additional meeting would be scheduled for

21st May 2012, subject to availability of a venue.

AGREED that the additional meeting will be scheduled for 21st May 2012, subject to availability of a venue.

8 Chair's Update

The Chair reported that he had attended a warm home conference.

AGREED that the report be noted.