

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 23rd June, 2014.

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

Officers: Richard McGuckin, Russell Smith, Chris Renahan(DNS), Craig Willows(CFYA), Graham Birtle, Jenna McDonald(LDS)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Ray McCall, Cllr Jean Kirby

ENV Evacuation Plan

7/14

The evacuation procedure was noted.

ENV Declarations of Interest

8/14

There were no declarations of interest.

ENV Minutes for signature - 16th December 2013 & 27th January 2014

9/14

The minutes of the meetings held on 16th December 2013 & 27th January 2014 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

ENV Draft Minutes - 12th May 2014

10/14

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2014.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

ENV Overview of Environment Services

11/14

Members received a presentation which provided an overview of Environment Services and Technical Services from the Head of Technical Services and the Care For Your Area (CFYA) Service Manager.

The CFYA Service Manager highlighted the key achievements for Environment Services.

The Committee was provided with an update of Emerging Issues within CFYA, some of which included:

- Effective implementation of budget reductions
- Residual waste treatment
- Flood risk reduction

Head of Technical Services highlighted some of the key achievements within Technical Services.

Members were informed of the two key flood areas in Stockton Borough in 2013 which were Port Clarence and Lustrum Beck.

The Committee was informed that as a follow up from floods in 2013 in the Port Clarence area of Stockton a Repair and Renewal Grant Scheme was currently on-going which would assist residents and businesses with financial aid. It was highlighted that a public meeting had been arranged at Port Clarence and the Accelerated Funding was agreed for the Flood Defence Scheme.

Members heard that £2.5m funding was secured to deliver flood mitigation scheme to Lustrum Beck which would have been undertaken over 5-years.

It was highlighted that the current issues within Technical Services were:

- Adapting to Climate Change impacts
- Flood risk
- Fuel poverty
- Sustainable energy supply

Head of Technical Services highlighted the Emerging issues within Technical Services as follows:

- The need to secure long-term stable and sustainable energy supply had led to a feasibility study into a North Tees District Heating System
- Stockton Council had received funding as part of the Tees Valley City Deal

Members and Officers discussed grass cutting in the borough. It was due to resource issues Youth Offending and Probation Services undertake a range of practical functions within the borough, including litter picking, weed control and, during the winter, snow clearance activities. The potential for improving the efficiency of grass cutting equipment a part of a grounds kit procurement process later this year is being considered dependent upon cost. The Committee raised concerns regarding the after math appearance of grass cutting. Although this is the same practice that has been in place for many years now and it is evident that the speedy growing conditions during May, with very wet and warm conditions, have resulted in significant challenges. CFYA staff have maintained the 12 day cutting cycle despite the presence of numerous bank holidays and some very wet conditions which has seen the suspension of grass cutting on two days.

The Committee was informed that changes were to be made to recycling in the borough, which has seen the introduction of the new 'one-pass' vehicles which collect plastic, cardboard, paper, cans and glass in the same vehicle. This has reduced the number of vehicles on the road, resulting in associated fuel savings and a reduction in carbon emissions.

Members discussed street cleaning services and heard that street surveys were carried out annually as part of an annual survey which was submitted to Defra. The survey takes into account specific land use classifications and wards using the index of multiple deprivations to ground wards, and then 5 wards are picked from each group per survey set. This process ensures that all wards will be covered as part of the survey once during a two year period.

The Committee discussed the District Heating Scheme, it was highlighted that Members hoped that the Scheme would have been financially viable and less expensive than in the past.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**ENV
12/14** **Progress Updates on Previously Agreed
Recommendations**

Members were asked to consider progress updates on previously agreed recommendations which were provided to the Committee based on:

- Built and Natural Environment
- Community Safety and Security Services
- Affordable Warmth

The Committee was informed that the new Pay and Display scheme had been introduced in Yarm High-Street. It was highlighted that the scheme was working efficiently and had received a high volume of positive comments.

On-going discussions were continuing in relation to potential future partnership regarding the provision of CCTV/community alarm services infrastructure to be supported.

AGREED that recommendations be approved by Members.

**ENV
13/14** **Review of Tree Preservation Orders**

The Committee considered a Draft Final Report for the Review of Tree Preservation Order's (TPO).

The Care For Your Area (CFYA) Service Manager informed Members that most TPO cases work well. It was highlighted that the aim of TPOs was to protect individual trees with value.

Officers had suggested a Head of Service sign off on TPOs before a TPO was issued in order to make sure that all factors of the TPO had been considered.

AGREED that the Draft Final Report on TPOs was considered and approved by the Committee.

**ENV
14/14** **Work Programme**

The Committee were presented with a Work Programme for 2014-15.

Members heard that once the final report on the Review of TPOs had been approved by the Committee in July 2014 the Committee would then move onto the next review of Country Park Maintenance.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**ENV
15/14**

Chair's Update

The Chair provided no update.