

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2007 AT 4.00 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Mawle, D.L. (Chairman)
Yates, Ms. W. (Vice-Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Jones, R.
Ball, G.D.	Jones, Mrs. A.E.
Burnett, J.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bullock, L.W.	

By invitation: Councillor A. Williams, Environment Leader

15. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2007 be approved as a correct record.

16. Recycling Facilities for Residents in Flats and Older People

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Waste and Engineering Services Manager informed the Select Committee that visits had been made to the various types of flats in Cannock Chase and the views of residents, wardens, managers etc., sought on ways to improve refuse and recycling services to them. Officers from the Planning and Regeneration Department and the Waste and Engineering Services Manager would be visiting sites that provided good access for waste collection and those where problems arose in order that these matters could be taken into account for future developments.

The Select Committee was informed that families of less than six could apply for a larger green bin; the Recycling Officer would then carry out an assessment to identify if a need was proven. Residents could also pay for an additional brown bin.

Members discussed the possibility of providing a further wheelie bin rather than two blue boxes. It was explained that other authorities did run differing schemes, but it was important that a balance was reached as some residents considered that having two wheelie bins was too many. Problems had arisen in authorities when larger bins were

issued with co-mingled waste becoming contaminated and not being recyclable.

Discussion took place on whether the In vessel Composting Plant at Cocksparrow Lane was used and it was explained that only sites approved by the County Council, could be used.

Details of recycling end markets were requested and the Head of Environmental Services informed the Select Committee that representatives from a company that dealt with the area's dry recyclable materials would be invited to attend a future meeting.

The Environment Leader informed the Select Committee that he had requested Officers from the County Council to attend the Community Forums to report on the Waste Strategy, the aim of which was to have zero waste going to landfill by 2020. He also had concerns with transportation issues on local roads

The Select Committee congratulated the officers on the level of recycling that had now been achieved.

AGREED:

(A) That the Select Committee notes the contents of the Report

(B) That representatives from a recycling company be invited to attend a future meeting.

17. Climate Change – Staffordshire Declaration - Proposals

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Environmental Services explained that the Select Committee at their meeting in July 2007 had considered a report on Climate Change – The Staffordshire Declaration and requested a further report be presented to them outlining specific proposals.

It was explained that a Sustainable Development Working Group under the Local Strategic Partnership would be set up and an effective climate change strategy, together with an evolving action plan would be drawn up. A list of issues the Working Group would consider were contained within the report. The Terms of Reference had yet to be agreed and the partnership of the Working Group would include elected Members. The Select Committee requested that the Terms of Reference and action plan be presented to them when agreed.

The County Council had produced a spreadsheet formula for calculating Cannock Chase Council's own carbon baseline. The Head of Environmental Services informed the Select Committee that he would provide them with a copy of the spreadsheet.

With regard to the electrification of the local rail line the Environment Leader informed the Select Committee that he had spoken to the officer responsible for transport whilst at a Regional Spatial Strategy meeting and had been informed that this was not in the current programme.

The Select Committee considered that all businesses should take steps to tackle climate change and energy efficiency. It was reported that grants were available for such issues

as loft and cavity wall insulation although it was considered that this was not well advertised and that this information should be fed into the Working Group. The Environment Leader reported that it was intended to hold a further 'Slipper Swop Shop' and information on energy efficiency could be made available when events were held.

AGREED:

- (A) That the Select Committee recommends to Cabinet that the Staffordshire Declaration is adopted by the Council.
- (B) That the Select Committee considers future action plans on Climate Change as recommended in section 1 of the Report and that subsequent implications for the Council are reported to Cabinet accordingly.
- (C) That the Terms of Reference of the Sustainable Development Working Group and the action plan be presented to the Select Committee when agreed.
- (D) That the name and telephone number of the relevant officer who deals with energy efficiency issues be made available to all Members, together with information on the various grants available.

18. Work Programme of the Environment Select Committee

Consideration was given to items to be included in the Work Programme.

AGREED:

- (A) That the meeting scheduled for 3 January 2008 be postponed until 15 January 2008 at which Recycling of Trade Waste, Review of Current Allotment Provision and an update on Decriminalised Parking Enforcement would be considered.
- (B) That an additional meeting be arranged to consider a report on the state of bus shelters in Cannock Chase and other Work Programme items.
- (C) That a report on Christmas Lighting be presented to a future meeting of the Select Committee.

CHAIRMAN