

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 14 AUGUST AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT:
Councillors

Bottomer, B. (Chairman)

Bennett, C	Jones, R.
Bernard, J.D (substitute)	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Dean, who was substituted by J.D. Bernard, and Councillor J. Toth (Vice-Chairman).

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

3. Minutes

Minute No. 31

Councillor Bennett provided Members with an update on the action being taken in respect of Redbrook Lane.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2013-14 Outturn Performance

Consideration was given to the Environment Priority Delivery Plan (PDP) 2013-14 outturn performance (Item 4.1 – 4.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Housing and Waste Management drew Members' attention to the two performance measures where the target had not been achieved; *'reduce*

residual waste per household – target 412kg’ and ‘% of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting – target 54%’. He explained that issues of increased waste collection and reduced recycling were common across all Staffordshire waste collection authorities with the exception of South Staffordshire Council (SSC). He then further explained that there had been changes to the types of waste which could be classified as recyclable, along with a lack of local or national recycling campaigns during 2013-14. A campaign was however to take place during 2014/15 which would be specifically focussed on those areas of the District where recycling levels were considered to be poor.

Councillor J. Bernard asked if the Government had been written to about introducing a national campaign again?

The Head of Housing & Waste Management replied that this was being dealt with through the Staffordshire Waste Partnership rather than by councils on an individual basis.

Councillor R. Jones queried how well Cannock Chase Council (CCDC) compared with Lichfield District Council (LDC)?

The Head of Housing & Waste Management replied that CCDC were behind LDC last year, but would catch up in 2014/15 as LDC would no longer take food waste as recycling, instead taking it with residual waste. The Waste & Engineering Services Manager advised that Cannock Chase was already in the top quartile nationally for its recycling rates.

Councillor Freeman asked why SSC had been the only authority able to achieve the targets?

The Waste & Engineering Services Manager replied that SSC had only implemented the ‘blue bin’ scheme last year, which resulted in a sharp increase in recycling rates achieved. This was comparable to when CCDC introduced the same scheme in 2010-11.

Councillor R. Jones asked if any fines had been imposed under EU Directives for ‘too much’ waste being disposed of at landfill site?

The Head of Housing & Waste Management replied that the issue of how and where waste should be disposed was a matter for Staffordshire County Council as the waste disposal authority, rather than Cannock Chase as the waste collection authorities. The Waste & Engineering Services Manager further replied that he was not aware of any such fines being imposed in recent years, but more importantly, the Staffordshire Waste Partnership had set a target of 0% waste to landfill by 2020 which had already been achieved this year.

Councillor R. Jones then asked if any random spot checks of recycling were undertaken?

The Waste & Engineering Services Manager replied that spot checks were undertaken, but officers had to manage this process careful so as not to offend or upset residents. Central government had issued a directive to local authorities stating that 'better quality' recycling must be collected, so as part of the upcoming recycling campaign, residents would be educated about what sort of waste was considered as such.

Councillor Freeman commented that in areas with large communal bins such as blocks of flats, recycling tended to happen less, so this needed addressing.

The Waste & Engineering Services Manager replied that the Council already had plans in place to tackle this issue. Residents in such areas would be issued with a 'blue bag', into which they could sort their recycling and then take down to the communal bins when practical to do so.

Councillor J. Bernard queried why within the PDP there were a number of actions which were given 'no rating'?

The Head of Housing & Waste Management replied that this was duplication of information as the necessary detail was provided under the associated performance measures. Such instances had been taken out of the 2014-15 PDP to present the information in a clearer way.

RESOLVED:

That the Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2013-14 outturn performance be noted.

5. Environment Priority Delivery Plan 2014-15

Consideration was given to the Environment Priority Delivery Plan for 2014-15 (Item 5.1 – 5.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Housing & Waste Management reported that the quarterly performance reports would be submitted to the Committee throughout the year, and the Plan gave Members an insight into what would be coming forward in the future.

Councillor J. Bernard asked if there had been any progress in meeting with representatives from local taxi companies?

Councillor Bennett replied that following discussions with officers, a joint liaison committee had been established to allow for representatives from the Council and taxi companies to meet on a regular basis. The first meeting of the committee was held in late July, at which terms of reference etc were agreed. The next meeting of the committee was scheduled for 5 November 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the Environment Policy Delivery Plan 2014-15 be noted.

6. **Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy – Cannock Chase Waste Action Plan**

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Housing & Waste Management (Item 6.1 – 6.4 + Appendix 1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Councillor J. Bernard queried why one of the proposed revised targets was to reduce the amount of green waste composted per household, per annum?

The Head of Housing & Waste Management replied that composting of green waste was one of the reasons why the recycling target was not achieved last year, and that this was a new standalone target for 2014-15 to enable the Council to better monitor the levels of dry recycling collected (for which the target had been revised upwards) and green waste composted.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Cabinet, at its meeting to be held on 18 September 2014, be recommended to approve the Cannock Chase Waste Action Plan, subject to the agreement of (B), below.
- (B) Subject to the agreement of the Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting to be held on 6 October 2014, the 2014-15 Waste Management performance targets with the 'Place' Priority Delivery Plan be amended as follows:-
 - (i) Dry recycling per household – 277kg per annum.
 - (ii) Green waste composting per household – 213kg per annum.
 - (iii) Residential household waste per household – 435kg per annum.
 - (iv) % of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and compositing – 53%.

Reasons for Decisions

As part of the agreed updated Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS), the Council is required to formulate a 'Partner Authority Action Plan' to ensure that the core objectives of the strategy are delivered.

A draft proposed 'Cannock Chase Waste Action Plan' has therefore been formulated and is attached to the report as Appendix 1.

A key element of the draft Action Plan is the future performance targets for the collection of recycled and residual waste. In view of the outturn performance for 2013-14, it is now considered that the agreed 2014-15 'Place' Priority Delivery Plan (PDP) targets are either unrealistic or insufficiently ambitious.

Revised achievable 2014-15 targets have therefore been included in the draft proposed Action Plan.

However, if these targets are to be included it is also necessary to amend the targets with the 2014-15 'Place' PDP in order that they correspond. This will require the approval of both Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee.

7. Work Programme for 2014-15

Consideration was given to the Committee's proposed work programme for 2014-15 (Item 7.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Environment Policy Development Committee work programme for 2014-15 be approved.

The meeting closed at 4.52pm

CHAIRMAN