

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 26 JANUARY 2010 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Pearce, Mrs. L. J. (Chairman)

Alcott, G.	Mawle, D.L.
Kraujalis, J.T.	Williams, A.

11. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. W. Bullock and M. R. Green.

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

No declarations of interests were made.

13. Minutes

Prior to consideration of the Minutes Mr. J. Presland, Waste Engineering Services Manager, updated the Committee on the position with respect to the dry recycling collection. It was reported that a further wheeled bin would be provided to households for this purpose. It was anticipated that the bins would be distributed in June 2010. Concern was raised as to how this would be funded and it was explained that potentially the provision of wheeled bin containers would be funded using prudential borrowing; should Council approve its inclusion in the forthcoming budget setting process. He was liaising with the P R & Marketing team and other authorities to ensure that proceedings progressed efficiently.

The Waste Engineering Services Manager explained that all waste collections had now returned to normal. Concern was raised that some residents had been informed that collections would be made on certain days and that this had not in fact taken place. The Committee was informed that unforeseen delays had occurred at the recycling centre and at the landfill site due to the volume of vehicles trying to access the sites at the same time, when weather conditions had improved. The operatives had sometimes worked in somewhat dangerous conditions. Other ways to provide information to residents were being explored.

The Committee requested that a letter expressing their appreciation of the work that had been carried out during this difficult period, be forwarded to the appropriate members of staff.

AGREED:

- (A) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September, 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- (B) That a letter expressing the Committee's appreciation of the work undertaken during the extreme weather conditions be forwarded to the appropriate members of staff.

14. 2009/10 Quarter 2 Performance and Finance Report

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Mr. M. Fletcher, Performance Management Officer, explained that all the 21 target indicators had been rated as 'green' and were therefore on track to be met by the agreed timelines. Progress had been made on the Amber rating for Major Planning Applications reported in the Quarter 1 Performance and Finance Report and the target was now green. All six Priority Delivery Plans would be refreshed in view of future budgetary constraints, setting out appropriate activities over the year 2010-11 .

Concern was raised with respect to the information contained within the finance section relating to the Prince of Wales Theatre and other items that were not in the Committee's remit. Concern was also raised that information was sometimes duplicated in the budget papers and that this could lead to confusion.

The Performance Management Officer reported that a summary of the Key Volatile Budgets was provided to all Policy Development Committees and that the information relating to the Environmental Sustainability Policy Development Committee was provided in the General Fund Financial Summary. He would relate the concerns to the appropriate Officers and an update would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

AGREED:

- (A) That the performance outturn for Quarter 2 as detailed at Annex 1, be noted
- (B) That the financial outturn for Quarter 2 as detailed at Annex 3, be noted.
- (C) That clarification of the financial information be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.

15. Environment Enforcement Action Plan 2009/10

The Committee received a presentation from the Environmental Protection Manager on the further outcomes of the current year's Action Plan.

Objectives 1 Duty of Care and 2 Working with Partners

It was reported that 233 leaflets on duty of care had been distributed by the Chamber of Commerce to businesses on industrial estates and 1 in 5 would be visited by Officers from Environmental Health.

Officers had inspected 170 food businesses and ascertained that disposal of food waste had been correctly complied with.

Good partnership working was continuing. Stop and search exercises had been carried out with Staffordshire Police with 17 drivers being spoken to and 2 formal cautions served. A further exercise had been undertaken in relation to 2 scrap metal collectors, one of which had produced a notice and the other sent an advisory letter. The Environmental Protection Manager had visited Cannock Police Station and covered all shifts to train Officers on how they could assist with this issue, with a conference link to Rugeley Police Station.

3 Raising Awareness and 4 Reduce Fly-tipping

Initiatives to raise awareness of how people could report incidents of fly-tipping had been undertaken, including leaflets being distributed by street wardens to residents whose properties backed on to open land, and Officers visiting DIY/builders merchants. Council had recently approved the adoption of a reward scheme whereby £100 would be paid to the public for information that led to the successful prosecution of fly-tippers. A further project would be carried out with leaflets being distributed to petrol filling stations, together with a supply of small pens and a small sized card summarising how the public could report fly-tipping. It was considered that this would also discourage people from actually fly-tipping as they would be aware that they may be observed, reported and fined.

A Member enquired whether action plans with respect to weee regulations had been undertaken, the Environmental Protection Manager agreed to look into this matter.

5 Reduce Littering and 6. Reduce Dog Fouling

In order to help reduce littering, patrols had been carried out, posters placed in town centres, a vehicle litter campaign undertaken and 15 fixed penalty notices issued. Initiatives undertaken to address dog fouling problem included agency worker patrols, stencils on footpaths, surveillance notices displayed, adverts on buses, leaflets distributed to vets and pet shops and 29 fixed penalty notices had been issued. Approval had been given by Cabinet in December 2009 for the making of Dog Control Orders and a consultation process was being carried out with respect to the possibility of dogs being banned from Parks.

7 Improve appearance of District

To improve the appearance of the district, graffiti and fly posting protocols had been established and 4 'own your street' events held in the municipal year. The hawks had proven to be successful in reducing the number of pigeons in town centres.

The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN