

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:
Councillors

Preece, J. (Chairman)
Witton, P. (Vice-Chairman)

Dean, A.	Pearson, A.
Dudson, Miss M.J.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Foley, D.	Sutherland, M. (substituting for C.I. Lea)
Johnson, T.B.	
Peake, Mrs. C.	

Also in attendance:-

Councillor C. Bennett (Crime & Partnerships Portfolio Leader - observer)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.I. Lea, Mrs. D. Grice and M.R. Grocott.

Councillor M. Sutherland was in attendance as substitute for Councillor C.I. Lea.

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

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

3. Scope and Functions of the Environment Scrutiny Committee

Judith Aupers, Head of Governance provided Members with a presentation which gave an overview of the scope and functions of the Environment Scrutiny Committee. The presentation covered the following:-

- Support for the Committee
- Background to Scrutiny
- Purpose of Scrutiny
- The Committee's Role and Remit

- Performance Management
- Example of Scrutiny Work
- Work Programme 2015/16
- The Priority Delivery Plan (PDP)

Members noted that the Lead Officer of the Committee was Joss Presland, Acting Head of Waste Management. Other Heads of Service and Managers would have an input in the Committee as appropriate.

The Head of Governance explained that the Environmental aspects of the Cleaner & Safer Environment Priority Delivery Plan, including Streetscene fell under the Committee's remit. However, she would clarify at a later date whether Licensing and Grounds Maintenance (including The Chase and Hednesford Hills) came under the remit of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

4. Work Programme 2015-16

Joss Presland, Acting Head of Waste Management, outlined a draft Work Programme for 2015-16 for the Committee to consider, as follows:-

Meeting 2 September 2015

- Terms of Reference
- Proposed Work Programme (2015-16 Municipal Year)
- Waste Collection Contract Update (Verbal)

Meeting 2 December 2015

- Priority Delivery Plan 2015-16 (First & Second Quarter Performance)
- Micro-chipping of Dogs (England) Regulations
- Environmental Crime (Report on Outcomes of the Environmental Enforcement Action Plan 2014-15)
- Animals Killed on Roads
- Waste Collection Contract Update

Meeting 24 February 2016

- Priority Delivery Plan 2015-16 (Third Quarter Performance)
- Fly Tipping
- Waste Containers Left on Streets
- Waste Collection Contract Update

Meeting 20 April 2016

- Dog Fouling
- Environmental Crime (Draft Environmental Enforcement Action Plan 2016-17)
- Air Quality Update
- Street Cleansing Update

He advised the Committee that additional items could be added to the Work Programme should Members have any suggestions for the Committee to consider.

A Member questioned the procurement of the Waste Collection Services contract which ensured a minimum 50% rate of recycling. The Acting Head of Waste Management confirmed that the Government target for recycling was 50%. Cannock Chase was in the top quartile for recycling figures (52%); a lot of the other Districts and Boroughs in the area were not performing as well. He further advised that there was a decrease in recycling figures nationally and the Government had introduced two new pieces of legislation designed to improve recycling quality that unfortunately had not assisted in raising these figures.

A Member asked whether the amount of waste taken to the Poplars Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) by Cannock residents was recorded against the Council's recycling rate. The Lead Officer explained that the waste taken to the Poplars HWRC site by all residents of the District was recorded against the County Council recycling figures and not Cannock Council's, as it was with all other Household Waste and Recycling Centres.

With regard to the Work Programme the Chairman explained that he would like to include a review of the Countryside and Landscape Services and the relationship in the AONB within the Work Programme if it was determined that it fell under the remit of the Committee.

A Member suggested the issue of parking of vehicles, trailers and caravans on the grass verges outside of properties could be added to the Work Programme. He considered this had a detrimental impact on the look of the District. Although there were no byelaws preventing this from occurring he considered that an article in the local newspaper or Hometalk magazine may assist.

The Committee discussed the Bus Shelter Replacement and Refurbishment Programme which was outlined as an action for this Committee. The Lead Officer explained that there had been no budget for the maintenance of bus shelters for a long time and many had fallen into disrepair. The same applied to street/road name plates. However, for 2015/16 a budget was available to deliver a Bus Shelter Replacement and Refurbishment Programme. A Member stated that in some areas of the District, where crime was higher, there may be a need for a larger budget and suggested that the Police could be involved. The Head of Governance explained that this issue could cross over into the work of the Community Safety Scrutiny Committee. Members discussed the possibility of holding Joint Sub Committees where work crossed over into two of the Scrutiny Committees. The Head of Governance advised that she would

check if this could be done.

The Committee then discussed whether those on probation could be involved in repairing vandalism to bus shelters. The Lead Officer explained that a number of years ago the Council had worked with the probation service who had provided workers to help tidy up the bus station. It had proved difficult to manage these workers as they were aware that our officers had no jurisdiction over them.

Members noted that a scheme that had proved successful was used to inform the Junior Citizens Award, now being rolled out by PR and Marketing Team. This scheme had been used in Bridgtown where there was an issue with a particular bus shelter. The school had taken ownership of the bus shelter and had successfully turned it into a Community Project for their school.

Another Member made reference to National Citizen Service. This was aimed at 16/17 years olds and encouraged them to take part in social action projects. Participants develop a social action project to deal with a local environment issue they were passionate about. She suggested that the Committee may wish to look into this further.

A Member supported the suggestion of working alongside another Scrutiny Committee where work crossed over. She also asked that more detail be provided on the bus shelters that required refurbishment/replacement when this was discussed at the Committee.

A Member asked how the strategic objectives were determined. The Head of Governance advised that the Council's Leadership Team had determined the key priority areas and strategic objectives from demographic information and the public's views on the big issues. The strategic objectives were considered at Cabinet and then submitted to full Council for approval.

Following this it was AGREED:

(A) That the Work Programme for 2015/16 be as outlined by the Acting Head of Waste Management be noted with consideration being given to including the following:-

- The review of the Countryside and Landscape Services and the relationship in the AONB (once it had been determined if it fell within the remit of the Committee);
- the issue of parking of vehicles, trailers and caravans on the grass verges outside of properties.

(B) That the draft Work Programme be circulated to all Members of the Committee and further consideration be given to this at the next meeting.

5. Waste Collection Contract Update (Verbal update)

The Acting Head of Waste Management advised the Committee that the

current Waste Collection Contract was split; two thirds of the Contract was in-house whilst one third was outsourced. However, the contract was due for renewal and it had been agreed that the whole Waste Collection Contract be combined and a single contract for the delivery of all Waste Collection Services be put out to tender. An in-house bid had been submitted and a number of external contractors had also submitted bids. The new Waste Collection Contract was a 7 year contract (with the option to extend it for a further 7 years) and would run from 1 April, 2016. A decision on who will be awarded the Waste Collection Contract would be made towards the end of October/early November.

The Committee asked why the contracts had been combined and a single contract for the delivery of all Waste Collection Services had been put out to tender when the in-house team already ran two thirds of the Contract. The Officer advised that Leadership Team and Cabinet had carefully considered whether to combine the contracts and decided that, in order to ensure that the Council was getting best value, a single contract for the delivery of all Waste Collection Services should be put out to tender. Members noted that the Contract would not necessarily be awarded to the lowest bidder as the split was 50/50 on price and quality.

The meeting closed at 4.55pm.

CHAIRMAN