

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT:  
Councillors

Bottomer, B. (Chairman)

Bennett, C	Stretton, Mrs. Z.P.
Dean, A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Jones, R.	

**22. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss M.A. Freeman and Mrs. D. Grice.

**23. 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.

**24. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

**25. Environment Priority Delivery Plan (PDP) 2014-15 – Quarter 3 Performance Update**

Consideration was given to the Environment PDP 2014-15 quarter three performance update (Item 4.1 – 4.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Cllr. Bennett thanked all Officers concerned for helping to achieve the indicators as set out in the update.

RESOLVED:

That the Environment PDP 2014-15 quarter three performance update be noted.

## 26. Street Cleansing Update

Members received a presentation from the Waste & Engineering Services Manager on the Street Cleaning Service, which covered the following topics:

- Cleansing Service overview;
  - 15 employees
  - 1 supervisor
  - 2 precinct sweepers
  - 1 road sweeper
  - 3 cage vehicles
- Main Duties;
  - These relate only to Council owned and some 'adopted' County Council land
- Mechanical Sweeping;
  - Same level of work has been maintained by the Council as it was when the Service was contracted out
  - 46,000m<sup>2</sup> of town centres swept every day, 7 days a week
  - 1,000km of district roads swept, on a 13 week programme, 4 times a year
  - 50,000m<sup>2</sup> of district shopping areas and car parks swept every week
  - 845 tonnes swept up in 2013/14
- Litter Picking;
  - 46,000m<sup>2</sup> of town centres covered 7 days a week
  - 80km of district roads and open spaces, every day
  - Litter pick and cleanse over 40 play areas twice a week
  - All district 'B' roads covered within 2 weeks
  - 470 tonnes picked up in 2013/14 – this figure is higher than previous years, but this is put down to the Service doing the work better rather than there being a general increase in litter dropped
- Litter Bins
  - Over 390 street and open spaces litter bins emptied at least twice a week
  - 110 town centre bins emptied every day, 7 days a week
  - 1/3 (over 150) of the total number of bins have been replaced – this includes all town centre bins and many bins on the districts shopping areas and highways
  - A new 'trial bin' system has been integrated, designed to maximise the right locations and logistics
- Needle Sticks
  - On average 6 needle sticks per week were collected, which was a lot lower than a number of other local authorities
- Fly Tipping
  - Aim to remove all fly-tipping and road kill within 24 hours of it being reported – if considered dangerous then it will be collected the same day
  - Recorded 20 tonnes collected in 2013/14, although the actual figure may be twice this amount, however this would

still be significantly lower than compared to previous years.

- Graffiti
  - Aim to remove all graffiti within 24 hours of it being reported – if considered offensive then it will be removed the same day
- Updating the service
  - 3 new caged tippers
  - 2 new precinct sweepers
  - 1 new channel sweeper
  - Own high pressure washer – graffiti and chewing gum removal
- Electric Van Trial

Members raised concerns about a number of areas in Rugeley which were particularly susceptible to being littered. The Waste & Engineering Services Manager asked that Members report any such concerns to the Street Cleansing team so that where possible, action could be taken. The Environmental Protection Manager advised that where littering was a particular issue on privately owned land, his team could look to take action against the land owners if they could be identified.

## **27. Environmental Enforcement Action Plan 2015/16**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 6.1 – 6.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council) *presented by the Environmental Protection Manager*.

The Environmental Protection Manager reported that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had recently issued a consultation to seek views on whether fixed penalty notices (FPNs) should be issued against individuals who were caught fly-tipping, and so would be responding that this approach should be adopted. He also advised that the outcomes of the 2013/14 Environmental Enforcement action plan would be reported to the Committee in the 2015/16 municipal year.

Cllr. Stretton asked what was being done to tackle the continuous odour problems caused by the Anaerobic Digester Plant (ADP) at the Poplars landfill site.

The Environmental Protection Manager provided the following response:

- Regulation of the ADP was not the responsibility of the District Council, but covered by the Environment Agency as the body that issues the environmental permit, and Staffordshire County Council from a planning perspective.
- The District Council did however attend regular liaison meetings which were hosted by Biffa (the site owners), who have been working a lot with the Environment Agency over the past 12 months to address issues raised. As a result, the number of odour related issues reported to the Agency had fallen.
- In 2013/14 the Scrutiny Committee established a working group to look in the air quality matters in the District, one of which being the

ADP. The working group's findings were reported to Scrutiny Committee in April 2014 and Cabinet in September 2014.

The Head of Housing & Waste Management advised that the ADP had been raised as an issue by this Committee last year. As a result, representatives from Biffa were invited to attend a meeting, but declined to do so as they already the liaison committee in place.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals detailed in the 2015/16 action plan be noted and approved.

## **28. Work Programme for 2014-15**

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

RESOLVED:

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

The meeting closed at 4:52pm

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CHAIRMAN