

# ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 15 July 2003 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa, at 6.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Compton (Chairman); Councillors Ashford, Chander, Coker, Copping, Evans, and Mrs Hodgetts.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Begg (Portfolio Holder for Environment Services); and

Councillor Tamlin (Portfolio Holder for Development Services).

(Councillor Coker substituted for Councillor Davies)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Blacklock and Cockburn.

## 239. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 240. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 20 May and 17 June 2003, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## 241. **FUTURE METHODS OF WORKING AND PROSPECTIVE WORK PLAN**

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director on the work programme for the forthcoming year and on the means of tackling that work.

At its previous meeting, the Committee had considered a prospective work plan that had been drafted for the end of the last municipal year.

Members had identified a number of issues which were thought to be a priority for this Committee. These were:-

- (i) The work of partnership organisations in terms of nexus with the Council's Corporate Strategy and also Performance Review;
- (ii) car park income and usage;
- (iii) the work of Action 21; and
- (iv) the Public Conveniences Cleansing Contract.

## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)**

Other items were considered, but in future they would not fall within the remit of this Committee, as the constitutional changes to the overview and scrutiny arrangements allocated them elsewhere.

In addition, after every quarter of the financial year, performance monitoring reports would be presented for consideration by each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees simultaneously.

A further copy of the prospective work plan was attached as an appendix to the report, amendments having been made to reflect the matters debated at the June meeting.

In order to refine it further and to construct a work plan that made a full contribution to the corporate governance of the Council, whilst recognising the need to ensure that it could be reasonably achieved in practice, Members were invited to consider the core issues, themes and topics upon which they would like the Committee to focus its attentions to deliver an effective overview and scrutiny function. By way of background information, Officers had conducted some research on the evolution of this function in other Councils. Attached as an appendix to the report was a diagram which showed the seven stage process adopted by the London Borough of Newham.

Whilst it was not wholly appropriate to the needs of this Council, it was suggested that Members test its applicability to the key issues which they would like to progress in their own work plan.

### **RECOMMENDED** that;

- (1) the key items to be overseen and scrutinised over the next year, as detailed at appendix 1 to the report, be approved with the following amendments:-
  - (i) car parks income and usage figures, the public interest debate on decriminalisation of parking and the review of the public convenience cleansing contract, be removed from the work programme as they would now fall within the Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee remit;
  - (ii) a review of the Street Cleansing Contract, recycling, a unified policy of waste enforcement for the Council and the investigation into the pollution issue at Rouncil Lane, Kenilworth, be added to the work programme; and

## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)**

- (2) a system of scrutiny, broadly based and incorporated into the Newham model, but adjusted as required for each specific project, be adopted by the Committee.

### **242. EXECUTIVE MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the Executive held on 23 June 2003, which came within its remit.

**RECOMMENDED** that the minutes be noted.

### **243. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)**

The Committee considered the items on the Executive Agenda to be held on 21 July 2003 which came within its remit.

As a result, the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

#### **Item 2A - Petition from the Residents of Sydenham Sponsored by Councillor Ms Flanagan**

The Committee requested a joint report, from Leisure & Amenities and Environmental Health, on the Council's policy for the installation of dog bins, including the use of public litter bins for the disposal of dog waste.

#### **Item 3A - Notice of Motion from Councillor R I G Davies**

The Committee requested reports from both Environmental Health and Severn Trent, explaining their understanding of the history and cause of the problem within the Rouncil Lane, Mortimer Road and Leycester Way areas of Kenilworth, to its meeting on 12 August 2003 so that they can decide how to progress the issue further.

#### **Item 3 - Corporate Strategy**

The Committee supported in principal the adoption of the Corporate Strategy.

#### **Item 14 - Waste Enforcement Policy**

The Committee supported the adoption of this policy, but questioned if it could be successfully implemented without additional staffing and, if not, was it a meaningful policy.

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)**

**Item 15 - Leamington Safety Demonstration Project**

The Committee supported the recommendations of the report.

(The meeting ended at 7.27 p.m.)

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