

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 15 December 2004, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Compton (Chairman), Councillors; Mrs Blacklock, Copping, Evans, Hatfield, Sandhar and Smith.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Begg (Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services)

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Davies and Short.

(Councillor Evans substituted for Councillor Gill)

572. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute Number 584 Executive Agenda (Confidential Items and Reports)

Councillor Mrs Begg declared a personal prejudicial interest in item 29, Progress on the Implementation of the St Mary's Lands Scheme, Warwick, because she was a Trustee of Hill Close Gardens and left the room.

573. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 October 2004 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

574. **AUDIT OF CRIME, DISORDER & DRUGS MISUSE**

The Committee considered a presentation from the Community Safety Manager on the Council's current performance with regard to the 2001 to 2004 Crime and Disorder Strategy and on the content of the South Warwickshire Audit of Crime and Disorder.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the presentation be noted;
- (2) the appointment of an Anti Social Behaviour Officer be welcomed by the Committee;
- (3) the Community Safety Manager be thanked for all his efforts on this project; and
- (4) the excellent work by Spencer Payne at Warwickshire County Council on this project be commended.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

575. CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION STRATEGY

The Committee considered a report and received a presentation from the Pollution Control Team updating them on the progress made to date on the implementation of the Contaminated Land Strategy.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report and presentation be noted; and
- (2) an update report be submitted to this Committee in December 2005.

576. LOCAL PLAN ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

The Committee considered a report and presentation from Planning informing them on the background, purpose and content of the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report for 2004.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report and presentation be noted; and
- (2) the Planning Policy team be thanked for all their efforts on the report.

577. HERITAGE GRANTS REVIEW

The Committee considered appointing three Councillors to act as a working party to liaise with the Councils Conservation Officer in undertaking a review of the Heritage Grants Scheme.

RESOLVED that

- (1) Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Hatfield and Smith be appointed as a working party to undertake a review of the Heritage Grants Scheme to see if it is achieving its objectives; and
- (2) the Working Party report back their findings to the Committee on the 23 March 2005

578. SCRUTINY OF REFUSE SERVICE

The Committee considered a report from the three Working Parties outlining the information they have gathered to date and the next steps of the review they wished to undertake.

At the meeting additional areas of work for the three Working Parties on the question of performance, as detailed in the table below, were submitted.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

<u>Working Party</u>	<u>Area of work</u>
Public perception	Investigate further the procedures used to calculate public satisfaction (i.e. residents' survey and the BVPI which was based on Citizen's Panel (7% and 87% (CP)) and whether they can/should be brought into line with each other. Were there any further/different questions about the service which should be included in the next round of questionnaires?
Missed Collections	Discussions with Planning and Building Control on the controls and restrictions available to address the problems of refuse collection (and provision of recycling facilities) at new properties, blocks of flats and, redevelopments and investigating possible areas and opportunities for improvements
Joint working	Meeting with representatives of Stratford District Council to explore options for joint working.

RESOLVED that

- (1) The content of the report be noted;
- (2) the further work areas for the three Working Parties as circulated at the meeting be agreed for completion by the 2 February 2005;
- (3) a special meeting of the Committee be arranged, for February or March 2005, in consultation with the Chairman to undertake a select committee interviewing neighbouring authorities;
- (4) the 6 appointments to undertake the investigation into different waste types and the problems associated with these, be deferred until the 2 February 2005 meeting; and
- (5) an officer from Warwickshire County Council, be invited, to give a presentation on the Countywide Strategy to the February meeting.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

579. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT HALF YEAR RESULTS 2004/2005

The Committee considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services on the present performance on the services and the progress made to date on the Corporate Strategy Key indicators, which fell within their remit.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the recommendations in the report be supported;
- (2) an investigation be carried out into the “DS53 BV204 % of appeals allowed against the authority’s decision to refuse planning applications”, with a report preceded by a planning seminar to see if there are any common themes which could help to reduce the amount of appeals allowed; and
- (3) the Portfolio Holder be supported that there could be a need to change the target for “EM 17 BV86 Cost of waste collection per household” as this target did not allow for the cost of recycling collections.

580. EXECUTIVE MEETING – WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2004

The Committee considered the minutes of the Executive meeting held on Wednesday, 25 October 2004 which came within its remit.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

581. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered their work programme for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED that Work Programme be confirmed, with the following amendments:

- (i) Rouncil Lane report be delayed until March to allow for further investigations; and
- (ii) a report be submitted to a future meeting on the new legislation currently working its way through the House of Commons with regard to telecommunication masts.

582. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 20 December 2004 which came within its remit. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

Item 3 Approval of General Fund Base Estimates 2004/2005 Revised and 2005/2006 Estimates

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, including recommendation 2 at paragraph 13.7 of the supplementary information, which was contrary to Minute 314 of this Committee on the 8 September 2004.

Item 5 Annual Audit Letter

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 7 Performance Management – Half Year Results 2004/2005

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and requested an investigation is carried out into the “DS53 BV204 % of appeals allowed against the authority’s decision to refuse planning applications”, with a report preceded by a planning seminar to see if there are any common themes which could help to reduce the amount of appeals allowed. The Committee were also in agreement with the Portfolio Holder that there might be a need to change the target for “EM 17 BV86 Cost of waste collection per household” as this target did not allow for the cost of recycling collections.

Item 8 Feedback from 2004 Consultation and Consultation Programme for 2005

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 13 Additions to the Council’s Scheme of Delegation to Officers

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 14 Declaration of air Quality Management Areas

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and requested a report back to them in December 2005.

Item 15 To Adopt the 2004 Audit of Crime, Disorder and Drugs Misuse

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report. The Committee also expressed their gratitude towards the Community Safety Manager for all his efforts in this project along with Spencer Payne of Warwickshire County Council for his excellent work.

Item 16 Local Development Scheme

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 17 Retail Development in Leamington

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but requested that the project is dealt with expeditiously.

Item 18 Old Town Square, Leamington Spa

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 19 Car Park Strategy

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and asked that the Executive request the lead officers to explore the following options further:

- 1) To review the Inspector's scope to include other areas other than car parking enforcement, such as litter, fly posting and dog fouling; and
- 2) To consider further the implications this may have on the local transport plan and how this links into the local transport plan.

583. PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting for the following items, by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 12 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

584. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 20 December 2004 which came within its remit. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Item 27 Selection of Tender for the Sustainability Appraisal for Warwick District Local Plan

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 28 Dog Warden Service

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 29 Progress on the Implementation of the St. Mary's Lands Scheme, Warwick

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 30 Coventry Airport

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(The meeting ended at 9.06 pm)