

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 12 August 2003 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa, at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Cockburn, Davies, Gill, Hatfield, Sandhar, Short and Smith.

(Councillor Cockburn substituted for Councillor Mrs Compton).

Apologies for absence where received from Councillor Copping

312. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Compton be appointed Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED that Councillor Cockburn be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

313. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute Number 314 - Smells from a Foul Sewer in Kenilworth

Councillor Davies declared a personal interest in this item because he was a resident of Rouncil Lane, Kenilworth.

Councillor Cockburn declared a personal interest during the discussion of this item when it became apparent that the problem emanated from the abattoir because he had sold some sheep to the abattoir for slaughter.

314. SMELLS FROM A FOUL SEWER IN KENILWORTH

The Committee considered a report from Environmental Health as a response to the Notice of Motion presented to Council on the 9 July by Councillor R I G Davies advising members of the work which had been and which was currently being undertaken with regard to preventing smells emanating from the foul sewer serving the Rouncil Lane area of Kenilworth.

The Environmental Health Officer informed members that meetings had now taken place with Severn Trent and that an issue in treating the effluent had been discovered at the Abattoir. Severn Trent was working to resolve this issue and would report on this at the September meeting of this Committee.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) the next meeting of the be held at in Kenilworth.

315. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director seeking to develop a work plan for the forthcoming year.

At its meeting in July 2003 the Committee had looked at its prospective work plan in the context of a template for overview and scrutiny investigations as currently operated by the London Borough of Newham. Whilst it was not thought to be wholly appropriate to the needs of this Council it contained elements that would be useful to members who planned their own investigations on issues falling within the remit of this Committee.

Also at the July meeting members had considered the revised terms of reference for the Committee. It was determined that a number of prospective work areas that had come within its remit would no longer do so. These were; car park income and usage, decriminalisation of car parking, the public conveniences contract, the review of Warwick Market Place and Leamington cultural quarter.

In addition to this, at the previous meeting, members had identified a number of key issues that were thought to be a priority for this Committee over the course of the year in delivery of an effective overview and scrutiny function that made a full contribution to the corporate governance of the Council. These were: The work of partner organisations in terms of nexus with the Council's corporate strategy and also performance review (and most notably in this context Action 21); the continuing sewer nuisance in Rouncil Lane, Kenilworth and surrounding areas; recycling and street cleansing.

In view of the urgent need to look into the Rouncil Lane problem members had determined that this should be the Committee's first priority for the ensuing year.

RECOMMENDED that the work programme attached at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted for the remainder of the municipal year in the knowledge that it is a living document and was capable of refinement and amendment as changing circumstances required.

316. EXECUTIVE MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the Executive meeting held on the 21 July 2003, which came within its remit.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

317. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday 18 August 2003, which came within the remit of the Committee. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

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Item 4 - Corporate Strategy

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item 5 - Resources Strategy and Service Plan 2003/2004 - Amendments

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item 8 - Corporate Improvement Plan

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item 12 - Performance Management - first quarter results 2003-2004

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item 13 – Financial Monitoring 2003-2004

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item 15E - Planning and Best Value Review

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

(The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.)

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