

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 3 February 2004 at the Town Hall, Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

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

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Davies

842. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

843. **SCRUTINY OF ACTION 21**

The Committee considered a report from the Environmental Directorate seeking approval of the draft report to the Executive in March, based on the Committee's deliberations regarding the scrutiny of Action 21.

RESOLVED that the draft report as attached as an appendix to the report be submitted to the Executive in March.

844. **WARWICK DISTRICT TOWNS CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY FORUM (ANNUAL REVIEW)**

The Committee considered a report from Planning and Engineering providing an annual progress report on the functioning of the Warwick Towns Conservation Area Advisory Forum.

At the Executive in April 2002, it was agreed to extend the remit of the Royal Leamington Spa Conservation Area Advisory Forum to cover the four towns within Warwick District. It had been agreed that after six months the effectiveness of the extended forum would be reviewed, and this was carried out by a report to the Executive on 10 February 2003. At that time, it was requested that a further progress report be prepared a year on from that date.

The report detailed the current position of the Conservation Advisory Forum and proposals to improve its performance in the year 2004/5.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Executive be asked to agree that the current format continues with a further report back to them in 2005.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

845. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – THIRD QUARTER RESULTS 2003/04

The Committee considered the quarterly performance report from the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder.

The reports followed the format agreed when the second quarter performance reports were received and had been developed to enable Portfolio Holders to be more directly involved in managing performance, and developing corrective action. It also enabled Scrutiny Committees to have access to quality information to allow them to hold Portfolio Holders to account for performance.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the recommendations in the report be agreed
- (2) the officers be congratulated on their outstanding performance with regard to “EM3 Properties alleviated from flooding from critical ordinary watercourses by capital expenditure”.
- (3) officers be congratulated because the district was recycling the highest percentage of household waste in the County; and
- (4) a report be submitted to the Executive, on the potential for improving the quality of the Council Chamber facilities, including, seating arrangements, furniture quality, lighting, sound quality etc, which needed to be addressed corporately.

846. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme for the ensuing year.

The following amendments were made to the work programme:-

The event to be co-ordinated with other scrutiny committees, on the 2 March be removed from the work plan;

The Review of flood alleviation measures – to appoint members to investigate the three suggested areas of investigation, be deferred until 30 March; and

The EMAS and Green Travel Plan be moved to the pending area for consideration next year.

RECOMMENDED that the work plan, as amended, be approved.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

847. EXECUTIVE MEETING – MONDAY, 19 JANUARY 2004

The Committee considered the minutes of the Executive meeting held on Monday, 19 January 2004 which came within its remit.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

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

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 9 February 2004 which came within the remit of the Committee. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Item Number 3 - Budget 2004/2005 and Council Tax – Revenue and Capital

The Committee declined to comment on this item as it would be considered at Council in due course.

Item Number 6 - Performance Management – Third Quarter results 2003/2004

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report. However they also wished to highlight the outstanding performance with regard to “EM3 Properties alleviated from flooding from critical ordinary watercourses by capital expenditure”. The Committee also felt it was appropriate to highlight that this district was recycling the highest percentage of household waste in the County. The Committee also wished to highlight, as a result of a number of complaints received from members of the public to both officers and Councillors, that there was a desperate need to improve the quality of the Council Chamber facilities, including, seating arrangements, furniture quality, lighting, sound quality etc, which needed to be addressed corporately.

Item Number 7 - Comprehensive Performance Assessment

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item Number - Revisions to Consultation Strategy – Feedback from the 2003 Citizens Panel – Surveys and Consultation Programme for 2004

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, as it was a very advantageous scheme.

Item Number 9 - Portfolio Holders Statement

The Committee supported the recommendations of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, but highlighted that a close third was to improve performance on street cleansing.

Item Number 10 - Benchmarking Strategy

The Committees supported the recommendation in the report.

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Item Number 12 - Recycling

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and highlighted that Warwick District is the leading authority in Warwickshire for the percentage of household waste which is recycled.

Item Number 13 - Smells from a Foul Sewer in Kenilworth

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item Number 15(C) - South Warwickshire Affordable Warmth Strategy

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Item Number 15(D) - Joint Warwick and Stratford District Council's Health Improvement and Well Being Policy

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

(The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.)

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