



meeting **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **12 December 2005**

agenda item number

Report of the Chair of the Select Committee

Forward Plan

Purpose

1. To advise members of the Select Committee on environmental issues listed on the current Forward Plan.

Background

2. The Environment and Sustainability Select Committee agreed to include the Forward Plan on all of its agendas for future meetings.
3. A copy of the Forward Plan is attached. The Select Committee may wish to request further information on any subject areas listed in order to engage in pre-decision scrutiny.

Issues

4. The latest Forward Plan contains a number of items with environmental issues as detailed below:
 - Decriminalised Parking Enforcement: The two elements of this project are the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) review and the application for the County Council to assume responsibility for decriminalised parking enforcement in co-operation with the District Councils. In July 2005, it was reported to this Select Committee that the TRO review was 90% complete. The County Council is seeking to resolve anomalies raised during the course of the review in order to have TRO's legally enforceable by January 2007. A comprehensive maintenance programme will review substandard signs and lines. A report on this matter will go to cabinet on 7 December 2005. The report will entail decisions on matters such as enforcement of on/off street parking and a processing centre for fines.

- **Local Bus Performance Management Framework: Halcrow Tender Prioritisation Study:** A report on this issue will go to Cabinet on 7 December. The report proposes some changes to the criteria for bus services provided by the County Council that was approved in July 2003. These changes relate to the original scoring system in respect of level of deprivation and car ownership.
- **Minerals & Waste Development Framework Waste Core Strategy:** The Minerals and Waste Development Framework will set out the County Council's strategy for future minerals and waste development. It will also set out the public consultation measures that the County Council will undertake when carrying out all its planning functions and the timetable for the preparation and adoption of future minerals and waste policy documents. These will eventually replace the existing Minerals and Waste Local Plans. Work has started on preparing the new Waste Development Documents and the council expects to carry out initial consultation on 'Issues and Options' for the Waste Core Strategy and Waste Development Control Policies during the summer. Work on preparing site specific policies will start about a year later. A report is expected to go to Cabinet on 11th January 2006.
- **Building Sustainability into the Work of the County Council:** The Environment and Sustainability Select Committee received a report on this issue from the Group Manager (Environmental Strategy) on 31 October 2005. Sustainable development continues to be a major policy driver at local and national level. The Comprehensive Performance Assessment is set to recognise and reward good performance on sustainable development and community engagement. A report went before County Council on 1 December 2005.
- **NET Phase 2: Seeking Approval to Submit Transport & Works Act Order Application:** Net Phase Two would serve areas to the south and west of Nottingham doubling the length of the system, the number of stops and the size of the tram fleet. As soon as NET Phase Two receives approval on its funding case from the Department for Transport (DfT) final approval will be sought from the City and County Councils to submit an application to Government for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAo). An approved TWAo provides the powers to enable the new tram lines to be built and operated. A Public Inquiry is likely to follow in 2006 and if all the necessary approvals and funding are in place, construction works could start in 2008. A three year construction period is expected so trams could be running south and west of the city in 2011. It is anticipated that a report will go to County Council on this matter on 19 January 2006.
- **Award of 26 year PFI Waste Contract:** On 31 October 2005, the Environment and Sustainability Select Committee received a report from the Director of Environment indicating that the County Councils Waste Management Section is currently in the process of awarding a 26 year PFI contract to manage all of the County Council's waste. This contract will ensure that the County Council achieves recycling rates of 43% in

2010, 48% in 2015 and 52% in 2020. In addition to this the contract will ensure that the Authority reduces its reliance on landfill in accordance with the targets set by Government for Nottinghamshire. It is anticipated that a report will go to County Council on 19 January 2006.

- Minerals and Waste Development Framework, Statement of Community Involvement: On 31st October 2005, the Environment and Sustainability Select Committee received a report on this matter which resulted in a sub-group of the Committee being established to be consulted on the preparation of future Development Plan and other relevant documents in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework. The sub-group will have regular briefing sessions with officers, with the aim being to improve Members' involvement in and understanding of the planning process. It is anticipated that a report on the Statement of Community Involvement will go to County Council on 19 January 2006.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

Members discuss the Forward Plan and identify any issues from it that they would like further information on or on which they wish to comment.

Councillor the Hon Joan Taylor
Chair, Environment and Sustainability Select Committee

Background Papers
Nil