



meeting	ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY SELECT COMMITTEE	
date	4 th July 2005	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCRUTINY

Terms of Reference and Annual Review

Purpose of the Report

1. This report introduces the Committee to its Terms of Reference for 2005/06.

Terms of Reference

2. The Terms of Reference for the Environment & Sustainability Select Committee as defined by Article 6 – Select Committees of the County Council's Constitution, are to provide:

An overview of the Council's performance on environmental protection and sustainability including

- planning,
- transport,
- rights of way,
- engineering and building,
- waste disposal and
- direct service organisations.

Strategic Priorities

3. The Strategic Priorities for this Select Committee will need to be amended in light of the new Strategic Plan which is currently being prepared. The Strategic Priorities below are those taken into account by the Select Committee when devising its programme of work over the last year (see Appendix A).

Environment - We will safeguard the natural and built environment and work for more and better public transport options, better roads, more recycling and less waste.

- Work with partners to reduce waste and achieve more recycling through separate collection of materials, and composting
- Secure a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by energy conservation and purchase of 'greener' energy
- Improve the County's highway network and work with partners to reduce accidents
- Reduce car usage through the provision of better information on public transport, through the adoption of more school travel plans and by improving bus, rail and tram services
- Raise environmental awareness
- With partners, conserve and enhance the County's outdoor environment, countryside and wildlife.

Environment Targets

- Double our waste recycling rate from 8% in 1998/99 to 16% in 2003/04
- Reduce the backlog of repairs on main roads by 80% over the next four years
- Reduce CO2 emissions from County Council buildings by 25% on the 1998 level by 2003
- Reduce the use of cars for journeys to school from 27% to 25% by 2006
- Cut the number of deaths and serious injuries to children caused by road accidents from 130 per year (1994-98) by 28% by 2005
- Introduce half-hourly daytime services on the Robin Hood Line between Nottingham and Mansfield Woodhouse by 2002/03.

Cabinet Portfolios

4. The Terms of Reference for the Select Committee includes scrutiny of the following Cabinet Portfolios:
 - Environment – Councillor Mrs S M Smedley
 - Resources – Councillor John Stocks

Services

5. Members of the Management Team of Environment Department will make a presentation to the Committee introducing Members to the range of Services falling within the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Previous Scrutiny

6. A review of scrutiny conducted by the Environment Select Committee during the last municipal year is attached at Appendix A for information.

Extant Sub-Groups

7. **Sustainability Sub-Group:** In early 2004, the Environment Standing Select Committee established an informal sub-group to consider and scrutinise sustainability issues. This was a response to the increasing

interest amongst Elected Members in sustainability and more specifically the Cabinet decision in December 2003 (in a report entitled "Taking Sustainability Forward") to give Environment Select sustainability as part of its remit. The Sub-Group met on six occasions over the last eighteen months or so in order to undertake its main function of scrutinising the delivery of the Taking Sustainability Forward Action Plan.

In addition, the Sub-Group has examined issues around excess packaging and contributed to the County Council's response to the UK Sustainable Development Strategy consultation.

Joint Steering Group – School Travel Plans: The Select Committee also set up a Sub-Group to monitor and oversee the progress of the Government's "Travelling to School Initiative." This is aimed at all schools having a School Travel Plan by 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

the Select Committee notes the Terms of Reference and Annual Review.

Lynn Senior
Head of Scrutiny

ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REVIEW

Listed below are the reports that have been taken to the Select Committee since January 2004 to the present. As well as the reports listed, each meeting received a general progress report from the Cabinet Member for Environment covering the 'day-to-day' activity within the Department. Similar progress reports from the Cabinet Member for Resources have been presented on a quarterly basis. Each meeting also receives a report covering the proposed future work programme for the Committee.

Date of Meeting	Reports Received
5 Jan. 04	BuildingDIRECT: Presentation by Property Services Division Waste Strategy - Progress Report Residents' Parking Schemes Meeting with Bus Operators (oral report)
16 Feb. 04	Half Yearly Report on Direct Services Local Bus Service Provision and Framework School Travel Plans - Further Progress Report Grass Cutting Work Programme
29 March 04	Schools Catering - Healthy Eating Progress Report Taking Sustainability Forward Nottinghamshire Public Service Agreement for CO ₂ Emissions Reduction and the Nottinghamshire Woodheat Programme
20 May 04	Highways Agency Presentation Fluvial Trent Strategy: County Council Response to Environment Agency Consultation Waste Strategy Update Minerals Local Plan
29 June 04	Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement Street Lighting Performance - Outage and Service Level Agreement with Central Networks Building Cleaning, Landscape and Catering Services Service Performance Progress - June 2004 School Travel Plans Progress Report - June 2004 Progress Report on the Implementation of the Highway Service Review Action Plan Final Progress Report on the Best Value Review of Public Transport
6 Sept. 04	Highways Services Review: Progress Report on

Date of Meeting	Reports Received
	Implementation Highways Agencies Transfers: Progress Report Waste Strategy Progress Report Traffic Calming Scoping Report
18 Oct. 04	Performance of Central Networks in Relation to Street Lighting Taking Sustainability Forward - Update Decriminalised Parking Enforcement - Update Traffic Calming Study Group - Oral Report
29 Nov. 04	OPDM Draft Revised Circular on Planning Obligations Planning Response to Climate Change: New OPDM Guidance Progress with Securing Long-Term Waste Facilities Traffic Calming Study Group - Progress Report
10 Jan. 05	School Travel Plans: Progress Report, Year End 2004 Consultation on a Revised UK Climate Change Programme Performance of Central Networks in Relation to Street Lighting Work Programme
4 April 05	Direct Trading Services to Schools Public Highways Claims and Associates Insurance Traffic Calming Study Group Street Lighting Quarterly Report School Travel Plans Highway Services Best Value Review Improvement Plan - Progress Report Progress Report on Highways Agency Transfers Progress on Development of LTP2 Replacement Minerals Local Plan - Public Inquiry: Main Findings of Inspector's Report