

minutes



Meeting ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 4th July 2005 (commencing at 10.30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with `A`

COUNCILLORS

Hon Joan Taylor (Chair)
Bruce Laughton (Vice-Chair)

Kenneth Bullivant	A	George Kane
W J Clarke		Pat Lally
Barry Cooper	A	J T A Napier
V H Dobson		Ken Rigby
Sybil Fielding		David Shaw

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Stella Smedley

MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th April 2005 having been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ANNUAL REVIEW

The Committee noted the report which set out the strategic priorities for the previous Committee, previous scrutiny activity by the Select Committee, and the role of the Sustainability Sub-Group and School Travel Plan Joint Steering Group. Members of the Environment Department Management Team each gave a presentation on the services provided by their division, after which Members asked a number of questions. Areas of particular interest to Members were highway maintenance, street lighting, grass cutting and the Highway Agencies.

AGENDA ORDER

With the agreement of the Committee, the Chair altered the order of the agenda.

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT'S REPORT FOR APRIL – JUNE 2005

Councillor Stella Smedley introduced her report, and answered a number of questions from Members. In reply to a question from Councillor Laughton, Malvin Trigg, Assistant Director (Transportation) explained that the Traffic Management Act 2004 would not change the statutory processes for making traffic regulation orders but would give greater control over statutory undertakers. At the suggestion of the Chair, it was agreed to provide further information to Members about the Act.

WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair invited Members to suggest items for inclusion in the work programme. Councillor Laughton suggested three of the weaker areas of performance, namely road condition, volumes of waste collected, and the ease of use of footpaths. Councillor Cooper suggested flooding and flood plain development as a topic, and Councillor Rigby put forward the condition of pavements and side roads.

It was agreed that, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, a draft work programme be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

FORWARD PLAN

It was agreed to note the Forward Plan for July – September 2005, and that the Plan be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT – PROGRESS REPORT

Malvin Trigg introduced the report on the progress being made on decriminalised parking enforcement. In reply to questions, Jas Hundal, Deputy Director, explained that only the Police and traffic wardens could enforce illegal parking at the moment. In reply to Councillor Rigby, Mr Trigg said that the Authority hoped to resume creating residents parking schemes once the new enforcement systems were in place. Mr Trigg, in reply to Councillor Taylor, said that the respective roles of the County and District Councils was under discussion.

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS – PROGRESS REPORT

The report detailed progress under the strategy for School Travel Plans. In reply to Councillor Lally, Mr Trigg explained that it was at a school's discretion to become involved in a School Travel Plan. However there were times when a School Travel Plan was a condition of planning consent when a school built

a new classroom.

In relation to the Steering Group, it was suggested that the Members be Councillors Joan Taylor, Jim Napier, Kevan Wakefield and Vincent Dobson. Councillor Taylor felt it would be useful to have a headteacher from a rural school on the Steering Group, and that Members could be kept better informed of School Travel Plan developments in their area.

It was agreed to have a presentation on School Travel Plans at the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 12.55 pm.

CHAIR

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