

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 18TH AUGUST, 2010

Present – Councillors Mrs. Fairclough (Chairman), Wild (Vice Chairman), Allen (as Deputy for Councillor A.S. Walsh), Chadwick, A. Connell, Critchley, Francis, Harkin, Iqbal, Lord, Morgan, Pickup and D. A. Wilkinson

Also in Attendance

Ms. S. Johnson	- Deputy Director of Corporate Resources and Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	- Principal Scrutiny Officer
Councillor Bashir-Ismail	- Executive Members for Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Councillor Zaman	- Executive Member for Environmental Services
Mr. S. Young	- Assistant Director Policy, Performance and Planning
Ms. J. Pollard	- Policy Accountant

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Radlett and A. S. Walsh.

Councillor Mrs Fairclough in the Chair.

9. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 23rd June, 2010 were submitted.

Resolved - That the minutes be signed as a correct record.

10. MONITORING OF DECISIONS

The Director of The Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which provided details of the progress of decisions taken at previous meetings of this Committee.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which set out details of the previously agreed Committee Work Programme for the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

Members' views were sought in relation to any further items that they wanted including in the work programme. The report also included information which would aid the Committee in selecting appropriate items for future consideration.

Resolved – (i) That the updated work programme be noted.

(ii) That under the item, Traffic Lights, Speed Limits and UTC, for consideration at the next meeting, the issue of the time taken to include Scoot (Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique) for managing and controlling traffic signals in urban areas be included.

(iii) That under the item, Sports, Leisure Facilities and Sports Pitches in Parks, for consideration at the next meeting, the issue of school pitches be included.

12. SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES

Mr Stephen Young, Assistant Director Policy, Performance and Planning and Ms. Janet Pollard, Policy Assistant gave a presentation which updated the Committee on the financial position including efficiencies, savings and grants.

By way of introduction, the Committee was informed of:-

- the update of the financial position for 2009/10;
- the financial challenges for 2010/11; and
- the financial challenges for 2011/12 onwards.

In terms of the financial position for the year 2009/10, Members were reminded of the following:-

- the need to underspend the budget;
- three main areas of concern for 2009/10,
 - Bolmoor;
 - Trade Waste; and
 - Markets.
- made the reserves repayment as planned; and

- managed to repay some liabilities also.

The reserves position at 31st March, 2010 and the deficit Reserve Repayment plan were also outlined.

With regard to the challenges for 2010/11, the Committee were apprised of the various budget options within the various divisions of the Department and the challenge of additional 2% in year contingency savings, in year grant savings and reduction in Capital Allocation.

In terms of challenges going forward for 2011/12, the Committee was advised:-

- manage in year budget position;
- savings and efficiency targets for 2011/12 onwards -
 - 11/12 10%
 - 12/13 10%
 - 13/14 5%
- manage reduction in grants; and
- continue to increase the Deficit Reserve Repayment Budget.

Members were advised of the Departmental savings and efficiency strategy, which was a multi layered approach with each division contributing:-

- fundamental service redesign;
- reduced liabilities;
- income generation opportunities;
- entrepreneurial activities and opportunism; and
- exploring services delivery models.

With regard to support available, Mr. Young explained to the Committee the programmed of in house development for supporting various reviews in order to bring about the completion of specific targets and milestones to achieve the 2011/12 savings.

Mr Young went on to explain the provision of financial information and professional advice relating to service areas under review:

- budget and actual financial position of the service;

- live data on pay scales, costs, rates and allowances;
- income generation/grant funding and how this impacted on the rest of the budget and revised structures; and
- implementation costs, e.g. impact of age and service on voluntary redundancy.

In terms of Human Resources and Organisational Development, Members were advised of:-

- management and advice relating to the people implications of the reviews in accordance with legislation and with regard to employee relations;
- staff profiling for current and proposed structures; and
- provision of HR/OD support to those affected by reviews.

Further additional support included:-

- priority interviews for staff at risk;
- creation of a “job shop”;
- personal 1-1 meeting with manager/HR;
- ongoing support during period of redeployment;
- post implementation support for new teams; and
- regular meetings with the unions.

Members, in their deliberations, referred to:-

- cemetery maintenance;
- the model railway in Moss Bank Park and the theft of lines;
- the in year 2% contingency items, including reduced grass cutting around the Borough, the impact of this and Member awareness. Members discussed the need to keep grass cut in the parks;

- the length of Departmental debt repayment and the options going forward;
- matters around those whose job was under threat;
- redundancy issues and its minimisation;
- increasing staff flexibility; and
- options for staff over age 55.

Resolved – That Messrs Pollard and Young be thanked for the joint presentation and that this Committee notes the position but agreed to continually monitor the situation going forward.

13. WINTER GRITTING

The Director of the Chief Executives Department reminded Members of the recent decision to resurrect the Winter Gritting Scrutiny Panel and sought clarification from the Committee on its remit.

Resolved – (i) That the Winter Gritting Scrutiny Panel meets for a one-off meeting at an early date to review gritting issues during the difficult winter of 2009/10 and that wider issues be not considered at the present time.

(ii) That all Members of Council be provided with details of the current gritting routes in the Borough.

14. MEMBERS' BUSINESS

The Committee received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this committee:-

1. Environmental Services Policy Development Group held on 15th July, 2010.
2. Cleaner, Green, Safer Policy Development Group held on 8th July, 2010.
3. Executive Member for Environmental Services held on 7th June, 28th June and 26th July, 2010.
4. Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer held on 29th June and 27th July, 2010.
5. Executive held on 28th June, 2010.

Resolved – That the minutes of the various meetings be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.12 p.m.)