

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 6TH APRIL, 2011

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

### Also in attendance

Ms. S. Johnson	- Deputy Director of Corporate Resources and Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr. I. Mulholland	- Principal Scrutiny Officer
Councillor Bashir Ismail	- Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Councillor Zaman	- Executive Member for Environmental Services
Mr. M. Cox	- Director of Environmental Services
Mr. S. Young	- Assistant Director Policy Performance and Planning
Ms. S. Schofield	- Assistant Director Neighbourhood Services
Ms. D. Ball	- Assistant Director Waste and Fleet Management
Ms. J. Pollard	- Policy Accountant
Mr. T. Groom	- Electricity North West
Mr. S. Kenyon	- United Utilities PLC

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Chadwick and Morgan.

Councillor Mrs. Fairclough in the Chair.

## **52. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 9th February, 2011 were submitted for information together with the minutes of the special meeting held on 24th February, 2011.

Further to Minute 49 of the meeting held on 24th of February, 2011 in relation to Impact of Designated Public Place Orders, Members enquired about the progress of the possibility of a whole Town Order for Bolton and information regarding where Wigan Council were up to in their consideration of such an order.

Resolved – (i) That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February, 2011 be signed as a correct record.

(ii) That in due course Members of this Committee be provided with details of the progress of the possibility of a whole Town Designated Public Place Order for Bolton, together with the progress of Wigan Council in their consideration of such an Order.

### **53. 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.

An update on the working arrangements of the SCOOT (Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique) Traffic Light System near to Sainsbury's on Cricketers Way, Bolton was circulated.

Members in their deliberations referred to:-

- whether the SCOOT Traffic System was working on Blackburn Road, Bolton;
- the waiting at red traffic lights during quiet periods and the need for the Greater Manchester Traffic Unit to look at this issue;

- the need to examine the Trinity Street/Vine Street / Newport Street traffic light sequence prior to the bus station relocation;
- matters around the current position regarding compensation paid to some residents in the vicinity of Cricketers Way in relation to noise pollution.

Resolved - (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That Members of this Committee be notified as to whether the SCOOT Traffic Management System was operational on Blackburn Road, Bolton.

(iii) That the Director of Environmental Services be asked to mention to the Greater Manchester Traffic Unit this Committee's wish for the examination of a traffic light system which would better aid traffic flows at quiet times of the day and night.

(iv) That the Director of Environmental Services be asked to examine the Trinity Street/Vine Street/Newport Street Traffic Light sequence prior to the bus station relocation.

(v) That Members of this Committee be informed of the current position regarding compensation paid to some residents in the vicinity of Cricketers Way, Bolton owing to noise pollution.

## **54. 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.

Resolved – That the updated work programme be noted.

## **55. UNITED UTILITIES AND ELECTRICITY NORTH WEST**

Mr. Steve Kenyon from United Utilities gave a presentation which updated the Committee on waste water related issues in the North West and in Bolton.

The Committee was particularly notified of matters around the following:-

- current waste water operations;
- current contractual arrangements now with one direct contractor; and
- private sewer and pumping station transfers being undertaken later this year.

Members in the deliberations referred to:-

- the problem of pipe blockages in tenant accommodation;
- matters around the adoption of properties in terms of sewerage facilities; and
- adequate road maintenance following infrastructure repairs.

Mr. Tim Groom of Electricity North West also gave a presentation which explained to Members concerning the recent transfer of electricity issues from United Utilities to Electricity North West Limited.

The Committee were apprised of information around the following areas:-

- maintenance issues for Electricity Sub-Stations and adequate funding being obtained from the Regulator to properly maintain the 1500 sub-stations in the Bolton area;

- investment in the region;
- aiming to reduce power cut numbers;
- social responsibility issues.

Members in their discussions referred to:-

- sub-station theft, vandalism and breakins;
- the maintenance budget for Electricity North West which was secured for a five year term; and
- matters around the supply to new developments.

Resolved – (i) That Messrs. Groom and Kenyon be thanked for attending the meeting and giving their presentations .

(ii) That copies of both the presentations be circulated to Members of this Committee together with the e-mail contact details of Messrs. Groom and Kenyon.

(iii) That the Director of Environmental Services be asked to circulate to Members of this Committee a report, previously made available, on the adoption of properties in terms of sewerage facilities.

## **56. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD – QUARTER 3**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided information in respect of the performance of the Environmental Services Department as at Quarter 3 of the 2010/11 Financial Year.

The report provided information in the following areas:

- cleanliness;

- parks and open spaces;
- enforcement;
- events;
- customer feedback;
- awards;
- telephony; and
- local nature reserves.

The report also provided details of actions that would be taken to improve performance in certain areas.

Members in their discussions referred to accident investigation studies and funding for speed cameras.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **57. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2010/11 – QUARTER 3**

A joint report of the Directors of Environmental Services and Corporate Resources was submitted which provided information with regard to the financial position of the Environmental Services Department as at the end of Quarter Three of the 2010/11 Financial Year.

Revenue expenditure was projected to exceed the budget by £562,000.

With regard to reserves, the Department had budgeted to use reserves of £64,000.

The main variances in the Revenue Budget were largely due to Bolmoor and Highways.

Capital expenditure totalled £8.647 million against a programme of £24.864 million. This followed the reduction to the 2010/11 capital programme agreed by Executive in the 2010/11 – Review of Capital Programme on 26 July 2010.

With regard to reserves, the Department's projected deficit reserve position at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 was £1,933,000. Detailed

repayment plans were included within the report.

Budgeted efficiency savings for the department were £892,000 which included demand led of £200,000 to repay the deficit reserve. The current projection was to achieve all planned efficiencies.

Specific areas of financial risk related to loss of income due to the economic downturn, reduction in grant funding and the potential increase in fuel costs.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

## **58. MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

The Committee received extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee.

- (a) Executive Member for Environmental Services held on 21st February and 28th March, 2011.
- (b) Executive member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer held on 7th and 22nd February and 28th March, 2011.
- (c) Environmental Services Policy Development Group held on 14th February and 14th March, 2011.
- (d) Cleaner, Greener, Safer Policy Development Group held on 17th March, 2011.

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

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.10 p.m.)