

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2009

Present – Councillors Higson (Chairman), L. Byrne, Hornby, Iqbal, Lever, Mrs Rothwell, R. Silvester, J. Walsh, Wild, D Wilkinson, Williamson and Woodward.

### Also in Attendance:

Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Director of Corporate Resources and Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr. I. D. Mulholland Councillor Sherrington	Scrutiny Team Leader Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Councillor Peel	Executive Member for Environmental Services
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Mr. S. Young	Assistant Director ( Policy and Performance )
Mr. P. Molyneux	Assistant Director (Highways and Engineering)
Ms. J. Pollard	Policy Accountant
Ms C. Quinn	Facilities Manager
Ms D. Wesenberg	Recycling Officer

Councillor Higson in the Chair.

### **70. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

### **71. MONITORING OF DECISIONS**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which provided details of the progress of decisions taken

at previous meetings of this Committee.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

## **72. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which put forward a list of suggested issues which the Committee might wish to receive reports on or investigate further during the Municipal Year, 2008/2009.

The report also included information which would aid the Committee in selecting appropriate items for consideration in the future.

Members' views and comments were sought in relation to any further items and issues that they wanted included in the Committee's Work Programme.

In terms of the Winter Gritting Scrutiny Panel, the Committee was advised by the Chairman that to date two meetings had been held.

The first meeting provided an introduction to the winter maintenance issue and what had been developed since the first scrutiny panel in 2002.

Much had been implemented including regular updates to the Executive Member and this Scrutiny Committee on areas such as financial reporting on how to improve the funding of the service and also examining the implications of severe weather on refuse collections.

The second meeting was held at Ellesmere House, which gave Members the opportunity to visit the depot and see the day to day running. Vehicles were due out that night to grit the roads in the Borough and Members were able to see the vehicles due to be loaded and visit the area where the salt was housed. Vehicle drivers attended the meeting to enable Members to ask questions and put forward their thoughts on the service and how they thought it could be bettered.

The next meeting would take place on 23 April, 2009.

Resolved – (i) That the list of issues identified for consideration, as detailed in the report, be approved.

(ii) That the Winter Gritting Scrutiny Panel update be noted.

**73. WISBECK ROAD, BOLTON – PROPOSED TRAFFIC CALMING – OBJECTIONS TO ROAD HUMPS – CALL IN OF DECISION**

Members were advised that the decisions taken by the Executive Member for Environmental Services at a meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, in respect of Wisbeck Road, Bolton, Proposed Traffic Calming – Objections to Road Humps were called in by Councillor Lever, in accordance with Part 4 of Constitution – The Council's Rules and Procedures: Section E, Scrutiny Rules, Paragraph 17.

A copy of the relevant report had been circulated to Members. The Committee was also apprised of the decisions that had been taken by the Executive Member.

Members in their deliberations referred to :-

- Issues around the creation of traffic calming zones with or without enforcement measures.
- The possibility of the need to have a wider look at the traffic management issues in the area including Archer Avenue.
- Possible displacing of vehicles onto other local roads ; and
- A consultation which resulted in only three objections.

Members were reminded of the options open to the Committee in determining this matter, viz:-

- (a) To note the decisions of the Executive Member;
- (b) To refer the matter back to the Executive Member with or without comment;

- (c) To refer the decisions to Council, with or without comment, with a motion in the name of the Chair or a nominee of the Committee.

Resolved – That the decisions of the Executive Member for Environmental Services be noted.

**74. PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the Executive Member for Environmental Services held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings be noted.

**75. PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CLEANER, GREENER, SAFER**

The minutes of the proceedings of the Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings be noted.

**76. AN EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE**

An extract of the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings be noted.

**77. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

The minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Policy Development Group held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2009 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

**78. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CLEANER, GREENER, SAFER POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Policy Development Group held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

**79. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CAR PARKING POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

The minutes of the meeting of the Car Parking Policy Development Group held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2009 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

**80. THE NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY TARGETS**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which updated the Committee on the position regarding the National Waste Strategy for England.

The UK was currently consuming natural resources at an unsustainable rate and was facing the threat of dangerous climate change. The Government's goal to reduce waste and re-use, recycle and recover value from what remained were important contributors to the vision of one planet living.

Members were advised that the Waste Strategy set the future direction of waste policy and made a number of key proposals for action.

The main elements of the strategy were to:-

- Incentivise efforts to reduce, re-use, recycle waste and recover energy from waste;

- Reform regulation to drive the reduction of waste and diversion from landfill while reducing costs to compliant business and the regulators;
- Target action on materials, products and sectors with the greatest scope for improving environmental and economic outcomes;
- Stimulate investment in collection, recycling and recovery infrastructure, and markets for recovered materials that would maximise the value of materials and energy recovered; and
- Improve national, regional and local governance, with a clearer performance and institutional framework to deliver better co-ordinated action and services on the ground.

The report went on to outline the key developments in 2007/2008 in relation to waste trends and policy measures.

In conclusion the report indicated:-

- (a) Greater Manchester currently had a Municipal Waste Management Strategy (MWMS) which all the authorities had signed up to, during 2009/10 and working alongside the National Strategy requirements, Bolton would be producing its personalised Waste Strategy document. This would chart how Bolton would be working to achieve the “National” target of 40%;
- (b) This report would be widely consulted upon and would for information purposes document case studies on how other similar Local Authorities were achieving this target;
- (c) The Waste Disposal Authority multi million pound PFI programme would contribute significantly to the achievement of this 40%

target, however, the Bolton Waste Strategy would also detail what could be done at a more localised level to first reduce waste, then recycle.

Members in their discussions referred to delays in the delivery of recycling containers on rural routes.

Resolved – (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That an update be provided to the next meeting on the issue of recycling arrangements on rural routes in the Borough.

## **81. PROCESSING OF INTERNAL WASTE**

Ms Chris Quinn, Facilities Manager, reported that improved recycling arrangements had been put in place in recent times at all the administrative buildings including the Civic Centre and the area offices for paper and other materials.

The Committee was advised that a consultation exercise had recently been undertaken regarding the installation of recycling points. Ms Quinn advised that it was hoped these arrangements would now be extended to all areas in due course. There was also the option for the removal of under desk bins.

Members referred to:-

- Possible changes to the arrangements for cleaning staff and budgetary implications; and
- Possible publication of new recycling methods once rolled out as an example to others.

Resolved – That the position be welcomed.

## **82. LIAISON WITH UNITED UTILITIES**

Mr Peter Molyneux, Assistant Director of Environmental Services, reported on the current position regarding partnership

working arrangements with United Utilities.

He highlighted that there had recently been frank discussions in terms of drainage matters which had resulted in additional training at United Utilities in order to make improvements.

With regards to street lighting, OFGEM Standards were now being met after a recent change in contractor arrangements.

Members discussed the issue of highway inspections, particularly in relation to manhole covers.

Resolved – (i) That an update on the position of the inspection and repair of manhole covers be submitted to the next Meeting.

(ii) That an update on the progress of partnership working arrangements with United Utilities be submitted in six months time.

### **83. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT, 2008/2009 – QUARTER 3**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which outlined the financial position in respect of the Environmental Services portfolio for the 2008/09 financial year, as at Quarter Three.

With regard to revenue expenditure, the report advised that it was projected to exceed the budget by £1.085 million. This represented a change of £501,000 from Quarter two to Quarter three with the main variances being within Waste Management and Highways and Engineering.

In respect of Capital Expenditure, the report reminded the Committee that the capital allocation for the Department was £24.5 million. Highways had a capital programme of £16.5 million, with projected expenditure of £13 million. The programme was projected to underspend by £3.5 million. Approval was being sought to carry forward any underspends.



Environmental Services had a capital programme of £7.9 million, with projected expenditure of £6.7 million. The programme was projected to underspend by £1.2 million. Approval was being sought to carry forward any underspends.

With regard to Reserves, the report advised that the Department's projected deficit reserve position at 31st March 2009 was £3,499,000. Detailed repayment plans were included within the report.

Budgeted efficiency savings were anticipated to be in line with the Departmental target for 2008/09 of £772,000.

Specific areas of financial risk related to the increasing costs of fuel, the economic downturn and waste collection.

Members in their discussions referred to the winter gritting overspend position and the possible need for assistance from corporate funding. Furthermore, the need for budgetary issues in this regard would need to be carefully studied prior to next winter.

Members also highlighted the loss of income from fees.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

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

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided details of the Environmental Services Department performance in Quarter Three of the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

Members in their discussions referred to the sickness level and the tightening up of procedures.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.18 p.m.)

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