

**Minutes of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:**

Penny Bould  
Les Caborn  
Chris Davis  
Mike Doody (Chair)  
Joan Lea  
Barry Lobbett  
Phillip Morris- Jones  
Brian Moss  
Helen Walton  
John Whitehouse  
Chris Williams

**Also Present:** Councillor Peter Fowler

<b>Officers</b>	Roy Burton	Group Manager, Waste Management
	Michelle McHugh	Overview and Scrutiny Manager
	Pam Neal	Strategic Development and Housing Group Manager
	Martin Stott	Head of Environment & Resources
	Estyn Williams	Group Manager
	John Wright	Committee Manager

**1. General**

**(1) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Chattaway, Alan Cockburn, Ray Sweet and Chris Saint.

**(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None

**(3) Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment

- Page 3 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph 5<sup>th</sup> bulletin point replace the word “depravation” with “deprivation”

#### **(4) Matters Arising**

##### **Twenty's Plenty**

Members were informed that because the report related to community safety it would now be considered by the Corporate Services and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The Chair would raise with Councillor Appleton members of this committee attending and contributing to the discussion at the Corporate Services and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

##### **Disability Access**

Councillor Bould reported that she was consulting on a protocol relating to access to committee meetings which would be reported to a future meeting of the most appropriate committee.

#### **(5) Key Messages from the Overview and Scrutiny Board**

The Chair reported the key messages from the Overview and Scrutiny Board

## **2. Public Question Time**

No public questions were submitted.

## **3. Portfolio Holder Update**

Councillor Fowler reported that he did not have an update for this meeting but undertook to provide a detailed update to the next meeting.

Councillor Saint had informed the meeting that

- He would be attending a meeting the following week regarding housing numbers and the spatial strategy
- Government consultations would be raised at the decision making session on 16<sup>th</sup> October
- Partners for England were undertaking a data gathering process and were looking to launch a new visitor economy strategy on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Councillor Whitehouse invited Councillor Fowler to attend the Kenilworth Business Exhibition being held on the day of the meeting and a future meeting of the Kenilworth Town Centre Partnership. Councillor Fowler thanked him for the invitation and indicated that he would attend both events.

Councillor Morris-Jones made reference to "The Hub" newsletter. He did not feel that the message in the leaflet reflected the views of the business community. He felt that officers should do more to engage with employers. Councillor Fowler undertook to raise the points with officers and to update members at the next meeting

**Resolved** that the report be noted

#### 4. Waste Management Statistics for 2008/09

The Committee considered a report on the quantities of waste arising in each District area and handled by each Council during 2008/09.

Members were informed, inter alia:-

- The overall recycling and composting rate was over 43%.
- Total household waste reduced by 2.23% from 2007/08 to 2008/09.
- Warwickshire was the most improved shire council in 2008/09 in terms of recycling and composting with overall performance increasing by 7.81 percentage points. This was mainly due to the new arrangements introduced in Warwick District.
- There had been a further 16.7 % diversion of biodegradable municipal waste away from landfill reducing the amount landfilled to 95,107 tonnes.
- The performance figures for the first quarter of 2009/2010 would be available in the next few weeks and would be circulated to members.

Members discussed the report and expressed their appreciation of the progress that had been made. It was anticipated that the forthcoming figures would show a continuation of improvement in performance.

Members enquired what effect the improved recycling levels would have on the business plan for Project Transform and were informed that tonnages were continuing to be monitored and the business plan would be adjusted to reflect the revised position.

Concern was expressed at the inability to recycle many types of plastic. Members were informed that the issue had been identified as a government priority and that the Local Government Association was lobbying to resolve this issue.

Other points made during the discussion included

- A report on the effectiveness of the revisions to the van ban policy at recycling centres would be submitted to the committee in May 2010
- A report on the recycling of trade waste would be considered by the Warwickshire Waste Partnership at its meeting on 29 September
- Skip companies were separating the contents of skips to reduce the amount of material that went to landfill
- Textiles can have a significant value and there is competition for their collection sometimes from unauthorised collectors.
- The County Council had invested to support recycling and composting by the District and Borough Councils but it was up to them how they organized it to suit their needs. Recycling at blocks of flats was not always a practical option.
- Due to increased recycling by all councils (not just in Warwickshire) most councils are achieving landfill diversion targets reducing the value of surplus landfill allowances to virtually zero

Members requested that a report be presented to the next meeting of the committee on the regulations regarding packaging of food and which materials could not be recycled.

The Committee was informed of the imminent retirement of Roy Burton and members wished him a long and happy retirement.

**Resolved** that

- (1) The report be noted; and
- (2) A report be presented to the next meeting of the committee on the regulations regarding packaging of food and which materials could not be recycled

## **5. Economic Briefing Notes**

The Committee considered a report on the economic briefing notes currently produced monthly, but proposed to be issued quarterly by the Environment and Economy Directorate. Members welcomed the briefing notes as a means of raising the profile of economic development.

Members enquired whether the data included in the briefing on the claimant count was available at a ward level and were informed that the details would be circulated to members. Members enquired what the council was doing to provide apprenticeships for looked after children and were informed that details would be circulated to members.

Members felt that the briefing notes should continue to report the good news stories throughout the county, include a section on the Green Economy and do more to reflect the views of the business community. It was agreed that this would be looked at for future editions.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

## **6. Forward Plan Items Relevant to the Work of this Committee**

The Committee considered the list of provisional items for future meetings.

Members requested that the following items be considered for inclusion on the work programme

- 10/10 initiative and the Council
- Climate Change strategy
- Mapping across the county of soil quality
- Deregulation of parking
- The state of the local manufacturing economy

## **7. Urgent Business**

The Chair reported on his involvement with the Environment Agency Regional Flood Defence Committee. He gave details of the flood alleviation schemes within the County which had been funded during the previous year. He also stated that funding was being sought at national level for work around Willow Cottage in Bedworth. He had been assured that if funding was not made available at national level the scheme would receive funding from the Midlands Area Committee

.....  
Chair

The Committee rose at 12.15 p.m.