

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 September 2005

Present: -

Members of the Committee: Councillor Ken Browne (Chair)
“ Richard Chattaway (ViceChair)
“ Gordon Collett
“ Jose Compton
“ Eithne Goode
“ Katherine King
“ Joan Lea
“ Bryan Levy
“ Ray Sweet

Also Present: Councillor Martin Heatley, Portfolio Holder.

Officers: Elaine Bettger, Group Assistant, Chief Executive's Dept.
Roy Burton, Waste Management, PTES
Chief Superintendent Jon Bond
Andy Davis, Performance Management, PTES.
John Deegan, Director PTES.
Graeme Fitton, Head of Transport & Planning Unit, PTES.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Dept.
Ian Marriott, Principal Solicitor, Chief Executive's Dept.
Maureen Oakes, Service Improvement Officer, PTES.
Nicola Small, Sustainability Unit, PTES
Gerient Stoneman, Corporate Review Officer, Chief Executive's Dept.
Martin Stott, Deputy Director and Head of Strategic Services, PTES.
Estyn Williams, Group Manager, Road Safety Unit, PTES
Kalen Wood, Project Manager, PTES

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nina Knapman and George Atkinson.

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

(3) Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 9 June 2005.

The minutes of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9 June 2005 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

2. Public Question Time

None

3. Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy

Kalen Wood presented the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy, which summarised the main objectives of Warwickshire's Waste Management Strategy.

The Chair proposed that the Committee support the recommendation contained in report subject to the provision of some recycling facility to remove all recyclables before incineration, as set out in page 34 of the Strategy.

In response –

- Roy Burton suggested that this proposal could be an option once the tenders had been received as there were cost implications;
- A Member suggested that, if all recyclables were removed prior to incineration, this would deter residents from recycling at source.

In response to questions Kalen Wood advised that –

- The County Council supported home composting and supplied home compostors but this was not suitable for composting bio-waste (kitchen waste). The logistics of how this could be achieved would need to be investigated and was a decision that would need to be taken by the individual districts;
- Warwickshire's Strategy complied with the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Following further discussion it was agreed that Cabinet be informed that this Committee supports the Warwickshire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy subject to the provision of some recycling facility to remove most recyclables before incineration.

4. The Distribution of the Waste Management Element of PSA 1 Performance Reward Grant

Members considered the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy which set out the options for using the £493,263

remaining from the waste management element of the PSA1 (Public Service Agreement) performance reward grant.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cabinet be informed that this Committee –

1. supports approval of £493,263 from PSA1 performance reward being added to Waste Management budget, primarily to deliver the Waste Strategy.
2. in the light of Stratford on Avon District Council not meeting its own statutory performance standards and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council not signing an agreement with the County Council, cannot reach a view on payment of the PSA1 money.

5. Warwickshire Police Road Safety Education Scheme ‘ASTRA’.

CS Jon Bond presented the joint report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy and Warwickshire Police, which explained the changes that had taken place in the ASTRA scheme (Active Strategy to Reduce Accidents). He further reported on the success of the Speed Awareness Workshops which were managed by the County Council and the funding surplus that would benefit the ASTRA scheme.

In reply to questions CS Jon Bond said that -

- A police officer would continue to lead the ASTRA scheme in those schools where the police were currently delivering it. Those schools not at present receiving ASTRA would be offered the scheme managed by the County Council and delivered by civilians. It was hoped to recruit ex police officers to undertake this work.
- The same funding dilemma experienced in delivering the ASTRA scheme also applied to the “Bike Safe” scheme and, therefore, the continuation of this scheme would be the subject of future discussions.
- With regard to paragraph 2.2 of the report, when Police resources were limited there was need to target areas where there was greatest need.

During discussion concern was expressed about re-prioritising Police resources away from the ASTRA programme. Members emphasised the importance of using uniformed officers to deliver the scheme because it was considered that an experienced uniformed officer had a greater impact on the target group (young people).

Following further discussion it was agreed that –

The Committee notes the report but regrets the lack of consultation about the Police change in policy towards ASTRA; expresses disappointment at the loss of uniformed officers; and hopes that the Police will consult better in the future.

6. Planning Transport and Economic Strategy Performance Report - Full Year 2004/05

Members considered the report of the Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy.

This report presented full year performance outturn with respect to Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy (PTES) objectives. In addition, it contained details of consultation activity that had taken place and an analysis of complaints received during 2004/05.

During discussion Members commended the report in terms of its ease of understanding, the Departments' overall performance in meeting its targets and noted that areas of concern were being addressed. With regard to performance on complaints reporting Members were informed that an officer had been nominated as the Departmental Complaints officers and that there was now an improvement in this area.

The Committee acknowledges positive progress made in PTES' performance at the full year stage.

7. Provisional Items for Future Meetings and Forward Plan Items Relevant to the Work of this Committee

(a) Provisional Items for Future Meetings

Members considered the Committee's provisional work programme and items were noted for inclusion as follows –

- (1) 8 November 2005 meeting – Officers to be asked to consider whether any items listed for this meeting can be deferred to a later meeting;
- (2) 6 December 2005 meeting – To note the inclusion of a substantive item on "Taking Forward the Climate Changes Agenda".
- (3) Additional half-day meeting (Select Committee mode) to be arranged to consider issues relating to the Carillion Contract.
- (4) To be scheduled for a future meeting – Government Circular 'Setting Local Speed Limits' (when published).

(b) Forward Plan

Members noted the Forward Plan items relevant to the work of this Committee and noted that the Warwickshire Waste Municipal Strategy would not require Council approval and would, therefore, not be reported to Council on 1 November 2005.

Cabinet – 6 October 2005

Atherstone Bus Station – Planning Permission for Improvements (PTES)

Cabinet – 20 October 2005

Warwickshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy (PTES)

8. Any Other Items

There were no items of urgent business.

9. Reports Containing Exempt Information

Resolved that members of the public be excluded from the meeting for agenda item 10 below on the grounds that their presence would involve disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972”.

10. The Green Transport Plan

Members considered the report of the Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy and –

The Committee agreed to support the recommendations made to Cabinet on the understanding that car park charges are considered as a longer term solution to managing demand for car parking in Warwick and that urgent negotiations be opened with the Trade Unions and other staff, with a further report to Cabinet, and that Cabinet take into consideration the aims and objectives of the Green Transport Plan before making any future decisions on car parking.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 3:40 p.m.