

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8 November 2005

Present: -

Members of the Committee: Councillor Ken Browne (Chair)
“ Richard Chattaway (ViceChair)
“ George Atkinson
“ Gordon Collett
“ Jose Compton
“ Katherine King
“ Nina Knapman
“ Joan Lea
“ Brian Moss
“ Morris-Jones
“ Ray Sweet

Also Present: Councillor Martin Heatley, Portfolio Holder.

Officers: Elaine Bettger, Group Assistant, Chief Executive's Dept.
Graeme Fitton, Head of Engineering, PTES.
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Dept.
Ian Marriott, Principal Solicitor, Chief Executive's Dept.
Andy McDarmid, Environmental Systems Manager, PTES
John Robinson, Financial Services, PTES
Jonathan Simkins, Group Manager, Traffic Projects, PTES.
Gerient Stoneman, Corporate Review Officer, Chief Executive's Dept.
Martin Stott, Deputy Director and Head of Strategic Services, PTES.

1. General

The Chair congratulated Graeme Fitton on his appointment to the post of Head of Warwickshire Engineering.

(1) Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ethne Goode

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared personal, non-prejudicial, interests in agenda item 3, Planning Transport and Economic Strategy Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2006/07 to 2008/09, as follows –

- Councillor Gordon Collett as a Member of Rugby Borough Council;
- Councillor Jose Compton as a Member of Warwick District Council.

(3) Minutes of the meetings of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 September and 18 October 2005.

The minutes of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on –

- (1) 27 September 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair subject to the addition of an apology for absence being recorded in respect of Councillor Philip Morris-Jones;
- (2) 18 October 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

2. Best Value Review of Traffic Management – Report on Progress

Jonathan Simkins presented the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy.

The report advised the Committee on progress regarding the actions in the Service Improvement Plan in connection with the Best Value Review of Traffic Management and proposed next steps to be taken to further progress the Plan. Further steps proposed included introducing a new policy for the Provision of Pedestrian Crossing and Pedestrian Phases at Traffic Signals and the seeking of powers for officers to determine minor Traffic Orders (for certain waiting restrictions and extensions of speed limits) purely local interest.

In reply to questions Jonathan Simkins explained that the revised policy for the provision of pedestrian crossing would make it easier to get approval for crossings. This proposal would not impact on the budget proposals or on the target implementation dates of existing schemes.

During discussion some Members expressed concern about an aspect of the proposal to “Fast Track” procedures, Appendix D, Part 2, relating to implementation of ‘minor’ projects following which it was -.

Resolved that the Committee endorses the actions proposed in “Next Steps” in Appendix A of this report except that the report to Cabinet and Council should confer the right to “call-in” a Traffic Regulation Order for determination by the Area Committee on the local County Councillor instead of the Chair of the Committee.

3. Department of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2006/07 to 2008/09.

John Robinson presented the report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy.

The report detailed the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for the Department of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy.

In reply to questions John Robinson explained that –

- the revenue budget proposals for Waste Strategy Consultants was a conservative figure and could have been much higher;
- the bid relating to the work to C & D roads would include restructuring work;
- the bid for Town Centre Paving Replacement would attract matched funding from AWM;
- currently each Area Committee was allocated £40,000 from the Local Transport Plan which could be used to fund dropped kerbs;

The Chair expressed concern about the capital programme supplementary bids on the grounds that they should be considered as part of the 2006/07 round of budget bids with the exception of town centre repaving as this would generate income from AWM.

Graeme Fitton stressed the urgent need to replace defective street lighting columns. The Chair referred to the current budget allocation to replace and maintain street lighting columns.

Councillor Martin Heatley urged Members to take the opportunity to support the additional capital programme bids.

Following discussion the Chair, seconded by Councillor Richard Chattaway, moved that:

“The Committee does not endorse an addition to the 2005/2006 Capital Programme for Highways Maintenance on the ground that these matters should be considered as part of the 2006/7 budget round with the exception of Town Centre Paving Replacement as it will generate match funding from AWM.”

Councillor Joan Lea, seconded by Councillor Nina Knapman, moved an amendment –

“Cabinet be recommended to endorse an addition to the 2005/2006 Capital Programme for Highways Maintenance”,

and with 6 Members voting in favour and 5 against the amendment was agreed.

Resolved, 6 Members voting in favour and 5 against, that:

- (1) the Committee notes the 2006/07 to 2008/09 revenue budget proposals and capital programme bids identified by the Department of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy, together with the supplementary bids for 2005/06 capital expenditure.
- (2) Cabinet be recommended to endorse an addition to the 2005/2006 Capital Programme for Highways Maintenance.

4. Internal Review of Environmental Sustainability – Service Improvement Plan.

Martin Stott presented the joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Planning Transport and Economic Strategy.

The Plan brought together the improvements the Authority intended to make under the five key strategic headings supporting the corporate policy, with regards to sustaining the environment. It followed the work undertaken during the Internal Review of Environmental Sustainability and formed the work programme for the Environmental Sustainability Board.

Resolved that -

- (1) The status of the Corporate Environmental Management Objectives 2005/6 in **Appendix A** is endorsed;
- (2) The suggested amendments are made to the objectives to ensure engagement from all County Council Departments;
- (3) The remainder of the Environmental Sustainability Service Improvement Plan be integrated into the ISO14001 Environmental Management Process, and reported annually to Cabinet.

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

(a) Provisional Items for Future Meetings

Members noted the Committee's provisional work programme and noted that a Workshop facilitated by 'Forum for the Future' on the Green Transport Plan' would take place in the New Year either at one of the Committee's scheduled meetings or during a Members' briefing slot.

(b) Forward Plan

There were no Forward Plan items relevant to the work of this Committee.

6. Any Other Items

There were no items of urgent business.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 4:00 p.m.