

## **ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

Thursday 10 June 2010 at 6.00pm

### **Panel Members Present**

Councillor L. Beeley (Chair)  
Councillor K. Chambers (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor D. Anson  
Councillor R. Carpenter  
Councillor J. Cook  
Councillor A. Griffiths  
Councillor M. Yasin

### **Officers Present**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Jamie Morris  | Executive Director (Neighbourhood Services) |
| Keith Stone   | Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) |
| John Grant    | Scientific Manager, Pollution Control       |
| Craig Goodall | Acting Principal Scrutiny Officer           |

### **01/10 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors C. Bott and B. Tweddle.

### **02/10 SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were no substitutions for the duration of the meeting

### **03/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting

### **04/10 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2010, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.**

### **05/10 WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10**

The Panel considered options for their work programme for 2010/11. Members reviewed the outcomes of previous consultations, the outcome of a specific scrutiny work programme survey, a number of suggestions for work programme items and the latest version of the forward plan was tabled at the meeting.

(annexed)

The Acting Principal Scrutiny Officer highlighted the relevant outcomes within the remit of the Panel of the budget consultation, the Place Survey and recent scrutiny work programme survey. The respective consultations had identified resident priorities around:

- Street cleanliness including: litter, dog fouling and fly-tipping

- Road and pavement repairs
- Traffic congestion
- Public Transport
- Car parking
- Household waste and recycling

The Chair took the Panel through the suggested work programme items in the agenda:

*Project W2R – Energy from Waste (efw) with Staffordshire County Council*

Members agreed to consider this item at key times in the build up to the project going live in 2014.

*Replacement of damaged bins through end of life*

Members agreed to consider this issue due to the high profile it would have with local residents. The Panel requested that the report to them contain current figures on the numbers of replacement bins issued each month.

*Waste Strategy Review*

The Panel agreed to consider this issue once the outcome of the public consultation was known.

*Scrutiny of Local Area Agreement (LAA) Targets*

The Panel agreed to review activity towards the achievement of national indicator 186 'per capita emissions in the local area'.

The Executive Director (Neighbourhoods) advised that the LAA was scheduled to finish in March 2011 and that there was a performance reward grant attached to its achievement.

*Recommendations made by the previous Panel*

Members agreed to monitor progress made with the implementation of recommendations made from the following pieces of work:

- Street cleanliness working group plus Street Cleansing Action Plan
- Integrated Transport Working Group

*Dog Fouling and Street Cleanliness*

Members agreed to establish a working group to consider the problem of dog fouling in the borough. It was noted that the consultation evidence presented to the Panel demonstrated that this was a concern for local residents. The Panel agreed to investigate: enforcement, and public education as part of their review.

*Car Parking*

Members agreed to establish a working group to consider car parking in the borough later in

the year following the conclusion of the investigation into dog fouling.

**RESOLVED:**

**THAT:**

- 1. a working group be established to consider dog fouling in Walsall;**
- 2. the following Members be appointed to the dog fouling working group:**
  - a. Councillor D. Anson**
  - b. Councillor L. Beeley**
  - c. Councillor R. Carpenter**
  - d. Councillor K. Chambers**
  - e. Councillor J. Cook**
  - f. Councillor A. Griffiths**
- 3. the following items be added to the Panels work programme for 2010/11:**
  - a. Project W2R**
  - b. Replacement of damaged bins**
  - c. Waste Strategy Review**
  - d. Achievement of national indicator 186 'per capita emissions in the local area'**
  - e. Car parking**
  - f. Monitoring of progress with achievement of recommendations from:**
    - i. Street Cleanliness Working Group and Street Cleanliness Action Plan**
    - ii. Integrated Transport Action Plan**

**06/10 AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN**

The Panel were updated on air pollution in the borough and progress to date with the Air Quality Action Plan.

The Scientific Manager (Pollution Control) gave a presentation to the Panel reporting on the Walsall air quality assessment and action plan.

(annexed)

The following are the principle points from the ensuing discussion:

- Pollution was measured with various scientific instruments. Some operated 24 hours day to continuously monitor pollutants. Others would be put in place typically for ongoing cycles of 2 to 4 week period.
- Pollution from the M6 motorway within the borough could potentially have an air quality of impact estimated at up to 75-100 metres dependant upon location, traffic conditions and prevailing weather.
- It is hoped that the active traffic management scheme on the M6 and the improved traffic flows it is expected to bring would reduce the amount of road traffic pollution in the area.
- Road traffic was the biggest polluter and why the local focus was set on schemes such as improving public transport. Pollution from motor vehicles was reducing progressively over time as the efficiency of car engines improved. Large freight vehicles were the worst polluters.

- A monitoring station was located at Alumwell School where current pollution levels were considered acceptable .
- Some areas of the borough are showing to an increase in traffic related pollution, whereas other have experienced a reduction.

**RESOLVED:**

**That a further report on air quality be considered in Spring 2011.**

**06/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 26 July 2010.

*The meeting terminated at 7.09 p.m.*

Signed:

Date: