

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

Thursday, 20 October, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

Panel Members Present

Councillor R. Carpenter (Chair)
Councillor F. Westley (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D. Barker
Councillor C. Creaney
Councillor B. Douglas-Maul
Councillor G. Illmann-Walker
Councillor J. Murray

Portfolio Holder present

Councillor M. Bird - Leader
Councillor C. Towe - Finance and Personnel

Officers Present

Keith Stone - Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services
Steph Simcox - Service Accountant and Financial Training Manager
Neil Picken - Senior Constitutional Services Officer

102/11 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor V. Woodruff.

103/11 SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor D. Barker for Councillor V. Woodruff.

104/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

None.

105/11 MINUTES

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September, 2011, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

106/11 FINANCIAL PLAN 2012/13 TO 2014/15: DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION

Members received a report outlining the portfolio plans for future service delivery, along with the approach being taken to delivering service improvements and cost efficiency over the next three years (2012/13 to 2014/15).

Members were further advised that the draft budget proposals would be considered by all Scrutiny and Performance Panels prior to further submission to Cabinet. The final budget, including any changes arising from these consultation arrangements, and final allocation of formula grant be presented to Cabinet on 8th February, 2012 for recommendation to Council and then considered by Council on 23rd February, 2012.

Members considered the report and noted the portfolio holder response that all services within the Environment Portfolio were aspiring to be best in class. It was suggested that using Working Smarter principles, services would continue to become more efficient, delivering better services at a reduced cost.

A question was asked about the impact reducing the 24 hour temporary repairs requirement to 28 days response (which was in accordance with national guidelines) would have. In response, Officers stated that this was no longer 28 days and the report should have stated 5 days. Assurance was given that dangerous holes would be dealt with more expediently.

A further question was asked with regard to advertising on street lighting. It was stated that lighting columns now had approval to display advertising.

There then followed a question in relation to street cleansing vehicles to which it was reported that one of the greatest issues was that of clearing chewing gum. It was reported that the Council now had a hot wash machine which was much more effective in removing debris.

The Service Accounting and Financial Training Manager advised Members that with regard to the saving in relation to the portfolio-wide review of services and working smarter principles, the figure should be £30k not £130k as stated in the report circulated.

The Panel expressed thanks to the Highway and Cleansing Teams for all the hard work and efforts of staff despite an uncertain climate.

107/11 BUSINESSES DEALING IN SCRAP AND OTHER ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES FROM THEIR HOMES

The Panel received a report advising them of a Notice of Motion passed at Council held on 12th September, 2011.

The Motion requested the establishment of a Working Group to investigate the issue of businesses dealing in scrap and other associated activities from their home. Having given the report some consideration it was:-

Resolved

That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Scrap Metal Working Group:-

- Councillor Illmann-Walker
- Councillor Westley
- Councillor S. Fitzpatrick
- Councillor Young

108/11 WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

Resolved

That the Work Programme and Forward Plan be noted.

109/11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date and time of the next meeting would be 1 December, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 6.25 p.m.

Chair:.....

Date:.....