

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 3 DECEMBER 2002

Councillor J S Highfield (Chairman)

Present (for all part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

R M Baggaley

Mrs E A Croxall

Mrs A P Edgeller

F A Finlay

J H Kennedy

W R Reid

J A Russell

Mrs D A Wakefield

Mrs A J Walker

Cabinet Member - Councillor Mrs E Kidney

Also Present:

Councillors:

A B Compton

Mrs J M Dalgarno

R M Smith

ES24 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D M Byrne and Mrs J E Tabernor (substitute Councillor F A Finlay)

ES25 GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2003/2005 - ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

This matter had been referred to the Scrutiny Committee for consultation.

The Cabinet had proposed the allocation of resources for 2003/2004 for each individual portfolio, the amount allocated in respect of the Environment portfolio being £3,068,000. The detailed draft portfolio budgets for the Environment portfolio indicated a net spending in 2003/2004 of £3,267,000 and it was therefore necessary for a saving of £199,000 to be made within the budget of this portfolio.

The detailed draft portfolio budget had been circulated to Members of the Committee together with details of increases of fees and charges and suggested areas of review.

It was noted that the proposed charge for the continuing 'Pest Port' scheme would remain at £20 and not as indicated in the list of fees and charges circulated to Members.

The Committee rehearsed with the Cabinet Member various issues and concerns arising from the proposed areas of review set out in Appendix 3 of the circulated report, the Cabinet Member responding accordingly.

RESOLVED:- that (a) the Cabinet be advised that this Committee notes the detailed draft portfolio budget and proposed fees and charges for 2003/2004;

(b) the Cabinet Member be asked to relate the various comments made by the Committee on the proposed areas of review to the Cabinet.

(Note: Councillor A B Compton was present at the meeting and at the invitation of the Chairman spoke on this matter.)

ES26 OTHER SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME (CAB51/02)

This matter had been referred to the Scrutiny Committee for consultation.

The report considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 5 November 2002 had been circulated to all Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED:- that (a) the draft resource and payments position and list of proposed new schemes as set out in the report be noted;

(b) the Cabinet be asked to consider financial provision for the development and improvement of St Johns Market and waste recycling matters in the year 2003/2004 and onwards.

ES27 REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2002

Considered the performance management report for the services within the scope of the Committee.

RESOLVED:- that the report be noted.

ES28 COMPOSTING AND DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC GREEN WASTE (ES7(ii)/02)

The Committee reviewed its site visits to composting facilities on 25 September 2002.

Arising from the discussion of the matter, the Committee felt that both of the visits had been very successful in improving Members knowledge and understanding of the practical difficulties of composting and disposing of domestic green waste.

Members noted that Digest No 41 issued on 29 November 2002 (Minute CAB70 of the Cabinet meeting of 26 November 2002 refers), contained a report supporting the Cabinet decision on the advancement of the kerbside collection of green waste. As part of the future business of the Committee, it was hoped to arrange a further visit early in 2003 to look at the arrangements operated by Lichfield District Council.

RESOLVED:- that the ongoing initiatives be noted.

ES29 BUSINESS PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Members reviewed the programme of business due to be considered by the Committee.

At its meeting on 26 November 2002, the Cabinet had received a question from Councillor R M Smith, asking if this Scrutiny Committee, as part of its future business plan, could seek out and examine evidence that might be available on health issues relevant to telecom masts with a view, if appropriate, to making representations to the Government on a need for a reduction in the permissible levels of exposure. The Cabinet had acceded to this request.

In accepting the perceived problem of telephone masts as part of its business plan, the Committee felt the matter could be pursued by way of a special meeting to which all Members of the Council be invited, to receive presentations from expert representatives of all sides.

RESOLVED:- that the investigation of the effects of telecom masts be incorporated into the Committee's business plan and pursued on the basis outlined.

(Note: Councillor R M Smith was present at the meeting and at the invitation of the Chairman spoke on this matter.)

Proceedings commenced at 6.30 pm and terminated at 8.43 pm.