

## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
held in Committee Room 1, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon  
at 2.00pm on Thursday 9 June 2016

### PRESENT

Councillors: A H K Postan (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), R J M Bishop, M Brennan,  
P J G Dorward, H B Eaglestone, Mrs E H N Fenton, E J Fenton, Miss G R Hill, H J Howard,  
Dr E M E Poskitt, Mrs C E Reynolds and G Saul

Also Present: H E T St John

#### 4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D A Cotterill (Chairman) and Mr P Emery

The Head of Paid Service reported the following temporary appointments:

Dr E M E Poskitt attended for Ms E P R Leffman

Mr G Saul attended for Mr A S Coles

#### 5 MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** That, the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 24 March and 18 May 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers in matters to be considered at the meeting.

#### 7 PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

No submissions were received from the public in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.

#### 8 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director regarding the setting of a Committee Work Programme for 2016/2017.

##### Thames Water Issues

The Head of Paid Service reported that further information had been received regarding the drainage strategies discussed at the last meeting. It was advised that Sewer Flooding Questionnaires would be circulated in late June for Carterton and mid-July for Standlake with information being sent to properties identified in those parishes. Mrs Fenton advised that Thames Water had recently undertaken a site visit with representatives of Standlake Parish Council.

The Head of Democratic Services undertook to establish the present position in respect of Brize Norton and Shilton. Mr Howard also advised that there had recently been a couple of flooding incidents in Carterton.

##### Car Park Strategy

The Head of Environment and Commercial Services reported that data from the consultation was being collated with a view to drafting a strategy and associated action plan. Once a strategy was prepared there would be further consultation.

The Head of Environment and Commercial Services indicated that a major issue was the on-going preparation of the new Local Plan and the impact that likely increased housing numbers would have on car parking demand in the district. It was agreed that a report would be prepared for the next meeting outlining links between the two documents and the issues that would need to be considered.

Mr Howard advised that parking charges were to be introduced at Witney Community Hospital and was a factor that may need to be considered.

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee Work Programme for 2016/2017 be agreed.

9 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Head of Paid Service giving the committee the opportunity to comment on the Cabinet Work Programme published on 24 May 2016 was received.

It was noted that all the items on the programme were included on this agenda for consideration.

**RESOLVED:** That the Cabinet Work Programme be noted

10 START TIME OF MEETINGS

The committee received the report of the Head of Democratic Services seeking consideration of the start time of meetings for the remainder of the 2016/2017 municipal year.

Mrs Reynolds, whilst agreeing with retaining the current start time, indicated that it was not always convenient for those working full-time particularly when there was more than one afternoon meeting in a week. Mr Fenton suggested that it could also be an issue for members of the public wishing to attend although it was acknowledged there was also limited public attendance at evening meetings that were held.

**RESOLVED:** That, meetings of the committee for 2016/2017 commence at 2.00pm.

11 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - YEAR END 2015/2016

The report of the Head of Business Information and Change Service providing information on the Council's performance as at the end of year 2015/2016 was considered.

The Head of Environment and Commercial Services advised that in respect of Performance Indicator SS6 pressure was being kept on the contractor. It was indicated that the use of agency staff, unfamiliar with the area, could lead to collections being missed. The committee was reminded that there was a reporting procedure and crews were sent back to make the collection on the same day if possible.

Mr Fenton asked about the expected operational life of collection vehicles. The Head of Environment and Commercial Services advised that they should last approximately seven years so it was not unusual to have problems with the fleet towards the end of a contract.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

12 COURTAULD COMMITMENT 2025

The committee considered the report of the Head of Environment and Commercial Services seeking authority to sign up to the Courtauld Commitment 2025 demonstrating the Council's pledge to reducing waste and maximising recycling and composting.

Mr Saul asked what the council would be doing to meet the targets contained within the Courtauld Commitment. The Head of Environment and Commercial Services advised that it was already ingrained in work currently being undertaken. There would be further opportunities to focus on the aims as part of the promotional work associated with any new contract. The committee noted there was also an opportunity to put pressure on manufacturing companies to reduce packaging.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet be recommended to agree to sign up to the Courtauld Commitment 2025.

13 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

There were no members questions.

14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

**RESOLVED:** that the Committee being of the opinion that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the public were present during the following items of business there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)), the public be excluded from the meeting.

15 DESIGN OF FUTURE WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Environment and Commercial Services summarising the outcome of public consultation in respect of the new waste contract and seeking a recommendation for a preferred collection option.

The Head of Environment and Commercial Services gave a presentation outlining responses received to the public consultation, the legal and financial implications of the modelled options and the recommendations contained in the report.

The committee asked a number of questions relating to future management of the service, types of receptacle to be used, options for collecting different materials, financial implications and the potential risks.

After extensive discussion it was:

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet be recommended to approve the recommendations as contained in the report.

16 PROCUREMENT ROUTE FOR FUTURE WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE

The report of the Head of Environment and Commercial Services regarding procurement options for the new waste contract was considered.

The Head of Environment and Commercial Services gave a presentation outlining the three procurement options available to the council, the costs for each option, qualitative issues, key risks and the recommendations contained in the report.

The committee asked a number of questions relating to the financial implications, potential legislative changes, infrastructure issues, provision of vehicles, staffing matters and legal implications for each option.

Members also considered that as part of the scrutiny function it would be beneficial if the committee received details of the contents of the draft contract before they were finalised.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Cabinet be recommended:

- (a) To approve the second procurement option, as shown in the tables contained in the report, for the delivery of waste and recycling services;
- (b) To authorise the Head of Environment and Commercial Services in consultation with the Strategic Directors and Portfolio Holder to agree the contract specification in line with the previous decision on service design;
- (c) To recommend that Council incorporates the appropriate amounts within the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy to deliver the appropriate procurement option; and
- (d) That the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers the draft contract details prior to finalisation of the contract.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm

Chairman