

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held on Tuesday 3 September 2013 at 2.00pm

Present

Councillors: M A Lucas (Chairman), D R Coren, Mrs J R Rendle (substituting for Cllr Mrs M E Squires), Mrs J Roach (substituting for Cllr Mrs D L Brandon), J D Squire and R Wright (substituting for Cllr Mrs N Woollatt).

Apologies

Councillors: Mrs D L Brandon, J M Downes, Mrs M E Squires and Mrs N Woollatt

Also Present

Councillors: C J Eginton, Mrs L J Holloway R L Stanley and K D Wilson

Present

Officers: P N Williams (Head of Environmental Services), A Jarrett (Head of Finance), S Newcombe (Waste and Transport Manager) L Wright (Accountant), C Yandle (Audit Team Leader), J Stuckey (Waste and Recycling Officer) and S Gabriel (Principal Member Services Officer).

21. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

22. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 July 2013 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

23. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had the following announcements to make:

- He thanked the Principal Member Services Officer for her work with the Group and welcomed Julia Stuckey who would be taking over the administration of the Group in her new role as Member Services Officer from the following week;
- He outlined the success of the Away Day held in July;
- He explained an email received from 2 Members present at the meeting highlighting the success of the parking charges of £1 for 5 hours which had proved a success in St Saviours Way Car Park in Crediton.

24. **PERFORMANCE AND RISK**

The Group had before it and **NOTED** a report* of the Head of Communities and Governance providing Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2013/14 as well as providing an update on the key business risks. The Audit Team Leader outlined the contents of the report stating that the previous year end figures for the percentages of missed collections per quarter for refuse and organic waste and recycling should have read 0.3% and 0.6% respectively.

Discussion followed highlighting collection issues in Crediton and how such missed collections were recorded. It was suggested that Customer Services be requested to ask customers when missed collections were reported whether it was just one property or a whole road that had missed, so that this could be recorded correctly. The Audit Team Leader stated that in future the number of missed collections would be provided as well as the percentage figure.

Further discussion took place with regard to the Risk Management Report, specifically in relation to health and safety; it was explained that there were undeniable risks with waste collection; however everything was being done to reduce the likelihood of accidents occurring.

Note: - Report previously circulated, copy attached to signed minutes.

25. **FINANCIAL MONITORING 2013/14**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a report* of the Head of Finance detailing the financial monitoring for the three months to 30 June 2013 in respect of the services within this PDG's remit. He outlined the contents of the report outlining the forecasted General Fund deficit for the current year of £128k and explained that there was some good news with regard to car parking highlighting the income at St Saviours Way, Crediton which had shown a £3k better than budget receipt in the first 3 months of the financial year. There had been a reduction in trade waste income against budget and overspends on repairs to recycling vehicles had been recorded.

Discussion followed with regard to the capital programme and the use of agency workers to cover sickness and holidays.

Note: *Report previously circulated, copy attached to signed minutes

26. **WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICE**

The Group had before it a report* of the Head of Environmental Services advising Members of the outcomes from their considerations at the Away Day on 24 July and outlining a potential programme for changes to the service. He outlined the contents of the report stating that currently each property had three 'passes' per fortnight. 80% of the district had a two weekly kerbside recycling service and an alternative weekly brown (compostable) and black bag (residual waste) collection. The remaining 20% had fortnightly recycling and weekly black bag collections. A reduction of one pass had the potential to result in a saving of approximately £830k. In addition to the current pressures to reduce the cost of the service there was continued growth

expected in Cullompton and Tiverton; the number of properties would continue to increase and at some point in the future there would be insufficient vehicles, crews, containers and resources to provide the service within the current budget constraints. As a number of recycling vehicles needed to be replaced, a strategic view would be required to enable the right vehicles to be purchased. He outlined the proposed long term aims which would form part of a future report to the Group.

Discussion followed with regard to:

- The proposed timetable to implement changes to the service
- The consultation process
- Seasonal collection of garden waste
- Information collated from the previous pilot scheme.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:

- a) the current pressures on the waste and recycling service and the difficulties in delivering reduced costs without a fundamental review of the services provided be **NOTED**;
- b) the possible timetable at appendix 1 of the report be **NOTED** and that the Managing the Environment Policy Development Group make regular update reports to the Cabinet on proposals for change to the waste and recycling service; and
- c) Officers to consider the long term aims for the service and report back to the November meeting of the Group.

(Proposed by Cllr Mrs J R Rendle and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Roach)

Note: *Report previously circulated, copy attached to signed minutes

27. **RECYCLING CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

The Communications and Reputation Manager reported that the recycling campaign was on-going and that regular articles had appeared in Mid Devon Talk and The Star; recycling calendars had been improved design wise and leaflets and stickers were being progressed along with recognition of good recycling with a monthly Recycling Star competition. There was still a need to improve recycling rates and to continue with the campaign, he hoped that an opportunity may arise with changes to the scheme to consider further advertising to encourage recycling.

Discussion followed with regard to:

- Encouraging recycling through schools
- Publishing information in various languages
- Contacting Devon County Council and linking in with their advertising
- Encouragement through the Town and Parish Councils.

28. **SURFACE DRESSING, DRAINS/FLOODING**

The Chairman indicated that discussions had taken place at the previous meeting with regard to blocked drains and flooding issues following resurfacing of roads across the district. It was suggested that the Chairman write to Devon County Council Highway Authority outlining the Group's concerns and requesting that action be taken to ensure that drains were kept clear following resurfacing.

29. **SILVERTON MILL**

The Chairman had requested at the previous meeting that the Head of Environmental Services outline issues relating to the Recycling Depot at Silverton Mill; as the discussion involved the business affairs of various local businesses, it was therefore:

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

(Proposed by Cllr Mrs J Roach and seconded by Cllr D R Coren)

Following receipt of the information requested, the meeting was reopened to the press and public.

30. **BINFO**

The Waste and Recycling Officer outlined the purpose of the new "app" which would inform residents when their waste collection would take place. Some delay had taken place as 154 combinations of black/brown and recycling rotas had to be fed into the system. This system was now being tested and the data checked, it was therefore hoped that this application would be available in the spring of 2014.

31. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING – 19 NOVEMBER 2013**

The following items were identified for the next meeting:

- Budget
- Waste and Recycling Service
- Silverton Mill update
- Performance and Risk

(The meeting ended at 4.22pm)

CHAIRMAN