

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**
held on 6 September 2016 at 2.00 pm

Present

Councillors

R F Radford (Chairman)
D R Coren, Mrs C P Daw, R Evans,
F W Letch, Mrs E J Slade, R Wright and
J L Smith

Apologies

Councillor(s)

J D Squire

Also Present

Councillor(s)

Mrs A R Berry, N V Davey and Mrs M E Squires

Also Present

Officer(s):

Andrew Jarrett (Director of Finance, Assets and Resources), Stuart Noyce (Waste and Transport Manager), Joe Scully (Operations Manager), Catherine Yandle (Internal Audit Team Leader) and Sally Gabriel (Member Services Manager)

24 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

An apology was received from Cllr J D Squire.

25 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (00-01-21)**

There were no members of the public present.

26 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (00-01-29)**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (00-02-18)**

The Chairman congratulated the Director of Finance, Assets and Resources on his new role and on his recent cycle ride for charity.

28 **PERFORMANCE AND RISK (00-03-37)**

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 2016/17 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

The Internal Audit Team Leader outlined the contents of the report highlighting the different appendices to the report and the fact that the majority of the performance indicators were above target.

Discussion took place regarding residual household waste and the amount of waste that was being recycled.

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

29 **FINANCIAL MONITORING (00-09-28)**

The Group had before it and **NOTED** a *report of the Director of Finance, Assets and Resources presenting financial monitoring information for the income and expenditure of the 2016/17 financial year.

He outlined the contents of the report stating that the General Fund forecasted a deficit of £202k, it was however early days within the financial year. The most significant service movements to date comprised of funding the move to the new waste depot, an overspend on leisure and additional housing benefit subsidy.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The new waste depot which was a fit for purpose site and would allow possible expansion in the future.
- The proposed savings agreement with Devon County Council
- Income from car parks
- Waste vehicle maintenance costs

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

30 **WILD FLOWER BEDS (00-25-05)**

The Group had before it and **NOTED** a *briefing paper produced by the Operations Manager providing an update on the options and proposals for wildflower displays within Mid Devon in the future.

He stated that in recent years many local authorities had examined the options to increase biodiversity within the public realm. A number of options had proved to be popular and now formed the basis of the routine program of work in areas that could lend themselves to the new methods.

The options available included:

- Wild flower meadow displays
- Natural grassland meadows
- Slow growing or sustainable planting

He explained the trial that had taken place in the Tiverton cemetery, however the trial had highlighted that the wild flower scheme required continued maintenance and therefore there may be other options with the use of slow growing or sustainable planting which could reduce maintenance costs and therefore save money. It was

his intention to develop a long term programme in consultation with District, Town and Parish Councils along with “Friends” Groups to move the project forward.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Possible locations for the various options
- Height implications on roundabouts
- Advertising for sponsorship

Note: *Briefing paper previously circulated, copy attached to minutes.

31 **VERBAL WASTE UPDATE (00-39-09)**

The Waste and Transport Manager informed the Group that the changes to the waste scheme had bedded in; the collection rates were better than expected; Members had received an informal briefing in the last few weeks and a full 6 monthly report would be provided at the next meeting.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Education and enforcement and how the service could continue to improve
- Possible improved performance
- Possible rescheduling of rounds
- Local issues and the need to report issues through the correct channels so that they could be monitored.

32 **LITTERING AND WASTE ISSUES IN THE DISTRICT (00-49-41)**

The issue of littering in various parts of the district had been raised by individual Members and therefore it was felt that the Group should discuss the matter and seek officers’ views as to what could be achieved to reduce the issue.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The responsibility of the owners of fast food outlets to encourage the disposal of litter
- The reduction in packaging
- Possible “flash hits” on particular areas of the district
- The issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices
- The Clean Neighbourhood powers
- Education, the role of Devon County Council, reaching young people possibly through social media and engaging with the press
- Community litter campaigns
- Dog fouling issues
- Planning regulations

The Waste and Transport Manager stated that a street cleaning review was taking place which would be completed by the end of the year and that a full report would be put before the group for consideration in the new year.

33 **VISIT TO ENERGY FROM WASTE PLANT (1-10-40)**

Following a recent visit to the Exeter Energy from Waste Plant, Members were invited to provide feedback on the visit.

The visit had been very well received and it was felt that other Members of the authority should be encouraged to attend as the work taking place at the plant complimented the work of the local authority.

34 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The following items were raised for future meetings:

- Waste and Recycling 6 monthly update
- Gypsy and Traveller Policy
- Performance and Risk – Quarter 2
- An update on the Mills Project
- Traffic figures on the Crediton Link Road and the effect on air quality
- Garden Waste update
- 6 monthly car parking review to include the number of vends and footfall statistics
- Motions 528 and 529 from Council

(The meeting ended at 3.30 pm)

CHAIRMAN