

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
-ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31ST OCTOBER 2005

Present: Councillors Mrs A Bradshaw (Chair); Mrs E Eastwood (Deputy Chair); Mrs M Barnes; B Dixon; A Johnston (Items 2-8); Mrs J Johnston; F McPhillips; W Southward

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Park

Officers: Mr T Magean, Open Spaces Manager; Mr S Bishop, Enforcement Manager; Ms J Murray, Scrutiny Support Officer

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2005 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC-EN97 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act

In the course of a presentation on the new Act (appendix 1) to this minute) , while Members welcomed the additional powers available to the authority in tackling anti-social behaviour, they expressed doubts at the possibility of the increased service being self-financing as proven by the decriminalised parking enforcement experience, where fines had reduced over the County as a result of the introduction of the new regime.

RESOLVED: that the presentation be noted.

OSC-EN98 Enforcement Business Plan

Members noted the strengths and weaknesses recently identified in the current service and which the plan would address. Multi-skilling would be a requirement of enforcement officers if a flexible service was to be achieved. Again, Members expressed concern that the income from fines from the new Clean and Neighbourhoods and Environment Act is unlikely to meet the extra demands placed on the service and that the Council should aspire to provide a full budget to support the service with fines going back into neighbourhood projects.

RESOLVED: That their views be made known to the Executive when the Business Plan is presented to the Executive.

