

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2007

Present: Councillors Mrs W Metherell (Chairman); E Eastwood (Deputy Chairman); A Carrol; G Garrity; F Gleaves; F Heathcote; J Jackson; J Kane; J Park; G Scurrah; W Southward; M Woodburn.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Watson.

Also in attendance: Councillor K Hitchen.

Officers: T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; K Parker, Head of Leisure and Environmental Services.

Minute 01/07 only: T Magean, Open Spaces Manager; S Bishop, Enforcement Manager.

Minute 01/07 and 02/07 only: J Carrol, Waste Services Manager.

Arrangement of Agenda

It was agreed that Items 4 and 5 – Training and Work plan would be taken at the end of the meeting.

SSC 01/07 Enforcement Services Performance Update

The Committee considered the performance of the Council's enforcement unit over the first 8 weeks of the 2007/08 financial year.

The Committee noted in detail the performance of the enforcement of on-street and off street car parking; littering/fly tipping; dog control; household/trade waste and abandoned vehicles.

The Committee felt that as this was a key area for the Council regular monitoring of performance against the projected targets should be undertaken by members and agreed that a sub group be established to do this. The membership of the sub group should consist of Councillors J Kane, E Eastwood, G Garrity and J Jackson.

RESOLVED – that a sub group consisting of Councillors J Kane, E Eastwood, G Garrity and J Jackson be established to monitor on a month by month basis the performance of the enforcement unit against its targets.

SSC 02/07 Green Waste Collections

The Committee considered a report upon the Council's Green Waste collections.

The Committee noted that the council had received funding from Defra in 2003 for an alternate week green waste collection scheme to enable the council to improve its household waste recycling rate. To maximise the effect of the collection scheme additional brown bins for green waste were distributed to residents as they were required.

The Committee further noted that this scheme had been extended in 2006 to a further 2200 properties. Following the experience gained from the existing collections and bearing in mind the additional time required to empty green waste bins properties had been issued with only one brown bin for their green waste.

The Committee considered that the Council's performance on green waste composting was now in the top 25% of local authorities for this indicator but its performance on total waste produced per head was poor. To achieve better performance more emphasis was needed on waste minimisation including home composting.

The Committee agreed that to release potential capacity to extend the service to new properties a limit of one brown bin per property should be introduced from now on. Residents with large gardens should be encouraged to compost at home. However for those properties that had already been given more than one bin, those properties should be allowed to keep the extra bin(s).

The Committee noted that the Executive had previously agreed that non major strategy or policy decisions with respect to waste management and decision-making on all other matters with respect to joint waste work, including the implementation of policies, be devolved to the Portfolio Holder or Substitute and the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services.

RECOMMENDED – that (A) that the Executive be requested to confirm that only one brown bin per property be allowed in future for Green waste collections and that those properties who currently have more than one bin be allowed to keep the extra bin(s), and

(B) the decision of the Executive at its meeting on 14 March 2006 that major strategy or policy decisions with respect to waste management remain subject to the agreement of the Executive, but that decision-making on all other matters with respect to joint waste work, including the

implementation of policies, be devolved to the Portfolio Holder or Substitute and the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services, be noted.

SSC 03/07 **Energy Review - Scoping**

The Committee noted that the Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 3 June 2006 had agreed to undertake an energy policy review in 2006-07 and formed a sub group to undertake the review.

The Committee agreed that an energy review sub group should be reconstituted and consist of Councillors J Jackson, A Carroll, M Woodburn and G Garrity.

The Committee considered a scoping exercise into how the sub group could undertake the review. It agreed that the Sub Group's terms of reference should be to:

- 1) explore ways in which the Council can encourage communities to consider alternative energy use, energy savings and efficiency, and to make recommendations to the Council as to how it can lead by example;
- 2) reconsider the Affordable Warmth Strategy in the light of findings under para 1; and
- 3) assist Overview and Scrutiny to form a view on all energy matters as appropriate.

The Committee noted the issues and the proposed timetable for the sub group.

RESOLVED – that: (A) An Energy Review Sub Group be reconstituted,

(B) The membership of the Sub Group be Councillors J Jackson, A Carroll, M Woodburn and G Garrity,

(C) The Terms of Reference of the Sub Group be to:

- 1) explore ways in which the Council can encourage communities to consider alternative energy use, energy savings and efficiency, and to make recommendations to the Council as to how it can lead by example;
- 2) reconsider the Affordable Warmth Strategy in the light of findings under para 1; and

- 3) assist Overview and Scrutiny to form a view on all energy matters as appropriate, and
- (D) the timetable for the review detailed at Appendix "A" to the report be approved.

SSC 04/07 **Community Legal Service**

The Committee noted that in 2004, a small sub-group of Overview and Scrutiny Members had considered the appropriate level of grant-funding for the Whitehaven and Millom Citizen Advice Bureaux (CAB) and for the Community Law Centre. In order to help with the organisations medium-term planning recommendations were made to the Executive for the re-structure of their grant funding and for funding over a three year period – for 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08. The two CAB's had now merged into Copeland CAB.

The Committee further noted that In order to allow suitable time for assessment of the organsiations' funding requirements for 2008-09 the Social Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 1 March 2007 had agreed that a sub group be selected from Members of OSC Social Well-Being and OSC Performance and Resources be set up to consider funding requirements for Community Legal Services for 2008-09 but this would take place following May 2007.

The Committee agreed that a Community Legal Service Sub Group be constituted with membership consisting of Councillors Mrs W Metherell, W Southward and J Park. It further agreed that the sub group's terms of reference should be to consider funding requirements for Community Legal Services for 2008-09 and beyond.

RESOLVED – that (A) A Community Legal Service Sub Group be constituted,

(B) The membership of the Sub Group be Councillors Mrs W Metherell, W Southward and J Park, and

(C) The terms of reference of the sub group be to consider funding requirements for Community Legal Services for 2008-09 and beyond.

SSC 05/07 **Work Plan**

The Committee considered its current work plan.

The Committee noted that the work plan included those items that were unfinished items from the previous Council.

RESOLVED – that the work plan be noted.

SSC 06/07 **Training**

The Committee received and noted a presentation from the Scrutiny Support Officer on the Council's Overview and Scrutiny process.

RESOLVED – that the presentation on the Council's Overview and Scrutiny process be noted.

The Meeting Closed at 15:30pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....