

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2006

Present: Councillors Mrs A Bradshaw (Chair); Mrs E Eastwood (Deputy Chair); B Dixon; Mrs J Johnston; F McPhillips;

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M Barnes; Norman Clarkson; W Southward

Also present: Councillor A Johnston (Item 9)

Officers: T Magean, Open Spaces Manager; S Benn, Crematorium Superintendent; S Bishop, Enforcement Manager; R Walsh, Parks Development Officer; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; L Taylor, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Arrangement of Agenda

It was agreed that Item 9 – Report from Outside Body would be taken as the first item

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC-ENV129 Outside Body Report

The Committee received a report on the Lake District National Park authority from Councillor A Johnston.

Members noted the importance of partnership working with the authority and the introduction of a new vision for the Lake District National Park Authority.

As this was Councilor Johnston's last meeting, Members thanked him for his valuable contribution as Copeland's representative and hoped that his successor would show the same level of commitment and drive as demonstrated by Councilor Johnston.

AGREED – That the report be noted

OSC-ENV130 Code of Conduct

Members received a power point presentation on the Members Code of Conduct from the Democratic Services Manager, followed by a question and answer session.

OSC-ENV131 Enforcement Unit

The Committee received a detailed report from the Enforcement Manager on the operation of the Enforcement Unit which included a summary of the costs and benefits of each individual measure. The report included three options for implementing the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.

The report detailed current enforcement activities and staff allocation to those activities. Members noted targets and performance for April – June 2006, and discussed these in the context of current staffing and resource levels. It was noted that action had been taken to address recent sickness levels.

Members were informed that as less parking offences are now being committed, due to an improvement in motorist behaviour and education, the allocation of staff for car parking activities could be transferred to other areas, as part of a move to more generic patterns of working .

It was **AGREED** that

- a) Option 3 would be the preferred option
- b) To seek OSC and Executive support and approval so to deliver Enforcement Services to meet the needs of the external impacts of new legislation and the new environment and enforcement demands.
- c) To implement the CNEA provision and report to Executive for agreement
- d) To review the Enforcement Services Car parking management approach, with an objective to redeploy existing (2) enforcement officers to address and implement the new environmental enforcement demands
- e) To review the potential financial impact of 3 above (expenditure and income)
- f) To review enforcement training needs to implement and undertake environment enforcement diversity
- g) To review and realign budget enforcement services budget provision based on the above recommendations
- h) To report back to this Committee in three months.

OSC-ENV132 Green Spaces Strategy

The Parks Development Officer presented the draft Green spaces Strategy for 2006-2010, a four year action plan which was hoped would be the main document in a set of strategies for improving green spaces, which would include play areas and cycleways. It was agreed that the Strategy should run between 2007 and 2012 to fall in line with the Corporate Plan, and that the final version should be reduced in length if possible.

Consultation on the strategy would be taking place with internal and external partners along with the Overview and Scrutiny Social Well-Being Committee.

AGREED – that the draft Strategy be approved for consultation, taking into account the Committee's comments.

OSC-ENV133 Bereavement Strategy

The Committee received the Draft Bereavement Strategy 2006 – 2010. Members were informed that the Strategy would meet the criteria of the Charter for Bereavement

Members were informed that the consultation process would include Stakeholders, the Clergy and Funeral Directors.

The following points were discussed

- Lack of burial space for the future
- Out of hours burial services and Ethnic burials
- Green or Woodland Burials
- Improvement Works at Distington Hall Crematorium
- Raising the profile and awareness of the service.
- The need for funding for consultation, it being noted that this would be kept within the existing budget.
- The issue of the speed limit on the main road adjoining the crematorium, along with the County Councils refusal to consider gritting, as a priority during bad weather.

It was **AGREED** that

- a) The draft strategy be approved for consultation purposes, subject to the committee's comments, and to reducing the strategy in length, if possible
 - b) The Charter for the Bereaved Action plan at appendix 1 be adopted.
 - c) A letter to be sent on behalf of the Committee to the relevant Portfolio Holder and Officers of Cumbria County Council requesting that the speed limit of the road adjoining the Crematorium be set at 30MPH and that the road be given priority for gritting during bad weather and
- b) To report back to the Committee in three months

OSC-ENV134 Forward Plan

The Forward Plan of Key Decisions to be taken by Executive was received and noted.

OSC-ENV135 WorkPlan

The Work Plan of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees was received and noted, subject to amendment to take into account decisions made at this meeting.

The Meeting Closed at 4.00pm

Chairman