

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2006

Present: Councillors Mrs A Bradshaw (Chair); Mrs E Eastwood (Deputy Chair); F McPhillips; W Southward

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M Barnes; Norman Clarkson; B Dixon

Also present: Councillor A Norwood (Items 1- 7)

Officers: S Benn, Crematorium Superintendent; J O'Reilly, Team Leader (Food and Health & Safety); S Bishop, Enforcement Manager; J Carrol, Waste Services Manager; J Murray, Scrutiny Officer; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; L Taylor, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Arrangement of Agenda

It was agreed that Item 5 – Bereavement Services update would be taken as the first item

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

OSC-ENV136 Bereavement Services

The Committee were given an update on Bereavement Services from the Crematorium Superintendent, which included plans for a proposed extension to Whitehaven Cemetery. The plans included an area reserved for natural burials.

Members raised concerns as to whether plans had been made to cater for lack of burial space in the future, and whether land had been allocated in the Local Plan

Information relating to the disposal of cremated remains and a leaflet containing answers to frequently asked questions were circulated. Members were also informed that a Funeral Plan had been devised for information

It was **AGREED** that

- a) Copies of all literature would be circulated to all Members of the Committee for comment prior to full publication and
- b) That a written update would be brought back to the Committee in six months.

OSC-ENV137 Food Safety Standards

Consideration was given to Copeland's Food Safety Standards Service Plan 2006-2007

The document outlined information on how the Council aim to ensure that food prepared, stored and sold within the borough is safe. It was noted that the plan linked to corporate plans and objectives and would be reviewed to link with the new corporate plan.

Members asked whether further funding would be available from the Food Standards Agency to provide free training and workplace coaching for local businesses on new food safety legislation as detailed in the report.

It was agreed that the Environmental Team Leader would keep the Committee informed of further developments.

OSC-ENV138 Doorstep Recycling Collection

Members received an update on the kerbside recycling collection service since the cessation of collections by DCL on 15 September

The Committee were informed that the transfer of Doorstep staff to CBC took place on Monday 2 October and that a skill assessment carried out by the Health and Safety Manager flagged up concerns that various training issues needed to be addressed.

Concerns were raised that the at least two Best Value Performance Indicators had been overstated due to the fact that the number of properties quoted by DCL (27,000) appeared to be less when checked against the Councils GIS system. Members were also informed that material tonnage collected has been considerably lower than that recorded by DCL. The following points were noted

- The routes provided by DCL were inefficient and are under review
- Assisted collection lists had not been made available, which led to a number of missed boxes

- A number of trade places had incorrectly been benefiting from the service, which could account for some of drop in material tonnage.

The Committee discussed what efforts had been made to improve the service, this included the introduction of 134 properties to the scheme and the possibility of a further 120 properties at Monkway Brow, Fell View Park, Gosforth and Braystones.

Members were informed that a review was currently being carried out by consultants employed by WARP (Defra) the outcome of which would be recommendations for how the service should be provided into the future to ensure Copeland gets the best value service

It was **AGREED** that

- a) Ward and Parish Councilors be contacted to establish any areas that could be added to the scheme and so improve the service; and
- b) that the outcome of the review would be brought back to a special meeting of the Committee prior to being presented to the Executive

OSC-ENV131 Enforcement Unit

Members received an update report on the enforcement unit. The report outlined the work currently being done in each area of the unit and options to support the introduction of the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities legislation. The report included proposals to restructure the department and the financial implications of the proposals.

It was felt by Members that the financial proposal was difficult to understand.

It was therefore **AGREED** that the proposal would be reviewed and the report brought back to the next meeting of the Committee.

OSC-ENV132 Joint Scrutiny – Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership

The latest Joint Scrutiny Report on the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership and the response received was received and noted. Members were informed that further updates would be provided.

OSC-ENV133 Work Plan

The Work Plan of the Overview and scrutiny Committees was received and noted.

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Southward would take part in Mystery Shopping in the North of the Borough and that Councillors Clarkson and Dixon would be invited to participate.

The Meeting Closed at 3.50pm

Chairman