

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE HELD ON

15 September 2009

7.30pm-8.10pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Tony Hall (Chairman)

Joel Charles
Chris Millington

Maggie Hulcoop
Clive Souter

Eddie Johnson
Lorna Spenceley

15. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

16. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 22 June 2009 and 3 August 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

18. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None.

19. **NON-CONTENTIOUS BUSINESS**

RESOLVED that the following items be taken as non-contentious:-

- 7 Committee Forward Work Plan.
- 12 Grants Panel Minutes.
- 13 Local Development Framework Working Party.
- 16 Waste Management Contract Working Group.

20. **COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN**

RESOLVED that the Committee Forward Work Plan be noted.

21. **ENERGY ACTION PLAN – UPDATE**

The Committee received a progress report on the Energy Action Plan since the last update to this Committee in January 2009.

RESOLVED that the updated Energy action Plan be approved and the actions taken to date be noted.

22. **HIGHWAYS LOCALISM PANEL**

The Committee received a report proposing the establishment of a Highways Localism Panel to direct Essex County Council's Highways expenditure in Harlow.

Members were keen to pursue the idea within the Essex localism proposals, for district councils to have access to a ranger service. This service would be responsible for day-to-day maintenance of the highway, including (for example) verge cutting and hedge trimming.

Since the meeting time and imminent date for the first meeting of this Panel would influence which Members could attend, it was agreed that appointments to the Panel could not be made this evening.

RESOLVED that

- (a) a Highways Localism Panel be established as a working group of this Committee;
- (b) the membership and terms of reference of the Panel as set out in paragraphs 7 and 9 be agreed;
- (c) each political group to advise the Assistant Chief Executive of their nominations to the Panel;
- (d) a report reviewing the principles, operation and scope of the Panel, as set out in paragraph 15, be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee;
- (e) it be recommended to Essex County Council that a District Council representative from each of the four Essex 'sub-regions' should be appointed to the Strategic Highways Panel, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report;
- (f) a Highways Ranger Service in Harlow be pursued, as set out in paragraph 13.

23. **WASTE CONTRACT PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Committee received a progress report on the new Waste and Recycling Collection contract.

Members noted that paragraph 3(f) in the report should be amended to read 180 litre (rather than 240 litre) grey wheeled bins for residual waste; and 240 litre (rather than 180 litre) grey wheeled bins for recycle.

Following the implementation of this scheme, there would be a one-off collection of redundant wheelie bins and recycling boxes from residents who wanted to dispose of them.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

24. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

25. **GRANTS PANEL MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Grants Panel held on 18 June 2009 be noted.

26. **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK WORKING PARTY**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2009 be noted.

27. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

28. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The meeting did not move into private session as the only confidential item was taken as non-contentious.

29. **WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT WORKING GROUP**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2009 be noted.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE