

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES STANDING
SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2005
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.00 - 8.30 PM**

Members Present:	D Stallan (Chairman), M Woollard (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M Boatman, Mrs D Borton, A Lee, P McMillan, Mrs M Sartin and Mrs A Grigg
Other members present:	R Glozier, D Jacobs and Mrs J H Whitehouse
Apologies for Absence:	D Kelly and Mrs P Smith
Officers Present	J Preston (Head of Planning and Economic Development), J Gilbert (Head of Environmental Services), J Scott (Joint Chief Executive), D Marsh (Environmental Services) and Z Folley (Democratic Services Assistant)
Also in attendance:	(none)

29. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

The Panel noted that Councillor Mrs A Grigg was attending the meeting as a substitute for Councillor Mrs P Smith

30. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were made pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

31. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 20 OCTOBER 2005

Noted.

32. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME

Noted.

33. WEST ESSEX AREA WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 26 OCTOBER 2005

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Protection presented the minutes and outlined the main issues for consideration.

The Head of Environmental Services reported on recent changes to the proposed procurement approach for the waste strategy project. The main proposal was that the existing approach be amended to enable the decoupling of the collection and disposals arrangements and that system integration opportunities be retained. The impact of this was outlined including the potential implications for the CPA process and the demonstration of Best Value. The Head of Environmental Services also drew attention to the Waste Strategy reference case.

It was noted that a special meeting of the Panel had been agreed to consider the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the procurement process. The Head of Environmental Services explained that given the changes to the procurement process and the need to reflect the current position in the OBC, the production of the document was taking longer than expected.

Several Members asked about the timescale for the implementation of the wheeled bin service for the District. The Head of Environmental Services reminded the Panel that a letter detailing the programme signed by the Portfolio Holder had been circulated to Members and undertook to resend this to the Panel for information.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the West Essex Area Management Joint Committee held on 26 October 2005 be noted.

34. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

The Panel were invited to consider and comment on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

The Head of Environmental Services presented a report summarising the Act. He reported the need to link its provisions to the Crime and Disorder Strategy. He stated that he had met with the Crime and Disorder Co-ordinator to discuss this aim and would be meeting with him again before the deadline for submissions to give the issues further consideration.

The Panel had before them a copy of the main consultation document which was circulated prior to the meeting.

The document was split into 10 main parts which covered crime and disorder, vehicles, litter, refuse, waste noise and dog controls.

The Panel considered the document and made the following comments:

- In relation to vehicles, it was proposed that the provisions should cover and create additional powers to deal with nuisance parking in residential areas.
- Several Members requested to see more detailed information on the costs to the Council of the Act especially the provision of uniformed wardens.
- In relation to the control of dogs, several Members expressed concern about the practicalities of the indication that following the changes local authorities would be expected to provide a 24/7 service for the collection and kennelling of strays. It was recommended that the police still be involved in this service and continued to share the responsibly with local councils

The Head of Environmental Services reported that changes to the arrangements for the payment by the County of recycling credits to collection authorities was currently the subject of a separate consultation exercise. Members would be informed about the outcome of this exercise through the Members Bulletin.

The Panel agreed that a further meeting be arranged so that a further consideration could be given to the document and a response formulated for consideration at the next OSC on 8 December 2005.

The Head of Environmental Services reported that the Panel would receive a detailed report on the use of Community Wardens and the wider considerations in relation to the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and the Portfolio Holder for Community Wellbeing be invited to the meeting to which this report was submitted to enhance the discussions. The Panel undertook to propose a timescale and priority for the review for the Chairman's report at the next OSC on 8 December 2005.

ACTION

The Head of Environmental Services to incorporate the Panels comments within the response.

35. EAST OF ENGLAND REGIONAL PLAN - PUBLIC EXAMINATION

The Head of Planning and Economic Development drew attention to two attachments to the this weeks Members Bulletin forwarding details on the Members Briefing to be held on 19 November 2005 on the Examination in Public for the East of England Plan. The Portfolio Holder encouraged Members to attend.

36. RE-USE OF BUILDINGS IN THE GREEN BELT

There were no matters to report.

37. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Response to Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (Part 1)

38. FUTURE MEETINGS

1 December 2005 at 7.00p.m

Z Folley to canvass dates for the meeting thereafter through the Members Bulletin.