

Scrutiny Standing Panel Agenda



Environmental and Planning Services Standing Scrutiny Panel Tuesday, 28th March, 2006

Place: Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Z Folley - Research and Democratic Services
Tel: 01992 564532 Email: zfolley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

Councillors D Stallan (Chairman), M Woollard (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M Boatman, Mrs D Borton, D Kelly, A Lee, P McMillan, T Richardson, Mrs M Sartin and Mrs P Smith

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING TO THE MEETING THEIR COPY OF THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - REVIEW OF ENGLAND'S WASTE STRATEGY

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 28 FEBRUARY 2006 (Pages 3 - 6)

Attached.

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before

an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 7 - 8)

(Chairman/Lead Officer) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed the Terms of Reference of this Panel and associated Work Programme. This is attached. The Panel are asked at each meeting to review both documents.

The OSC is currently compiling next years OS work programme. The Panel may wish to forward suggestions for this Panels section of the plan.

6. WEST ESSEX AREA WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ON 22 FEBRUARY 2006 (Pages 9 - 10)

(Head of Environmental Services). To consider the minutes of the last meeting of the Joint Committee held on 22 February 2006.

7. CONSULTATION ON REVIEW OF ENGLAND'S WASTE STRATEGY (Pages 11 - 12)

(Head of Environmental Services). To consider the attached report.

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

To consider which reports are ready to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

9. FUTURE MEETINGS

30 March at 7.30 pm in Committee Room 1 and then:

13 April, 26 June, 29 August, 30 October, 19 December 2006

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES STANDING
SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2006
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 9.25 PM

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Members Present: | D Stallan (Chairman), M Woollard (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M Boatman, Mrs D Borton, D Kelly, A Lee, P McMillan, T Richardson, Mrs M Sartin and Mrs P Smith |
| Other members present: | K Angold-Stephens, R Glozier, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs J H Whitehouse and J M Whitehouse |
| Apologies for Absence: | (none) |
| Officers Present | H Stamp (Principal Planning Officer) and Z Folley (Democratic Services Assistant) |
| Also in attendance: | Councillor E Borton (Nazeing PC), A Burgess (PORA), P Collins (BCAG), D Farr (North Weald Parish Council), I LeGallais (Consultant), Ms H Nicholas (Roydon Parish Council) and Councillor R Woods (North Weald Bassett Parish Council) |

55. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 12 JANUARY 2006

Noted.

56. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

Noted that no substitutes Members were at the meeting.

57. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

58. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME

(a) Community Wardens Review

Reference was made to a briefing note produced by the Head of Environmental Services advising that the report expected on the review would not be ready for the 30 March 2006 meeting due to other work commitments. The Chairman agreed to liaise with the Head of Environmental Services to establish whether interim information could be reported to the March 2006 meeting and whether in view of the changes, a representative of the police would be attending the meeting.

Action:

Chairman of the Panel to liaise with the Head of Environmental Services.

(b) Review of England's Waste Strategy

Reference was made to the strategy which was allocated to the Panel's Work Plan at the 2 February 2006 OSC. With the assent of the Panel, the Chairman undertook to ask the OSC to delegate the task of formulating a direct response to the consultation to the Panel. Noted that this was a lengthy document and two meetings of the Panel might need to be arranged to formulate the response to be submitted by 9 May 2006. Noted that a full copy of the document would be made available to the Panel.

Action:

Chairman to raise request at 2 March 2006 OSC.

59. EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN - PRESENTATION ON EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

The Chairman introduced and welcomed representatives of North Weald, Roydon Parish Council and the Society for the Protection of the Roydon Area (PORA). He also welcomed the former Head of Planning and Economic Development, Ivan Le Gallais, who was now a consultant on forward planning issues. The Chairman reminded the Panel that the Examination in Public (EIP) had recently met to discuss those matters affecting the District. The participants together with the Portfolio Holder and the Principal Planning Officer Henry Stamp had attended these key sessions on 13 and 14 February 2006 and were present to debrief the Panel.

It was reported that:

(a) the Council had made a number of written responses and two approaches to the EIP on matters affecting the District. The investigation covering November 2005 to February 2006 had just come to a close. The Panel was expected to report to the ODPM in the beginning of July 2006 who would in turn propose a list of changes to be subject to further consideration. It was anticipated that the process would be completed and the final plan adopted in 2007.

(b) the Panel gave out no 'signals' during the deliberations about its intentions and there were no great surprises. They expressed an interest in central government household projection figures and appeared to see its role as one of delivering the government's growth agenda and testing the practicalities of the emerging proposals through 'bottom up testing.'

(c) the Panel differentiated between the southern end of the region and the less constrained remaining areas. They heard from interest groups such as Friends of the Earth in considering the possible environmental implications of accelerated growth.

(d) in terms of the plans for Harlow and East Harlow, there was no real opposition in principle. None of the arguments concerning North Harlow and East Hertfordshire were seriously undermined.

(e) the District representatives made references to the relatively small-scale proposals for the South and West of Harlow and emphasised that it was unlikely to meet the target for new homes for the locality and not worth pursuing. The capacity available at East and North Harlow might if developed absorb the need to develop land to the West. It was questionable whether the number of jobs envisaged for the sub region could be attained as the increase might lead to further commuting to London.

(f) infrastructure was a key issue and in particular, the speed at which it could be delivered. Issues included the widening of the M11, the funding and timing of new roads, the timescale for the establishment of a high quality transport system to support the proposed additional dwellings, cross rail and the expansion of the Central Line and water supply and disposals. Given these issues there was a serious chance that the proposals for North Weald would be placed at the end of the programme and considered a low priority. It was clarified that consideration was still being given to development both at North Weald airfield and in the area itself. There were no other plans for Epping Forest.

(g) noted the views of PORA and North Weald. Councillor Wood of North Weald Parish Council advised that he personally found the examination accessible, however the timescale for the proposals were realistic.

The Principal Planning Officer reported that the Environmental Agency had been asked to produce a White Paper on water issues. He undertook to investigate this and the timescale for the consultation period and report back to Members. Noted that the notes for these key sessions were available on the Go-East website.

ACTION:

The Principal Planning Officer for Forward Planning to report back to Members.

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

There were no reports to be made.

61. FUTURE MEETINGS

Noted that the next meeting would be held on 18 March 2006. Further meetings had been arranged for 20 March and 13 April 2006.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE - STANDING PANEL

Title:

Environmental and Planning Services

Status: as at 14 March 2006

Terms of Reference:

1. To keep under review the activity and decisions of the West Essex Joint Waste Committee with respect to:
 - (a) the procurement of the integrated waste collection and disposal contract for the West Essex area (Epping Forest, Braintree, Harlow, Brentwood & Uttlesford);
 - (b) following procurement the monitoring of contract performance; and
 - (c) the annual review of the Joint Waste Committee business plan.
2. To consider what changes are practical and desirable to Council policies concerning the reuse of redundant and other buildings in the Metropolitan Green Belt; in particular, are further restrictions necessary (changes in policy required) to ensure that such developments are truly sustainable and;
3. To conduct a vehicle movements study to identify the issues raised above. To inform this conduct an initial feasibility study to identify the resourcing issues, the scope and nature of problems, consult interested parties including the County and how a study can support the requirements of the new Local Development Scheme.
4. To consider the processes by which the existing Local Plan is being amended to seek to keep it up to date, in particular whether the resources required are being provided, and whether alternatives are realistic. To similarly consider the arrangements by which the new Local Development Scheme is being brought into operation. In particular, to consider how new requirements for community consultation and strategic environmental assessment work in practice.
5. To consider matters which arise through the process that the Government is driving to bring in an East Of England Plan; these may range from arrangements concerning the Examination in Public, how to respond to the initiatives or views of those who support or oppose us, and how we may support or oppose the views taken by others. In particular, this is to allow the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development to remain tuned in to local views, and supersedes previous advisory group arrangements.
6. In the context of the DERA 'Cleaner Neighbourhoods Consultation document' to consider the viability of employing uniformed wardens, the formulation of a response to the document and the financial consequences of these matters.

| Work Programme 2005/6 | | |
|---|-----------------|--|
| Item | Priority | Report Deadline |
| 1. Receive the minutes of the West Essex Joint Waste Committee | High | Every Committee |
| 2. Re use of buildings in the Green Belt – | | |
| (i) Initial feasibility study on vehicle movements | High | To be agreed by the Panel |
| (ii) Main study on above | Medium | To be agreed |
| 3. Local Development Scheme | High | Ongoing |
| 4. East of England Plan | High | Ongoing |
| 5. DEFRA ‘Cleaner Neighbourhoods Consultation document’: | | |
| (i) Formulation of response | High | Completed by Panel on 1 December 2005 |
| (ii) Provision of Uniformed Wardens | | To be completed for inclusion in 2007/08 Budget |
| 6. Essex Waste Project - Outline Business Case | High | Completed by Panel on 12 January 2006 |
| 7. Review of England’s Waste Strategy – Response to Consultation Paper | High | April 2006 |
| Chairman: Councillor David Stellan | | |

**SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT A MEETING OF THE
WEST ESSEX AREA WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT
COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD ON
22 FEBRUARY 2006**

Membership

- Councillor Tony Sleep, Brentwood Borough Council
- * Councillor Roger Walters, Essex County Council
- * Councillor Michael Gage, Braintree District Council
- * Councillor Derek Jacobs, Epping Forest District Council (Vice-Chair and Chair for this meeting)
- * Councillor Chris Millington, Harlow District Council
- * Councillor Alan Thawley, Uttlesford District Council

* present

1. Exclusion of the Public (agenda item 13)

Resolved:

That the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: -

System design approach
Update from West Essex Area Officers Group

(Paras 8 – contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services and 9 – terms relating to negotiations for a contract).

2. System Design Approach (agenda item 14)

(Public and Press excluded)

Introduction

Referring to paper WEWM/04/06, Melanie Clark, Workstream Leader, Waste & Recycling, Essex County Council, outlined the objectives, progress to date and key issues associated with the system design approach.

It was stated that many variables had been considered in devising the system design approach and assessment of funding options.

With reference to the marketing of recycle and revenue distribution, it was noted that this topic would be progressed at the next round of Area Officer Groups and the Waste Management Advisory Board (late March 2006).

Recommendation

On the recommendation of Councillor Thawley, Uttlesford District Council, and seconded by Councillor Gage, Braintree District Council, it was unanimously:-

Resolved:

To support the recommendation that ten sample models be constructed using the methodology set out in section 6.5 and Appendix D of paper WEWM/04/06 to test the validity of the approach.

Report to Environmental and Planning Standing Scrutiny Panel

SCRUTINY



Date of meeting: 28 March 2006

Subject: Review of England’s Waste Strategy - Consultation

Officer contact for further information: J Gilbert

Committee Secretary: Z Folley (ext 4532)

Recommendation:

To consider and comment upon the consultation document on the Review of England’s Waste Strategy

Background

1. The Government’s first waste strategy was published in 2000, and since that time much has happened in terms of recycling and diversion performance, the technology for managing waste and the legal requirements emanating from the European Union and our own government.

2. Although sound progress has been made, the UK generally lags behind a number of its European neighbours and more needs to be achieved to reduce waste and better manage that which is produced. The government is looking for:

- (a) a reduction in the volumes of waste produced;
- (b) more integration between producers, collectors and disposers; and
- (c) viewing waste as a usable resource

3. To achieve this the government recognises the need to engage all the community in waste issues and to base decisions on evidence based on proven research. The government also sees a greater role for ‘Energy from Waste’ in the waste hierarchy, although the debate on this issue must be properly informed and must not compromise ambitions on waste reduction or recycling.

4. The consultation period runs until the 9 May 2006.

The consultation

5. Members have been provided with a full copy of the consultation document, which runs to some 115 pages. As with the Cleaner Neighbourhoods consultation the paper sets out questions, 51 in all, which we are invited to respond to. Many of these are very technical in nature and will need an appropriate response. In view of our partnering arrangements with the County and colleague districts there may also be merit in seeing where a ‘collective’ response can be made, since such responses frequently carry more weight with government.

6. The Executive Summary sets out the basis behind the consultation, the key elements of which are set out below:

- recycling and composting has doubled over the past 4 years with the 2005 target of 25% likely to be achieved
- landfill has reduced from 82% to 72% for household waste
- public awareness has increased

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- more work is needed on waste prevention
 - waste to be seen as a resource
 - more recycling etc in the non-municipal sectors
 - the need for enhanced technologies

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- waste will continue to grow but at a lesser rate
 - meeting landfill allowances is challenging but achievable
 - need to do more about packaging waste etc

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- targets to be increased for recycling and composting to 40% by 2010 and 50% by 2020
 - targets for industrial and commercial landfill

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- simplify the regulatory arrangements
 - extend producer responsibility
 - retain public sector funding support (e.g. PFI, WIP, WRAP etc)
 - more education and awareness campaigns
 - government (at all levels) to lead by example

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- further proposals for local authorities are proposed
 - piloting recycling arrangements for small businesses
 - reviewing the role of energy from waste
 - strengthening procurement processes
 - developing markets
 - dealing with hazardous household waste

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- the establishment of a Sustainable Waste Programme Board
 - wider roles for local authorities working as partnerships
 - better enable the voluntary sector
 - better and more targeted enforcement of environmental crime.

7. It is suggested that members use this preliminary meeting to discuss some of the broader principles of the consultation and indicate the areas where they feel this council could make a worthwhile contribution to the consultation process. Members and officers can give these issues consideration between now and the next meeting of the Panel programmed for the 13th of April 2006. This will then enable the final response to be collated and prepared and sent to Defra ahead of the May deadline for submission. This approach will also enable us to discuss issues with county and district professional colleagues and members and put together a co-ordinated response where appropriate.