

TERMS OF REFERENCE - STANDING PANEL

Title:

Environmental and Planning Services

Status: Amended following Panel meeting on 20 October 2005

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 undertake a vehicle movements study to identify the issues raised in paragraph 2 above. In order to inform this, conduct an initial feasibility study to identify the resourcing issues, 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 Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 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	December 2005
(ii) Main study on above	Medium	March 2006
3. Local Development Scheme	High	Every Committee
4. East of England Plan.	High	Every Committee
5. Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005:		
(i) Formulation of response	High	December 2005
(ii) Provision of Uniformed Wardens		To be confirmed
Chairman: Councillor David Stellan		