

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES STANDING
SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2005
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 10.05 PM**

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| Members Present: | D Stallan (Chairman), M Woollard (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M Boatman, Mrs D Borton, D Kelly, A Lee, P McMillan, T Richardson, Mrs P Smith and Mrs A Grigg |
| Other members present: | (none) |
| Apologies for Absence: | Mrs M Sartin |
| Officers Present | J Gilbert (Head of Environmental Services), D Marsh (Environmental Services) and Z Folley (Democratic Services Assistant) |
| Also in attendance: | (none) |

39. 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 M Sartin

40. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

41. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 16 NOVEMBER 2005

Noted.

42. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME

Noted that the item on the Re-use of buildings in the Green Belt would not be completed by the deadline of December 2005. The Chairman undertook to report this slippage to the next OSC to seek a new timescale .

43. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

The Head of Environmental Services presented a report on the new powers contained in the draft Government Guidance for the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. He invited the Panel to respond to the questions identified in the report and previously circulated main document. He advised that the consultation period for the guidance ended on 2 January 2006.

The Panel considered each question in turn. The Panel delegated certain questions to officers for determination. These covered technical issues which the Panel thought required specialist knowledge.

Environmental and Planning Services Standing Scrutiny Panel Thursday, 1 December 2005

Agreed that the full response be prepared and circulated as a supplementary report for the next OSC on 8 December 2005. Noted that this distribution would cover Members of the Panel.

ACTION

The Head of Environmental Services to prepare and submit full response to Democratic Services for circulation prior to the OSC on 8 December 2005.

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

Report on Panels response to Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

45. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Head of Environmental Services reported that, under proposed new guidance, Local Authorities might be given new responsibilities in relation to the collection of stray dogs. He advised that the Local Government Association were running a consultation exercise on the proposals. The proposals might be subject to a formal consultation process. This should include this Panel. The Head of Environmental Services undertook to report the issue to the OSC to ensure that it was aware of this potential new work.

It was possible that the legislation would not come into affect until after the budget for next year had been finalised. This might entail that the costs could not be factored into the budget making process for the period.

46. FUTURE MEETINGS

12 January 2006 at 7:30 p.m