

ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE

18 June 2015 at 7.30 pm

MEMBERS: Councillor Jill Whitehead (Chair), Councillor Nighat Piracha (Vice
(*Absent) Chair) and Councillors Manuel Abellan, Adrian Davey,
Richard Marston, Patrick McManus, Steve Penneck,
*Tony Shields, Paul Wingfield and Hanna Zuchowska.
*Councillor Ruth Dombey (ex-officio).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. SUSTAINABILITY SERVICE REVIEW

The Committee considered a report on the Sustainability Service Review. It was recognised that the Council had a strong and enduring commitment to proactive action on advancing the sustainability agenda as manifested in the council's Corporate Plan of 2014/15 to 2017/18. However, in the light of the need to make budgetary savings, the service had been further reviewed.

The Committee received a presentation on One Planet Sutton which set out the challenges and service options. The council had adopted One Planet principles and targets in 2009, which had been further refined at the Environment and Neighbourhoods Committee in November 2013, to recognise the changed financial situation for local authorities.

The report provided a review of the current offer and options for the future scope and strategic direction of the Council's sustainability approach.

One of the proposals was to withdraw from the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) which had been in operation for twenty years but was expensive to maintain. Only four councils including Sutton continued to adopt EMAS, and this required a full time member of staff to monitor and gather information on detailed targets. It was recommended that resourcing for environmental risk management should be focused on the areas of greatest legal and compliance risk rather than through EMAS. As One Planet covered all aspects of the council, other departments already monitored and audited targets which were collected for bodies such as Transport for London and the Government.

A discussion ensued on how successful the One Planet Sutton Scheme had been in Sutton in encouraging behaviour change, in bringing in outside investment of £8.5m and making savings for the council of £1.9m in energy bills. This work had been

carried out in conjunction with external partners in the voluntary, public and private sectors. Members offered examples covering each of the five one planet themes of cutting carbon emissions, cutting waste, valuing our natural environment, supporting healthy communities and supporting the local economy.

There were future plans for a community energy scheme which involved wider use of solar energy especially in schools. Such projects were also being considered across London, and the Chair reported that these had been discussed at London Councils where Sutton seemed to be a leader in this field. It was reported that officers were looking into a range of options for photovoltaic (PV) projects including community owned PV on school buildings and that any project proposal requiring a policy decision or investment would be brought to the committee in due course.

Resolved:

1. That Option A (as set out in the published report and Appendix C) is endorsed as the delivery model for the future structure and strategic directions of the sustainability team and the One Planet Sutton programme. This would save the council an estimated £84,700.
2. That the technical amendments to the 2017 One Planet Sutton targets (as set out in Appendix B to the report) be agreed.
3. That the One Planet Sutton priority targets to receive proactive monitoring and support from the sustainability team (as set out in Appendix F to the report) be agreed.
4. That future minor amendments to the One Planet Sutton targets be delegated to the One Planet Sutton board, in consultation with the Chair of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee.
5. That Sutton Council withdraw from EMAS, to be replaced with service-led responsibility for environmental risk management.

5. FUTURE PROVISION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD RECYCLING CENTRES

The Committee considered a report on the options for the future provision of the Neighbourhood Recycling Centres (NRCs). The Council had implemented significant improvements over recent years to the kerbside recycling service which meant that residents were now able to recycle mixed dry recyclables at home. The report therefore considered the options for the future provision of the Neighbourhood Recycling Centres, with a recommendation to remove the mixed recycling banks from the sites.

Since 2013, all Local Committees had considered at least one NRC review, and taken the decision to remove the mixed dry recycling banks but to retain the textile and book banks where these occurred. The Mount at Clockhouse was the only site to be reviewed where no changes had been made, and this was subject to further consultation with residents. The removal of such banks had resulted in a considerable decrease in fly tipping, and the recycling rate had been maintained. Given the success of the changes made to date, it was proposed that the remaining recycling banks be removed from Neighbourhood Recycling Centres during autumn 2015.

Officers had started consultation with residents of Clockhouse since the recent Local Committee to ensure that their concerns were taken into account.

Resolved:

1. That the Council's mixed dry recycling banks from all Neighbourhood Recycling Centres be removed, retaining the banks for materials that cannot be recycled at home.

6. SUTTON'S LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION PROPOSALS

The Committee considered a report the publication and adoption of the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The Sutton Local Flood Risk Management Strategy outlined the Council's priorities and provided a delivery plan to manage risk over the next six years. The action plan will feed into the Environment Agency's Thames Flood Risk Management Plan (set for publication in 2015).

Resolved:

1. That the amended final Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be published following the recent public consultation.

7. RELEASE OF CAPITAL FUNDING FOR HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2015/16 AND UPDATE ON PROCUREMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING CONTRACTS

The Committee considered a report on the Planned Carriageway and Footway Maintenance Works Programme and a progress update on the re-procurement of the highways and street lighting contracts.

An error was highlighted in Appendix A to the report (roads to be resurfaced) where the ward for Woodside Road should just read Sutton North. Officers also confirmed that Christmas lights were not included in this programme but came under Local Committees Public Realm funding.

Resolved:

1. To incur capital expenditure for the 2015/16 Planned Carriageway and Footway Maintenance Programmes as outlined in the 2012-2016 Capital Programme.

8. BUSINESS CASE FOR SHARING A) HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND B) REGULATORY SERVICES WITH THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON

The Committee considered a report on the business case and rationale for shared services for highways, traffic management and regulatory services between Sutton and Kingston and the reorganisation of these services into an integrated structure.

The aims of the integrated service, which was one of the first examples of a front line shared service of this nature, were to maintain current service performance, provide a more resilient service model which was more flexible, and to achieve savings which were estimated to be £580,000 by 2017/8.

A member expressed concern about the proposed governance structure and whether Members queries would be dealt with efficiently. Officers commented that the governance structure should not impact on the day-to-day operation of the service, which was intended to be more responsive through the shared service. The success of the model would be monitored, and could be adapted over time if necessary. The operating model aligned with the commissioning model being used by both Kingston and Sutton. The host organisation would be Kingston who would employ staff involved, but Sutton or Kingston could take the lead for different parts of the operation, whether Highways or Regulatory Services.

Resolved:

1. That the business case for sharing services for highways, traffic management and regulatory services with the Royal Borough of Kingston, subject to the Member agreement in both Councils be approved.
2. That the proposed timetable for the implementation be approved, as detailed in paragraph 4.13 of the published report.
3. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration to develop and agree proposals, subject to formal consultation with staff and trade unions.

9. BELMONT CPZ REVIEW

The Committee considered a report on the Belmont CPZ review after one year of implementation of new hours of operation and changes to the Blue Badge entitlement. Officers reported that compliance and feedback had been good. A Member asked for the faded yellow lines to be redone.

Resolved:

1. That the successful implementation of the controls is noted and agreed that no further changes or reviews are necessary for the Belmont CPZ, separate from any wider review of zones across the Borough.

The meeting ended at 9.43 pm

Chair:

Date:

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