



ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT , 2010/11

SUMMARY

This report is the annual report of the Committee, summarising the Committee's activities during the past Council year.

It is planned for this report to stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable members and others to compare performance year to year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Council note the annual report of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

REPORT DETAILS

During the year under review, the Committee met on six occasions and dealt with the following issues:

1. THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

- 1.1 At its first meeting in June 2010, the Committee sought to understand the role of Environmental Strategy. The Committee were informed that there were 12 members of the team and they worked closely with Public Protection and Streetcare. The functions included looking after the 90 miles of rural Rights of Way in Havering, links with Thames Chase Community Forest, Climate Change, School Travel Plans, Local Nature Reserves and Heritage/Listed Buildings.

2. THE ROLE OF STREETCARE

- 2.1 At its September meeting, the Committee received a presentation from the Head of Streetcare on the services covered by the different sections within the Streetcare Service. This covered areas such as Highways, Environmental Maintenance, Waste & Recycling and Parking. The Committee were informed how these areas had been improved and how they fed into the Council's Carbon Reduction Commitment which would feature throughout the work programme of this committee.
- 2.2 The Committee expressed interest in visiting the recycling plant at Jenkins Land and also the Bio-MRF at Frog Island.

3. CARBON REDUCTION COMMITMENT

- 3.1 At its September meeting, the Committee received a presentation from the Energy Management Officer on the Council's Carbon Reduction Commitment. The Committee were informed that Havering had already signed up and the commitment covered all council owned buildings including schools, which made up 53% of the Carbon Footprint for Havering, and were being supported by the new coalition government.
- 3.2 The Committee were informed that this was an energy reduction scheme and that it had a cash flow impact reduced to six months. The Committee were informed that in order to be energy efficient compliant, the Council have to have a Carbon Abatement Strategy, which had been approved by Cabinet in November 2007. The council were already looking at the more efficient use of council buildings and had moved staff from outlying office buildings into the core centre.
- 3.3 The Committee were informed at their meeting in February 2011 that the introduction of alternative technology was underway. They were informed that solar panels had been installed on the Town Hall roof, this installation had generated income of £3,500 per annum, meaning that the cost of the installation would be recovered over 11 years.
- 3.4 At its meeting in April 2011, the Committee were informed that the recycling element of the scheme had now been removed. They were informed that the first 3 years of the scheme the cost would be £12 per tonne, however in year 4 the credits would go on the open market, and therefore the cost could increase. The Committee noted that the tonnage use per year in Havering was 33,333 tonnes, which was a total cost of £400,000.

4. STREET LIGHTING ENERGY REVIEW

- 4.1 At its meeting in February 2011, the Committee received a report on the outcomes of the review of Street Lighting energy carried out by a contractor – Jacobs, on behalf of the Council. The review looked at alternative technology including ppl lights.
- 4.2 Members noted that ppl fluorescent lights use 10% less energy compared with the existing sodium lights, they last twice as long, and also cost less. It was felt that the change would assist in reducing crime levels, and because of the way they directed light, this would enable the number of columns to be reduced. This would again reduce costs.
- 4.3 During the discussions it was felt that the Council could reduce its overall carbon footprint by 15%. However with schools accounting for half the cost this would be difficult to enforce. Members raised concern about the replacement of both concrete and cast iron columns. The Committee were informed that this process had started but was programme would last until 2015.
- 4.4 At its meeting in April 2011, the Committee received an update briefing on the stock of street lighting within the Borough. The Committee noted that the current maintenance contract would be re-tendered at the end of October 2011, and the pre-tendering process was underway. The Committee were informed of the inventory issues that needed attention; these included the cast iron columns needing replacing, due to age and condition. The majority of these columns were over 40 years old, and the switches were located at the top of the column rather than the bottom.
- 4.5 During the discussions the Committee found that there were systems in place for motorists hitting and damaging columns, and that if motorist are insured then the Council are able to claim the cost of the damage to the column, the cost of the call out and the clearing of the debris.
- 4.6 Members agreed that a Business Case should be written to take forward a proposal to remove the second lamp from each of the private supply signages and a photocell added to achieve a saving.

5. PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 5.1 At its meeting in February 2011, the Committee were provided with details of service performance from a number of key services which fell within the Committee's remit. This would enable members to build a Performance Pack to meet their requirements.

Council, 20 July 2011

5.2 The Committee agreed that the following Performance indicators should be included:

- Number of Fly Tips reported
- The average number of days taken to remove fly tips
- Total tonnage of household waste collected
- Residual household waster per household (NI 191 LAA2)
- Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting (NI 192 LAA2) report half yearly unless trend was to change
- Gerpins Lane green waste tonnage
- Wheeled bins green waste tonnage
- Number of missed collections
- Percentage of missed collections put right within target
- CRM reported Gullies cleared within 24 hours
- Average number of days to repair streetlights
- Environmental Health Substantial Responses sent within 15 working days
- Technical Services – service requests responded to within 5 working days
- Technical Services – (CMUs) Substantive responses sent within 15 working days
- Number of Accredited Members of Buy with Confidence 2010 - 2011
- Food Safety Inspections Non-Compliant A-B (High Risk) 2010 - 2011

6. BUDGET SCRUTINY

6.1 In both August 2010 and January 2011, the Committee met jointly with the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees in order to scrutinise aspects of the Council's proposed budget for the coming year. The meetings, chaired by the Chairman of the Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee, scrutinised several issues of relevance to this Committee. These included savings in Street Lighting, the Depot Relocation and the Efficiency Savings in Waste Management in partnership with ELWA.

7. REALLOCATION OF WORKLOAD OF PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7.1 At its meeting in April 2011, the Committee received a report on the reallocation of workload of the Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Following the announcement by the Leader of the Council that Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be abolished at the end of the financial year, the report invited the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee's to consider adding to their work programme items

that were due to be considered in the future by the Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 7.2 The Committee agreed to add the Review of Waste Management Partnerships – Biffa, East London Waste Authority, Shanks, to their work programme for the next municipal year.

8. OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Out of Hours Noise Topic Group – At its meeting in November 2010, the Committee received an update from the Public Protection Service Manager on the Out of Hours Noise Service. Assistance had now been sought from the Police for the busier summer months, and this had been agreed in principle.
- 8.2 Foxes and Rats Service – At its November meeting, the Committee received a presentation from the Housing and Public Health Divisional Manager on Foxes and Rats, and the service that the Council provided. The Committee were informed that the main rat culprit was the Norway rat (Brown Rat) which had recently migrated into Europe and was now the dominant species in the UK. The Committee were informed that foxes were protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and were not categorised as vermin by DEFRA, therefore there was nothing that the local authority could do as regards controlling fox numbers.
- 8.3 Reviews of Cabinet Reports – At its meeting in November 2010, the Committee received updates on Cabinet reports on Rainham Regeneration, Local Nature Reserve Declaration for Land at Bedford's Park and Ingrebourne Valley Sustrans Connect2 Greenway.
- 8.4 At its April 2011 meeting, the Committee received an in depth update on the Climate Change Action Plan. The Climate Change Action Plan was a programme of actions for all council departments to work towards in order to reduce our energy. The Committee were informed that in 2008 all council departments adopted a three year plan which ran from 2009 – 2012. The achievement would be to decrease CO₂ emissions by 7% and a reduction of 2000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions by 2012.