

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

17 December 2015

7.00 pm – 8:20 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

3

Minutes

Membership:

Councillor Simon Pickering**	P	Councillor Chas Fellows	A
Councillor Paul Denney *	P	Councillor Colin Fryer	P
Councillor Liz Ashton	P	Councillor Haydn Sutton	P
Councillor Tim Boxall	A	Councillor Brian Tipper	P
Councillor Kevin Cranston	A	Councillor Ken Tucker	P
Councillor Julie Douglass	P	Councillor Tim Williams	A

** = Chair * = Vice Chair

P = Present

A = Absent

Other Members In attendance

Councillor Geoff Wheeler

Officers In Attendance

Strategic Head Development Services
Accountant
Senior Policy Officer

Interim Multi Service Contracts Manager
Democratic Services Officer

EC.022

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tim Williams and Chas Fellows.

EC.023

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EC.024

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 2015 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

EC.025 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

Prior to the agenda items being discussed the Chair announced an award in recognition of early EMAS registration. He congratulated the officers and committee for attaining this national award.

EC.026 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme was agreed subject to the following amendments

- Air quality report update
- Discussion on the results of the Badger Cull
- A Presentation from the Woodland Trust

RESOLVED **To note the work programme and include the additional reports in the 2015/16 programme.**

EC.027 **REVENUE ESTIMATES – REVISED 2015/16 AND ORIGINAL 2016/17**

The Accountant presented the report to Committee and explained the adjustments and breakdown of the budget.

The following points were discussed:

- (a) Rebate on National Insurance Contributions.
- (b) Recovery of debts on Dangerous Structures which the Council has had to make good.
- (c) Pest Control.
- (d) Committee was pleased that there were £100,000 worth of savings to recommend to Strategy and Resources Committee.

RECOMMENDED **That the estimates set out in the report be approved.**
TO STRATEGY
AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

EC.028 **STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL AND CARBON NEUTRALITY**

The Senior Policy Officer presented the report pointing out that many organisations around the world invest in environmental projects to reduce their emissions. SDC has a good history of supporting energy efficient projects, such as the Warm and Well Scheme.

Councillor Paul Denney thanked officers for the EMAS award which had been achieved. SDC are the first in the country to achieve carbon neutral status and apart from British Columbia are the second in the World.

During discussion the following points were made:

- (a) Positive changes have been made to homes within the District due to the warm and well scheme.
- (b) The recent achievement for funding is the DECC scheme, £1.2m for Council homes in need of central heating in the district.

The Chair added thanks to officers and Members, past and present, and partner organisations who have supported these projects.

- RESOLVED**
- (I) To agree, that based on the methodology set out in this report, Stroud District Council can demonstrate that the carbon emissions associated with its operation have been fully offset through its own initiatives.**
 - (II) To continue with our existing approaches of reducing our impact on the environment through helping the wider community reduce their carbon emissions and minimising the Councils' own operational emissions.**

EC.029 MULTI SERVICES CONTRACT - POLICIES

The Interim Multi Service Contracts Manager presented his report and explained the changes which would take place following the introduction of the new service. Policies needed to be put in place in order to run the service effectively. He explained that if households recycle, they should have enough space for waste that needed to go to Landfill, although the new service is designed to reduce waste going to Landfill.

During discussion the following points were made:

- (a) Assisted collections will continue where necessary.
- (b) There will be a comprehensive communication and education programme including roadshows, displays and leaflets to inform residents.
- (c) There will be a closed lid policy, if residents are continually leaving bin lids open, officers will visit to talk to the resident but ultimately the policy of closed lids is to encourage greater recycling and to have fair, consistent treatment for all residents.
- (d) If residents do not recycle they will not have enough room in their landfill waste bin, they will need to recycle.
- (e) Information for residents of the cost of recycling and sending waste to landfill should be included in the leaflets.
- (f) Park Homes estates could have bins in certain positions for residents to use.
- (g) There has been a slight increase in fly tipping since the bulky waste collection was introduced, the Public Space team are monitoring this.

- RESOLVED To approve the policies set out in Appendix A.**

EC.030

EBLEY MILL HYDRO UPDATE

The Strategic Head of Development Services gave an update on the project. It is split into three phases – outline feasibility, detailed design and consenting, procurement and construction. Hallidays Hydro have been appointed, they are at the first stage of the outline feasibility and are due to report back at the end of January. The viability of the project is likely to be finely balanced depending on the review of the ‘feed in tariff’ rates which will apply for hydro.

Concern was expressed over the cost of the project, and the Council starting a project that may become prohibitive because of cost.

A report will be brought back to Committee in February.

EC.031

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

There was no update.

Meeting ended at 20.25 pm.

Chair