

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**23 October 2014**
7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud
3**Minutes****Membership:**

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)	P	Councillor Colin Fryer	P
Councillor Paul Smith (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Chas Fellows	P
Councillor Liz Ashton	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	A
Councillor Tim Boxall	A	Councillor Roger Sanders	A
Councillor Paul Denney	P	Councillor Brian Tipper	P
Councillor Julie Douglass	P	Councillor Tim Williams	A

P = Present A = Absent

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Miranda Clifton	Councillor Geoff Wheeler
Councillor John Jones	

Officers Present:

Strategic Head (Development Services)	Interim Multi-Service Contract Review Manager
Head of Environmental Health	Solicitor
Principal Planning Officer (Strategy)	Democratic Services and Elections Officer
Housing Renewal Manager	

EC.023**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tim Boxall, Haydn Jones, Roger Sanders and Tim Williams.

EC.024**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

EC.025**MINUTES****RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 September 2014 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

EC.026**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

EC.027 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The following updates were made:-

- 11 December 2014 Standish Hospital Work Plan will be presented to a future meeting.
Randwick Parish Design Statement
- 19 March 2015 Presentation on fracking – to be confirmed.
Future Meetings - The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – date to be confirmed once the Local Plan had been agreed.
Princes Trust Presentation – date to be arranged.

Councillor Paul Denney tendered his resignation as the Committee's nominated member for the Stroud Valleys Project and nominations would be sought from Members.

The Chair of Environment Committee was appointed to sit as the Council's representative on the Rural SUDS Steering Group.

At 6.30 pm prior to the next Committee meeting Primal Joy Foods would be coming in with their food products.

RESOLVED **To note the Work Programme and updates, as detailed above.**

EC.028 **WHITMINSTER DESIGN STATEMENT**

The Principal Planning Officer (Strategy) outlined the report which set out the recommended response to community work that had been undertaken on the Whitminster Design Statement. He paid tribute to the hard work that individuals had undertaken in producing this document and confirmed that it would be reviewed and updated once the emerging Local Plan had been adopted to ensure that their policies continued to be in compliance.

RESOLVED **That the Whitminster Design Statement is adopted as Supplementary Planning Advice (SPA).**

EC.029 **CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Strategic Head (Development Services) provided Members with an update on the Carbon Management Programme which included the Ebley Mill Hydro Scheme and the Retrofit Guarantee Loan Fund, and also stated that the Council may be carbon neutral by the end of next year.

- RESOLVED**
1. **To recognise the achievements and performance to date.**
 2. **To consider the future programme, capital costs, revenue and carbon savings.**
 3. **To create a task and finish group to consider the integration of the broader Carbon Management Programme with the work on new build and retrofit in Tenant Services with a combined energy strategy.**

4. **To maintain our existing Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) registration and use the requirement to produce an annual Environmental Statement to report progress against our Environmental Delivery plans.**
5. **To include (as part of the Environment Committee budget for 2015/16 to be recommended to Strategy and Resources Committee as a budget proposal) £30,000 of salary and other savings from the Environmental Health budget to fund the continued provision of Home Energy Advice and support programmes in the District.**

EC.030**REVIEW OF DOG WASTE BIN PROVISION**

The Head of Environmental Health outlined the three options and protocol for the review of dog waste bin provision within the District clarifying the following points:-

- The bins were of standard size.
- If a bin had a high usage it would be emptied more frequently.
- There were no bins located on private land.
- Bins for general waste and dog waste were emptied by the Council's contractor and sent to landfill.
- It was proposed to use general waste bins for dog waste.
- Extensive research had shown that bins outside eg a shop or near a school had not been vandalised. These could be labelled "for litter only" and bins for dog waste could have a lid.
- The cost of the landfill tax was borne by the contractor, not the Council.
- Each bin would have an inner plastic bin liner, if a complaint was received the bin could be washed.
- The Council did not have a legal duty to provide bins; this was a discretionary service.

Councillor Paul Denney stated that amongst the top 5 complaints received from constituents related to dog waste. Since the introduction of dog waste bins there had been a vast improvement to the street scene. He had undertaken significant research into the tonnage of dog waste that was currently going to landfill resulting in the generation of methane gas. He suggested that if this waste was collected, separated with other green and food waste and put into a micro anaerobic digester it could generate electricity. He thought that dog waste should continue to be separated and moved a Motion to amend Option 3 to now read:-

"Retain the status quo and explore options for micro anaerobic digester for dog waste" which was seconded by Councillor Julie Douglass.

Members debated the Motion but were concerned about the financial implications. The Head of Environmental Health confirmed that several Parish Councils were awaiting the decision of Committee but a further option could be that these bins are provided but the Parish Council's paid for them to be emptied. Approximately 10 enquiries were received per annum.

The Strategic Head (Development Services) confirmed that to have dedicated vehicles just to collect dog waste throughout the district would be costly. An alternative way of dealing with dog waste and other nasties may be to separate these from other waste materials and through an anaerobic digester plant to produce agricultural fertiliser/pellets. There were alternatives in dealing with these waste products.

Councillor Denney stated that the different waste streams should continue to be separated. Members and Officers continued to debate a way forward and Councillors Denney and Douglass agreed to amend the wording to their Motion, to which Committee unanimously agreed

- RESOLVED**
1. **Officers to review alternative options for the environmental disposal of dog waste with a report to be brought back to Committee within a period of 6 months.**
 2. **To suspend current requests for further dog waste bins until Committee have considered the further report.**

EC.031 **MULTI SERVICES CONTRACT REVIEW – INTERIM REPORT**

The Solicitor outlined the contents of the above full and comprehensive report and highlighted a few errors in the decision box relating to paragraph numbering. The Chair requested a copy of the consultation documentation was emailed to all Committee Members.

Confirmation was given that if one of the proposed Council's did not join Ubico Limited the cost would be borne by the original 2 shareholders.

Councillor Simon Pickering moved the Officer's advice, which was seconded by Councillor Paul Smith.

Councillor Paul Denney proposed an amendment by adding a third paragraph to read "3. The Council expresses its view to the Company that provision should be made in the new articles of association and shareholders agreement for a nominated member of each Local Authority Shareholder to be entitled to attend meetings of the Board of Directors for the purpose of observation only" to the recommendation to Council, which was seconded by Councillor Paul Smith. He stated that as an elected member we are responsible to the tax payer and it would be prudent to attend these meetings.

Members requested the Interim Multi-Service Contract Review Manager to contact Ubico Limited to request that a Member was an observer at their Board Meetings.

Members unanimously supported the proposed amendments.

- RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**
1. **Subject to 2. below to recommend to the Council that it becomes a shareholder in UBICO LIMITED on the terms set out in paragraph 3 of this report.**
 2. **To approve the governance principles set out in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, subject to the amendments in**

- 3. of this report and to delegate to the Strategic Head (Customer services) in consultation with Legal Services Manager and the Chairman of the Committee authority to agree the new Shareholders Agreement and Articles of Association of Ubico Ltd provided that those documents do not deviate in any material respect from those approved principles.**
- 3. The Council expresses its view to the Company that provision should be made in the new articles of association and shareholders agreement for a nominated member of each Local Authority Shareholder to be entitled to attend meetings of the Board of Directors for the purpose of observation only.**

EC.032

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Chair