

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**4 September 2014**
7.00 pm – 8.10 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	P	Councillor Roger Sanders	P
Councillor Paul Denney	P	Councillor Brian Tipper	P
Councillor Julie Douglass	P	Councillor Tim Williams	P

P = Present A = Absent

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Paul Carter	Councillor Paul Hemming
Councillor Nigel Cooper	Councillor Geoff Wheeler

Officers Present:

Strategic Head (Development Services)	Interim Multi-Service Contract Review Manager
Strategic Head (Customer Services)	Public Space Officers
Accountancy Manager	Solicitor
Accountant	Democratic Services and Elections Officer
Public Space Manager	

EC.014**APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Haydn Jones.

EC.015**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

EC.016**MINUTES****RESOLVED****That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 June 2014 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.****EC.017****PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

EC.018 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair drew Members' attention to the Work Programme and requested Members to vote for a representative on the Stroud Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Councillor Paul Denney nominated Councillor Simon Pickering to be the representative, which was seconded by Councillor Tim Boxall.

An update on the existing Environment Capital Schemes was requested at October's meeting and would be incorporated within the Carbon Management report. Members were requested to contact the Chair for any other items they wished to be included onto the Committee's Work Programme.

- RESOLVED**
1. **To appoint Councillor Simon Pickering as the Committee's representative on the Stroud Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.**
 2. **To note the Work Programme, subject to the above amendment.**

EC.019 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2014/15 Q1**

An overview of the above report, including Appendices was provided by the Accountancy Manager of expenditure up to 31 July 2014. Projected future variations within the Committee's budgets were discussed, including the need for additional expenditure for Development Control to fund any judicial review(s).

Members agreed an amendment to paragraph 8. of the report to vire £28,400 from the Environmental Health budget to the Local Plan budget to cover the funding shortfall in finalising the Local Plan.

- RESOLVED** **To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital Programme for 2014/15.**

RECOMMENDED TO STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE **To approve the transfers to and from earmarked reserves as set out in paragraph 8 to the report and to vire £28,400 from the Environmental Health budgets to the Local Plan budget.**

EC.020 **DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AREA AT HORSLEY**

The Strategic Head (Development Services) outlined the above report clarifying it was for the whole of the parish of Horsley. This was the initial stage and further work had to be undertaken before an independent inspector would determine the plan, similar to the procedures in place for the Council's Local Plan.

- RESOLVED** **To accept the nomination of the Neighbourhood Planning Area for the parish of Horsley.**

EC.021**MULTI SERVICES CONTRACT REVIEW – INTERIM REPORT**

The Chair introduced the above report which would shape the future design and delivery of the services included within the multi services contract to operate from July 2016. A joint cross party Member/Officer Task and Finish Group had met on 17 occasions to discuss this topic. A Members' Information Evening had recently been well received and attended by Members.

The Interim Multi Service Contract Review Manager outlined the report in detail and highlighted the indicative costs. The aim was to reduce waste going into landfill which would reduce the landfill tax and also benefit the environment. Members were requested to make a recommendation to Council for a Preferred Supplier to operate the services from July 2016 from the three options shown at paragraph 8. within the decision box of the report.

The Officer answered Members' questions on Ubico, which was a local authority controlled company with Cotswold District Council and Cheltenham Borough Council as shareholders. Other local authorities were currently considering becoming shareholders and by working together costs could be reduced.

Members unanimously agreed with paragraphs 1-7, 9 and 10 of the recommendations to be made to Council and also voted unanimously for option 8b) within the decision box of the report.

**RECOMMENDED
TO COUNCIL****SERVICE DESIGN****1. Refuse and Recycling**

- a) **The current system of collecting dry recyclables remains unchanged although if economical to do so plastic film and bags will be added to collections.**
- b) **A review of the use and need for the recycling bring sites will be undertaken.**
- c) **Collection rounds to be based on the most efficient collection routes, not as now which is based on Town and Parish boundaries**
- d) **Food waste to be collected weekly in caddies.**
- e) **Residual waste to be collected fortnightly offsetting the cost of weekly food collection.**
- f) **Wheeled bins will be used at most properties but black bags will be provided to households whose property is difficult to access. The upfront cost of the bins will be offset by savings in the purchase of black bags.**
- g) **An agreement is signed with the Joint Waste Committee whereby the Council will receive an incentive payment based on meeting targets to reduce waste sent to landfill. Based on current projections of reducing waste to landfill that payment would be at least £200,000.**

2. **Garden Waste**
An opt-in chargeable garden waste collection service to be introduced at a cost of around £36 per annum per wheeled bin plus a one-off charge of £20 for the purchase of the bin. Bags to be used if property has access difficulties. The setting of charges to be delegated to the Strategic Head (Customer Services) in consultation with Chair of Environment Committee.
3. **Bulky Waste**
A £15 charge is introduced for the collection of three items and that after twelve months a review be carried out to ensure that costs are covered by income received. Changes to the charge to be delegated to the Strategic Head (Customer Services) in consultation with the Chair of the Environment Committee.
4. **Street Cleansing**
Future service delivery is based on the slightly amended schedule (Appendix A).
5. **Grounds Maintenance**
 - a) There are no significant changes to current service delivery schedules.
 - b) There is a £10,000 reduction in the budget for the use of fertilizers and herbicides.
6. **Building Cleaning**
The frequency of and the systems for cleaning of municipal buildings be re-examined.
7. **Implementation**
In order to phase implementation of service changes authority is delegated to the Strategic Head (Customer Services), in consultation with the Chair of the Environment Committee.

SERVICE DELIVERY

8. **Preferred Supplier**
With effect from 1st July 2016 the Council join the local authority company, Ubico Ltd, as a shareholder and enter into an agreement to deliver the contract.
9. **Depot**
The Council, subject to a full cost-benefit analysis being undertaken and presented to the Strategy and Resources Committee, acquire its own depot.
10. **Sale of Recyclables**
The Council become responsible for the sale of recyclable materials.

EC.022

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

None received.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Chair