

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

19 June 2014

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7.00 pm – 8.55 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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	P
Councillor Tim Boxall	A	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 Geoff Wheeler and Councillor Chris Brine

Officers Present:

Strategic Head (Development Services)	Interim Multi-Service Contract Review Manager
Head of Planning	Principal Planning Officer (Planning Strategy)
Head of Customer Services	Solicitor
Canal Project Manager	Democratic Services Assistant
Public Space Manager	

EC.001**APOLOGIES**

There were none.

EC.002**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

EC.003**MINUTES****RESOLVED**

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

EC.004**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

EC.005 **INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chair welcomed new members to the Committee and identified the key areas of the committee's responsibilities. He stated that Members were welcome to attend briefings and he would liaise with Group Leaders.

RESOLVED **To note the update.**

EC.006 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members agreed the following changes to the Committee's Work Programme:-

To add an item on The Multi Service Contract to the September meeting and for a follow up report to be made at the Committees' meeting in March 2015. It was confirmed that there would be presentations on Fracking and by New Earth Solutions at a future meeting.

RESOLVED **To note the Work Programme subject to the above amendments.**

EC.007 **MULTI SERVICES CONTRACT REVIEW – INTERIM REPORT**

The Interim Multi-Service Contract Review Manager introduced the report which gave an update on the work of the Task and Finish Group and identified key areas for further discussion including contract delivery options. A survey had been undertaken of 512 residents across the district and covered; refuse and recycling, garden waste, street sweeping and litter. There was strong support for the introduction of food waste collection with 72% of respondents saying that they would use it. It was reported that such a service would be expensive to set up and operate and to be affordable could mean a move to collecting residual waste on a fortnightly basis.

There was interest in the provision of a garden waste collection service with 21% of respondents saying that they would use it with the provision of a wheeled green bin at £35 per year. A further 21% of residents said that they did not have garden waste, whilst 41% said they would continue to home compost.

In respect of service design and delivery, the Task and Finish Group recommended the introduction of a charge for the collection of bulky items. 52% of residents said that they would still use the service if there was a charge. The Task and Finish Group also identified that there were three possible options for the delivery of the service; In-House Direct Service Organisation, Ubico (which is not for profit company wholly owned by Cheltenham Borough and Cotswold District Councils) and the private sector.

The Interim Manager identified that the next steps were to model the preferred ways to assess the cost of each of the proposals. In response to member's questions, it was confirmed that the existing green bags for garden waste went to landfill. If wheeled bins were introduced for garden waste then the garden waste would be fully recycled. In respect of collection vehicles a range of options were being considered and costed.

An amendment to the recommendations was proposed and seconded; the motion was to add the wording after 'highest risk' 'and as such is dropped from possible options for further investigation'. The amendment was lost and Members approved the four resolutions in the decision box of the report.

- RESOLVED**
- (1) To acknowledge the initial findings of the Working Group.**
 - (2) To approve the Next Steps (paragraph 10 refers).**
 - (3) To accept that at this stage the Direct Service Organisation option for service delivery is considered to have highest risk.**
 - (4) To agree that investigations into the purchase of a depot are continued as a matter of priority.**

EC.008 **ALKINGTON DESIGN STATEMENT**

The Principal Planning Officer introduced the report and set out the benefits to Alkington of producing a Village Design Statement (VDS). The Statement provides an opportunity for communities to put their knowledge and understanding of their area to good use and demonstrate to others the qualities that resident's value in their village and its surroundings. A VDS provides a description of the relationship between village landscape and buildings and identifies principles to be considered in new developments such as the design of buildings and the spaces between them.

The aim of a VDS is to be adopted by the local planning authority so that it plays a role in decision making on planning applications and can be seen as a tool to manage change.

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

EC.009 **DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AREA**

The Head of Planning reported on the latest local councils seeking to have their areas designated for Neighbourhood Planning purposes. This would be the first step for local communities to take before acquiring their new neighbourhood planning powers. The parishes of Kingswood and Chalford had nominated their whole area. Stroud Town Council was seeking to nominate a small area of the Town around Cheapside.

In response to Members questions it was reported that the District Council received from Central Government, £5,000 for each nominated area. This funding was to help provide support to local councils. The report identified that the District Council could apply for up to £25,000 to pay for the inquiry and the referendum.

- RESOLVED**
1. To accept the nomination of the two Neighbourhood Planning Areas for the parishes of Kingswood and Chalford.
 2. To delegate to the Head of Planning the authority to accept the nomination of Stroud Town as a Neighbourhood Planning Area, subject to there being no substantive objections to the designation.

EC.010 **LODGEMORE LANE COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER**

The Canal Project Manager presented his report and circulated photographs to identify the area of land referred to for purchase. The original decision by the Council to use Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers was made on 30 September 2010. Since the original decision a requirement for the acquisition of additional land and rights had been identified in order to progress the scheme and it was therefore necessary to provide an updated report to the Committee and to obtain a further decision on the making of the CPO in the light of the changed requirements. It was noted that in certain respects, land ownerships were not clear and some further investigation in that respect would be required before a CPO could be made.

The Committee considered the proposed Statement of Reasons for the making of the CPO at Appendix 1 to the report, and came to the conclusion that compulsory purchase of the land and rights referred to was justified on the grounds set out in the statement.

- RESOLVED**
1. To make the Lodgemore Lane Compulsory Purchase Order and submit it for confirmation.
 2. To approve the Statement of Reasons for the making of the Order (Appendix 1 to the report).
 3. To approve the Order Map annexed to this report (Appendix 2 to the report).
 4. To authorise the Legal Services Manager to settle the final text of the Compulsory Purchase Order when all investigations into ownership and occupation etc of the land contained in the order map have been completed.
 5. That the Legal Services Manager be authorised to take all steps required to secure the confirmation of the order.

EC.011 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chair drew Members' attention to the list of outside bodies within the remit of Committee for the civic year:-

Organisation

Berkeley Nuclear Stakeholders
Lower Severn Drainage Board
Minchinhampton and Rodborough
Commons Advisory Committee

Councillor(s) Appointed

Councillor Liz Ashton
Councillor John Jones
Councillor Paul Carter

Wessex Water	Councillor Paul Smith
Cotswold AONB	Councillor Nick Hurst
Stroud Valleys Project Board	Councillor Paul Denney
Tyndale Monument Charity	Councillors Paul Smith
Stroud Concordat	Councillor Simon Pickering
Countywide Strategic Planning Issues Group.	Councillor Geoff Wheeler

The Chair requested that representatives should provide a brief report to future meetings of the Committee to outline their work on the outside bodies.

RESOLVED **To agree the appointments to outside bodies as set out above.**

EC.012 **APPOINTMENT OF PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPRESENTATIVES**

The Chair confirmed that two Committee members were required to meet with senior management teams on a quarterly basis to monitor the performance of services within Environment Committee and report back on an exception basis. Several expressions of interest were made and it was

RESOLVED **Councillors Paul Smith and Tim Williams would represent Committee.**

EC.013 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

None received.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Chair