

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

4 February 2014

7.00 pm – 9.05 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership:

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	P
Councillor Paul Smith (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Graham Littleton	P
Councillor Liz Ashton	P	Councillor Roger Sanders	A
Councillor Paul Denney	A	Councillor Brian Tipper	P
Councillor Chas Fellows	P	Councillor Martin Whiteside	A
Councillor Nick Hurst	A		

P = Present A = Absent

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor John Jones

Officers Present:

Strategic Head (Development Services)	Planning Strategy Manager
Accountancy Manager	Public Space Manager
Canal Project Manager	Democratic Services Assistant
Accounting Technician	

EC.043

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nick Hurst, Roger Sanders and Martin Whiteside.

EC.044

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

EC.045

MINUTES

It was noted that the amendment to Minute EC.026 of the meeting held on 31 October 2013, should read as follows: "The cast iron yellow containers were ductile, 150mm thick and could withstand being dropped from 6 metres".

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 December 2013 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

EC.046 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

EC.047 **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2013/14**

The Accountancy Manager presented the above report and responded to Members' questions as follows:-

- The revised capital spend on the canal project was £902,159.
- When Councillors made a planning (DC) decision, which overturned an Officer's recommendation, if the applicant appealed, it would be necessary to employ external consultants to defend the Council's decision. A Members' Information Sheet detailing associated results of appeals would be circulated.
- The Sharps disposal budget had been overspent as the estimated amount, set aside for an anticipated late invoice from the NHS, subsequently proved to be inadequate. Officers had been assured that this was now the final invoice. The NHS had been repeatedly chased for an invoice at the time, but had then been unable to provide it.

RESOLVED **To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital programme for 2013/14.**

EC.048 **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY: PRELIMINARY DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE**

The Planning Strategy Manager presented the above report concerning the preliminary draft charging schedule for public consultation.

Discussion ensued on various aspects of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and clarification was sought and received on a number of areas concerning the application of the CIL, the allocation of monies between the District and Parish Councils and its subsequent use. It was noted that this Committee would be responsible for determining the priorities for infrastructure development and joint working with other Gloucestershire authorities would enable delivery.

A CIL rate of £80 per sq.m for housing developments within Stroud District might generate two to three times the income currently generated by Section 106 Agreements and be more efficient. Members would be informed of any time restrictions which had to be applied to the spending of CIL monies. It was explained that the charging rate would be reviewed every 3 years.

It was felt that CIL represented a good opportunity for local communities to achieve funding, particularly where there were Neighbourhood Plans in place. It might also encourage developers to commence outstanding developments and could add value to new properties.

RESOLVED **To agree the CIL preliminary draft charging schedule attached at Appendix 2 for the purposes of undertaking public consultation.**

EC.049**DESIGNATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AREAS**

In presenting the above report, the Strategic Head of Development Services explained the need for the hierarchy of plans to be consistent. The Local Plan should ideally be agreed first, to enable the Neighbourhood Plans to conform to its strategic elements.

There were a few parishes within the District at the very early stages of developing their Neighbourhood Plans. These were designed to be pro-growth and to identify and influence opportunities for development, not oppose it. The Development Control Committee would consider Neighbourhood Plans as part of their deliberations on applications, in due course.

RESOLVED

- a. **To accept the nomination of the three Neighbourhood Planning Areas for the parishes of Dursley, Hardwicke and Standish.**
- b. **To delegate to the Head of Planning the Authority to accept the nomination of Cam as a Neighbourhood Planning Area, subject to there being no substantive objections to the designation.**

EC.050**MULTI-SERVICE CONTRACT - UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the multi-service contract concerning refuse, recycling, street cleaning, building cleaning, grounds maintenance and sand bag service. The Task and Finish group had looked at the legal aspects of tendering and the implications of the EU procurement directive. The first task would be to determine which services would be delivered and then decide whether or not the contract should be separated out. Potential outcomes could include providing an in-house service for recycling, contracting the service out to a national company, or using Ubico (a company jointly owned by Cotswold and Cheltenham Councils).

A questionnaire would be circulated to residents' seeking views on waste and recycling, including food and green waste recycling.

RESOLVED

To note the update.

EC.051**PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

Councillor Paul Smith updated the Committee on the performance of the Planning and Environmental Health services, including land drainage.

The Strategic Head of Development Services undertook to provide an update on planning appeals levels via a Members Information sheet.

RESOLVED

To note the update.

EC.052

STROUD CONCORDAT

RESOLVED

- a. To appoint Councillor Simon Pickering to be the Council's representative on Stroud Concordat for the remainder of the current Civic Year.
- b. To record the thanks of the Committee for the work of Councillor Roger Sanders on the Stroud Concordat.

EC.053

WORK PROGRAMME

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

13 March 2014

- Revised Budget 2013/14 would not be available for this meeting – item to be deleted.
- The wording of the Buildings at Risk Register item would be revised.

RESOLVED

To note the Work Programme subject to the above amendments.

EC.054

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chair