

**PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
22 SEPTEMBER 1998**

Present: Councillor Mills (Chairman)
Councillors Adams, Barnard, Beadsley, Blatchford,
Mrs Clifford, Egan, Grayson, North, Mrs Pile, Simonds,
Wade and Ward

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Mrs Keene, Onions and Veakins

209. Substitute Members

In accordance with Standing Order No. 38 Councillors Bayle attended as a substitute Member for Councillor Mrs Keene and Councillor Good attended as a substitute Member for Councillor Onions.

210. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 March and 16 June 1998 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

211. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- (i) The Chairman welcomed the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Mike Clement-Green and the Community Fire Safety Officer, Chris Moore to the meeting.
- (ii) The Council had won a major award for its entry in the prestigious national 'Green Apple' Awards. The Council's entry had centred around the new local environment strategy and how this is used to involve all aspects of the community in addressing environmental issues and sustainability.
- (iii) The Chairman congratulated the department on several compliments received regarding the general good quality of ground maintenance throughout the Borough including the flower baskets, flower beds, roundabouts and also the art work in the Town Centre underpasses.
- (iv) Councillor Mills had been appointed as the Council's representative to the Berkshire Environmental Trust which would enable the Council to be aware of grant opportunities for local groups in the Borough.

213. Minutes of Hackney Carriage Sub Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Hackney Carriage Sub Committee held on 9 September 1998 (Appendix A hereto) be received.

214. **Petition – Street Trader - Rackstraw Road, Owlsmoor, Sandhurst (Item 1)**

In accordance with Standing Order 12, Mr Trevis attended the meeting to present a Petition in relation to an alleged increase in vandalism, violence and disturbance in and around the Owlsmoor area of Sandhurst. It was suggested that this increase in anti-social behaviour could be linked to the location of the street trader on Rackstraw Road. The Committee asked questions of the petitioner and then consideration was given to the Officer's report thereon.

RESOLVED that the Director of Public and Environmental Services be instructed to:

- (i) review the hours of trading permitted on any application for renewal of the consent;
- (ii) renew the consent at monthly intervals (over the next three months), subject to the Director being satisfied that the street trading is not giving rise to unacceptable impact on the neighbourhood; and
- (iii) continue to monitor the impact of street trading upon the neighbourhood.

215. **Quarterly Operations Report (Item 2)**

The Committee considered the Quarterly Operations Report to the Committee. The report summarised the key current operational issues affecting the department as well as significant events that had occurred since the last Committee meeting during June. The report identified the main activities of each individual section monitoring the progress in actioning the policy objectives and performance indicators establishing the Committee's operational service plans for 1998/99.

RESOLVED that the Quarterly Operations Report detailing the action taken within the department since last Committee be received.

216. **Commitment Budget and Service Plans 1999/2000 – 2001/2002 (Item 3)**

The Committee considered a report giving details of the department's commitment budget and medium term objectives in line with the request from Strategy & Policy Committee in order to ensure that resources would be directed towards priority areas.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the commitment budget as summarised in the report and Annexe A be agreed; and
- (ii) the medium term objectives for the Committee as detailed in Annexe B be agreed.

217. Longshot Lane Civic Amenity Site and Transfer Station Improvements (Item 4)

The Committee considered a report giving details of the proposed improvements to the Longshot Lane Civic Amenity Site in order to encourage recycling and make the facility more user-friendly. The work was proposed to be carried out in partnership with current site contractors who would be contributing to the cost of the project.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the scheme for improvements to Longshot Lane Civic Amenity Site at a cost to the Council of £60,000 be approved; and;
- (ii) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to conclude an agreement with S.I.T.A. for carrying out the necessary works.

218. Compulsory Competitive Tendering – Grounds Maintenance Appointment of Tender Assessment Sub Committee (Item 5)

The Committee received a report giving details of the process of the retendering of the Grounds Maintenance Contract and a proposal to create a Sub Committee to give guidance to Officers on any key issues in the drafting of the specification and tender documents. It was noted that it would be necessary to establish a Sub Committee to assist in the process for awarding the new contract.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the Committee establish a Grounds Maintenance Tender Assessment Sub Committee to act with delegated powers on behalf of the Committee; and
- (ii) the terms of reference of the Sub Committee be approved as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report; and
- (iii) the Grounds Maintenance Tender Assessment Sub Committee be comprised of five members reflecting the political balance of the Council and that the Sub Committee be comprised of Councillors; Adams, Beadsley, Mills, North and Wade with Councillors Egan, Mrs Keene and Simonds as substitutes; and
- (iv) in accordance with the Scheme of Council and Committee Management the constitution of the Grounds Maintenance Tender Assessment Sub Committee be notified to Strategy and Policy Committee.

219. Emergency Planning – Appointment of Emergency Planning Advisory Panel (Item 6)

The Committee considered a report giving details of the proposals to create an Advisory Panel responsible to the Public and Environmental Services Committee for the development of the Council's Emergency Plan.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the Committee establish an Emergency Planning Advisory Panel with the terms of reference as detailed in paragraph 4.4 of the report be established; and
- (ii) the Emergency Planning Advisory Panel be comprised of five members reflecting a political balance of the Council; namely, Councillors Adams, Barnard, Mrs Clifford, Flood and Mrs Pile with Councillors Blatchford, Simonds and Veakins as substitutes; and
- (iii) in accordance with the Scheme of Council and Committee Management the constitution of the Emergency Planning Panel be notified to Strategy and Policy Committee.

220. **“Less Waste : More Value” – Consultation Paper on the Waste Strategy for England and Wales (Item 7)**

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions had published a consultation paper, “Less Waste : More Value” as the first stage in the development of a new waste strategy for England and Wales. The Committee considered the main proposals included within the consultation paper and the draft response proposed to be sent to the DETR.

RESOLVED that the response to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions consultation paper “Less Waste – More Value” as detailed in the Annexe to the Officer’s report be approved.

221. **Woodland Improvement Scheme – Hanworth Phase 3 (Item 8)**

The Committee considered a report regarding the programme of long term management of the woodlands in the Hanworth area, in particular the proposals for a third and final phase of the woodland improvement scheme to be undertaken during the winter.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the spending of £14,000 in respect of the proposals for the woodland improvement scheme as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (ii) the works be carried out during 1998/99 by the Landscape DSO.

222. **Environmental Improvement Scheme – Open Amenity Areas (Item 9)**

The Committee received a report giving details of proposals to undertake six small schemes to maintain and improve the landscaping in open amenity areas within the Borough.

RESOLVED that the spending of £8,661.00 in respect of the schemes detailed in the Officer’s report, be approved.

223. **Grounds Reinstatement Works (Item 10)**

The Committee considered a report relating to proposals to undertake grounds reinstatement works in relation to small areas of Council owned land that could no longer be routinely maintained due to either vehicle damage, obstruction or poor standards of reinstatement by statutory under-takers and/or other contractors.

RESOLVED that the Director of Public and Environmental Services be authorised to carry out reinstatement works as detailed in the Officer's report, up to the value of £25,000 such works to be carried out by the Grounds Maintenance DSO.

224. **Making Biodiversity Happen – A Supplementary Paper to Opportunities for Change (Item 11)**

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions had published a consultation paper "Making Biodiversity Happen". The Committee considered the response, which, following consultation with the Chairman, had been sent to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions in view of the deadline for responses that was prior to the committee meeting.

RESOLVED that the Committee notes the Officer's report and endorses the response in respect of the consultation paper "Making Biodiversity Happen" that was sent to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

225. **Home Composters (Item 12)**

Consideration was given to a report containing proposals for promoting the further use of home composters and raising the profile of the current initiative by making these available at no cost to householders who agree to exchange their existing wheeled bin for a smaller 140 litre bin. It was intended that promotional campaign would be undertaken to support the proposed initiative. It was also intended that there would still be an opportunity for householders to purchase a composter from the Council at a reduced rate.

RESOLVED that the proposals for promoting the further use of home composters as outlined in the Officer's report be endorsed and the associated initiatives of encouraging the use of smaller wheeled bins be welcomed.

226. **Vehicle Enforcement Matters (Item 13)**

The Committee considered a report outlining proposals to undertake a more co-ordinated area-based approach to vehicle enforcement matters borough-wide, following a successful pilot scheme undertaken recently. This had involved working in partnership with other external agencies.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the targeting of resources on an area-basis in partnership with other agencies to deal with vehicle enforcement issues in a more effective way be approved; and

- (ii) the charge for the return of a vehicle removed under the Berkshire Act be the same as that prescribed in the Refuse Disposal Amenity Act 1978.

227. Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 (Item 14)

The Committee considered a report giving details of the provisions of the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, controlling the sale of tobacco to persons under 16 years of age. The Act requires the Council to consider at least once a year, the extent of any programme of enforcement action.

RESOLVED that the Committee approves the following programme of enforcement of the provisions of The Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 for the next twelve months;

- (i) by routine enforcement based on a risk based inspection programme of premises, whilst at the same time promoting responsible sales; and
- (ii) in specific cases where complaints have been received and officers believe illegal sales are taking place, authorise the use of underaged persons to conduct test purchases (in strict adherence with Home Office Guidelines) following consultation with the Chairman

228. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Attendance at Emergency Non-Fire Incidents (Item 15)

The Committee received a report appraising Members of the financial implications to the Royal Berkshire Combined Fire Authority of the Fire and Rescue Services attendance at emergency non-fire incidents.

RESOLVED that the Director of Public and Environmental Services writes to the Minister for Local Government and Housing and the Local Government Association raising concerns about the funding for special emergency services and that the total SSA should reflect the cost to the Fire Authority for discharging their responsibilities.

229. Items submitted for Information

The following items were submitted for information only:

- (i) Royal Berkshire Fire Authority – Progress Report (Item 16)
- (ii) Report of the Environmental Impact Group (Item 17)
- (iii) Peat Usage – Update on Trials (Item 18)

230. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of Item 19 which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act.

- (7) Information relating to the financial/business affairs of a third party.

231. **London Road Landfill Site (Item 19)**

In a report containing exempt information, the Committee considered the progress made in the restoration of the London Road Landfill Site and proposals for the engagement of contractors.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) progress in respect of the restoration of the site, and in relation to agreeing the conditions associated with the Waste Management Licence be noted; and
- (ii) that pursuant to Contract Standing Order 67 that because of their previous engagements in connection with the London Road Landfill Site and their knowledge of the site it is not reasonably practical to seek competitive prices for the work currently being undertaken by Knowl Hill Sandpit Limited and Biogas Technology Limited; and
- (iii) the Contracts with Knowl Hill Sandpit Limited and Biogas Technology Limited be extended as set out in the report; and
- (iv) because of the specialist nature of the work, the Committee determine that Standing order 69 be waived in respect of the publication of a public notice inviting interest in tendering for the replacement of the pipework system on the site and that tenders be invited from the list attached as Annexe B; and
- (v) fee proposals be invited from the list of consultants attached as Annexe A for the provision of advice in respect to the site as described in the report, and that the Director of Public and Environmental Services be authorised following consultation with the Chairman to accept the most advantageous proposal; and
- (vi) Babbie Geotechnical continue to be retained to provide consultancy services in respect of the site pending the appointment of any replacement consultant.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 10.20pm

CHAIRMAN