



**ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
12 JUNE 2015**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C L STRANGE (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors Mrs V C Ayling (Vice-Chairman), A M Austin, C J T H Brewis, A Bridges, M Brookes, J R Marriott, C R Oxby, C Pain and R A Renshaw

Executive Councillors C J Davie and R A Shore attended the meeting and spoke.

Councillors: R G Fairman, R L Foulkes, C J Davie, R A Shore and S M Tweedale attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer), David Hickman (Environmental Services Team Leader (Strategy and Partnership), Sean Kent (Group Manager Environment Services), Douglas Robinson (Environmental Services Team Leader (Sustainability)), Louise Tyers (Scrutiny Officer) and Steve Willis (Chief Operating Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N M Murray.

2 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made at this stage of the meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 MARCH 2015

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee held on 13 March 2015, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING, TOURISM AND SENIOR OFFICERS (ECONOMY AND PLACE)

Executive Councillor C J Davie stated that the Infrastructure Planning Commission was going to examine RWE Energy Company's infrastructure plans for their proposed Tritton Knoll Wind Farm in the North Sea. An application was also coming from Viking Link Interconnector at Bicker Fen and he had asked the Secretary of

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State to hold all of these inquiries together as both applications could affect the Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park which was a major concern.

The Committee supported the Executive Councillor's comments adding that any proposed Sub Station for Tritton Knoll should be constructed in the vicinity of the Humber Estuary not Bicker Fen in the south east of the county.

Executive Councillor C J Davie stated that he had sought the support of the Secretary of State for his views on the need to prevent the construction of Solar Farms on agricultural land which should be used exclusively for food production.

Executive Councillor C J Davie stated that the Chairman of Addlethorpe Parish Council had complained to him about recent odour from the Sewerage Treatment works at Ingoldmells. Louise Tyers agreed to notify the Parish Council about when Anglian Water would be providing an update to the Committee giving them the opportunity to submit any comments.

In response to an enquiry by the Chairman in connection with the need to set up a Working Group of Members to examine waste collection practices in the county after this matter had been discussed by the Committee on 13 March 2015 (minute 57 refers). Executive Councillor R A Shore welcomed this proposal and it was agreed to examine this matter further when the Work Programme.

The Committee agreed to examine the use of revenue raised by the Salvation Army from the recycling of clothes and shoes and proposals on how to make savings in next year's budget at a future meeting.

Following an enquiry from the Chairman in connection with the appointment of a member from either Lincoln or North Hykeham to examine how Affordable Warmth was taken forward it was agreed to examine this matter further at the meeting of the Committee on 4 September 2015.

5 QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE - 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2015

The Committee received a report in connection with Quarter 4 Performance for Environmental Services for the period 1 January to 31 March 2015. Officers drew attention to the following:-

1. The level of re-cyclate being collected by the Districts had dropped for the reasons outlined in the report.
2. 92% of black bin waste was being diverted to the Energy from Waste plant at North Hykeham.

Comments made by the Committee included:-

1. The need to examine the cost of sending green waste to the Energy from Waste plant at North Hykeham.
2. What was Defra's view about the disposal of green waste and was it possible to change this view?

3. Improvements in recycling would improve the amount of waste sent to the Energy from Waste plant.
4. There was a need to avoid being too restrictive with District Councils on their waste collection processes as they had had to make substantial savings in their budgets.
5. Recycling was often seen as too complex for the public.
6. Once waste was received at the Energy from Waste plant was there a need to re-sort the waste received before it was burned?
7. Had households been asked to do more with regard to the recycling of dry recyclables?

Officers' responses included:-

1. The introduction of a code of practice for the recycling of green waste in March/April or September/October of each year and the introduction of an education programme for the public in co-operation with the District Councils, would be examined.
2. The County Council had briefed District Councils about the operational processes of the Energy from Waste plant.
3. Incineration was monitored on a daily basis but as District Councils had different collection processes this was an issue that required examination. The County Council worked closely with the District Councils to ensure that the public received the best service.

Executive Councillor R A Shore welcomed the Committee's support to set up a working group of Members to examine recycling processes in the county.

RESOLVED

That the report and comments made by the Committee be noted.

6 APPOINTMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN/CARE LEAVER REPRESENTATIVE

The Committee received a report which invited the Environmental Scrutiny Committee to appoint a Looked After Children/Care Leaver representative for the Committee, following approval of the Corporate Parenting Strategy at the meeting of the Council on 19 December 2014.

RESOLVED

That Councillor C L Strange be appointed as the Committee's Looked After Children/Care Leaver representative and that it be noted that Councillor C L Strange will also represent the Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee.

7 POTENTIAL DISTRICT HEATING SCHEME

The Committee received a progress report on a grant awarded by the Heat Network Development Unit to support the establishment of a district heating scheme.

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Officers, with the aid of a tabled map showing the geographical area which could take heat from the Energy from Waste plant, explained how the grant was aimed at kick starting district heating projects through a number of development stages and the appointment of consultants. While it was not possible to force developers to take excess heat from the plant it was possible for the Council to influence the planning system to ensure that consideration was given by developers to using heat from the plant.

Officers' responses to comments made by the Committee included:-

1. The use the excess heat for a swimming pool by the University of Lincoln would be examined and both the University and the County Hospital were included in the consultation process.
2. Heated water from the Energy from Waste plant was able to travel a radius of 4 km without losing its warmth.
3. The inclusion of the project in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan would be examined.

RESOLVED

That the comments made by the Committee be actioned accordingly and the report be noted.

8 SCORE SCHOOLS PRESENTATION

The Committee received a report and presentations from three schools (Louth Monks Dyke Tennyson College, Osgodby Primary School and North Hykeham Fosse Way Primary School) in connection with the Schools Collaboration on Resource Efficiency (SCoRE) programme and in the case of Osgodby Primary School to give a talk on their role as Lincolnshire Carbon Ambassadors at the school.

The Committee welcomed the various initiatives which had been developed by the schools to save energy and stated that the schools needed to share their good practices with other schools. The Schools responded to questions from the Committee.

The Chairman thanked the schools for their presentations and Douglas Robinson and his staff for their work on the SCoRE programme.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Committee place on record its appreciation to the schools for their excellent presentations.
- (b) That officers arrange for the video presentation by Fosse Way Primary School to be circulated to the Committee.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report on its Work Programme.

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme be noted and updated accordingly subject to consideration of the setting up of a Members' Group to consider waste recycling at the next meeting of the Committee.

10 CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

On a motion by Councillor C J T H Brewis, seconded by Councillor A M Austin, it was
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RESOLVED

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 of the Act.

11 BOURNE HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE

(NOTE: Councillor R A Renshaw requested that a note should be made in the minutes that members of his family lived in Bourne).

The Committee received a report in connection with the decision and the reasons for it, made by the Executive Councillors for Waste and Recycling and Finance and Property on 23 April 2015, for the construction and operation of a Council owned Household Waste Recycling Centre in Bourne.

The Committee commented on the financial cost of the project and the current arrangements for the disposal of the waste.

RESOLVED

That the decision made by the Executive Councillors for Waste and Recycling and Finance and Property on 23 April 2015 for the construction and operation of a Council owned Household Waste Recycling Centre in Bourne, be supported.

12 AWARD OF COUNTYWIDE MIXED DRY RECYCLABLES CONTRACT

The Committee received a report in connection with the need to scrutinise the award of a countywide mixed recyclables contract, which was due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Waste and Recycling on 24 June 2015.

The Chairman apologised for the lateness of the report.

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Following comments by the Committee about the late receipt of the report and the inability of the Committee to give full consideration to its implications it was –

RESOLVED

That due to the late receipt of the report which did not allow the Committee sufficient time to consider its implications the report be deferred to a meeting of the Committee arranged for 10am on 17 July 2015.

(Post Meeting Note - Following advice from Legal Services the date arranged for meeting to consider this report did not meet the urgency provision required by legislation. Following consultation with the Chairman an alternative date and time of the meeting was arranged for 10am on 23 June 2015)

The meeting closed at 1.10 pm