

**MINUTES of the meeting of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Scrutiny
Committee held on Tuesday 22 November 2011 at 6pm**

Present: Cllr J Halden (Chair), Cllr S Liddiard, Cllr M Stone, Cllr J Redsell, Cllr P Tolson.

Apologies: Councillor W Curtis

In attendance: Cllr L Worrall - (for Public Protection items)
Cllr V Morris – Cook (for Environment items)
B Newman Director of Sustainable Communities (BN)
L Magill – Head of Public Protection (LM)
A Murphy – Head of Environment (AM)
T Cutbush – Finance Officer (TC)

2 Additional Item – Briefing Note on PCSO Review

Cllr Halden circulated his review note on Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) and a discussion took place on the note.

- The paper outlines three options
- Page 4 contains a list of outcomes
- Didn't want to take a saving - want as much enforcement if possible
- The review accepts police are the experts and trusts them to administer service
- Match funding from the Council is acceptable as it contributes to Essex wide approach and gives Thurrock an element of control
- Areas of concern were also outlined for Cllr Worrall to consider as Portfolio Holder

Cllr Worrall informed the Committee that she needed time to go away and look at document. She has concerns – the Police will lose 100 PCSO's across Essex and she wants to make sure Thurrock Council gets additional PCSO's to match the funding Thurrock Council puts in and not what Thurrock Council would have got anyway (without providing match funding). Cllrs Liddiard and Halden agreed.

Cllr Liddiard said the police have assured that Thurrock Council will get additional PCSO's as a result of funding but that needs to be confirmed by Portfolio Holder. Cllr Worrall agreed to do that.

Discussion about work bases for PCSO's - confirmed as Ockendon and Tilbury

Decision: Report recommended to portfolio holder

3 Declaration of interests

Cllr Halden stated that a colleague may bid for the recycling bring site contract and he had taken advice from David Lawson (Legal Services) who had confirmed it is a not personal or prejudicial interest. However, he felt that he should declare this.

Cllr Stone declared a personal interest over the Olympics item as he is employed by a company that is working for the Olympics 2012.

4 Savings Proposals Workshops

Growth Bid no CGSG2 (page 43) – Proposal for 3 additional Environmental Health Officers

LM outlined proposed growth for 2 EHO's in 12/13 and another in 13/14. Needed to fulfil statutory duties in relation to food safety and health and safety. Reason for growth – lots of new businesses and changes in business ownership, which has led to a need for increased advice and enforcement. There has also been an increase in associated infectious diseases and accidents that require investigation. The committee had a discussion around duties that persons in the EHO post would carry out.

Cllr Halden asked how long an inspection takes and how numbers have been arrived at. LM explained about risk rating system for commercial premises and how often each type needs inspection. Also, the increasing number of businesses that are registered/need to register.

LM offered statistics i.e. **2005 - ? registered food premises (Check with LM)**, 2011-1340 premises registered. LM offered to circulate more supporting information to members.

Decision: Committee agreed to receive further supporting information from LM before plenary session next week.

Savings Proposal CGSS4 (Page 57) – Reduction in Stray Dogs Budget

This was a service inherited from the police due to a change in legislation. The budget has been under spent for last 2 years therefore LM is confident can make the budget saving. The under spend has been used in past for 4-6 free chipping sessions per year to encourage dog owners to security chip their dogs. The Chair requested a further breakdown of spend related to stray dogs only.

Decision: Committee agreed to receive further information before plenary session next week.

Growth Proposal CGSG1 (Page 41) - Climate change Levy

No officer available to present this item

Decision: Deferred to plenary session next week. Committee requested more information as to how the £325k saving has been arrived at.

Growth Proposal CGSG3 (Page 45) – Waste Demographic - Non Household Waste

AM explained the expected change in legislation that would make councils responsible for some hospital waste and that this was to make a sensible provision in next years budget.

Decision: Approved

Growth Proposal CGSG4 (Page 47) – Street Cleansing Demographic

AM explained how the amount of growth had been calculated and that it was based on the cost of street cleansing per household and anticipated growth in housing. Cllr Morris-Cook (Portfolio Holder) explained that streets are clean and she doesn't wants to let standards slip.

The Chair raised issue of £50k efficiency saving that was proposed last year.

AM explained that the £50k proposed saving last year was a non-specific saving that did not make it through the budget process.

Cllr Tolson raised the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices and raising more income to cover street cleaning costs.

Decision: Chair not prepared to approve (supported by Cllrs Tolson and Redsell) and requested further information about last years proposed saving. Cllrs Liddiard and Stone voted against more information.

AM to come back with more information about last years £50k budget saving proposal before plenary session next week.

Savings Proposal CGSS6 (Page 49) – Savings made through supplies and services austerity measures

This proposal has been withdrawn.

Growth Proposal CGSS1(Page 51) – New Income from Arboriculture service

AM explained the introduction of a new arboriculture Team from April 2012 and the opportunity to generate income from the service.

Decision: Approved

Savings Proposal CGSS2 (Page 53) – Reduction in Bring Site facilities

Cllr Morris- Cook explained the rationale behind the proposed saving.

Decision: Approved

Savings Proposal CGSS3 (Page 55) – Introduce trade waste charges for public buildings and events

Cllr Morris-Cook explained that currently some public buildings and events received free collections that were not statutory. The committee had a discussion about the types of premises affected. They felt they needed to agree a broad "policy" position before agreeing this saving although supported the principle.

Decision: Approved in principle subject to outline "policy" for the next meeting.

Savings Proposal CGSS5 Page 59) – Co-location with Europa Services
AM explained that Europa highways maintenance staff are currently located in Station House but that communication and working practices could be improved by co-location with Environment highways maintenance officers leading to improved efficiency. In addition, there is sufficient office space at Curzon Drive to accommodate those Europa staff. This saving includes no provision for the possible savings on the lease costs of Station House. A “change control” has already been submitted but the office move has not yet been agreed by Vertex.

Decision: Approved in principle subject to further information on Station House lease and the change control process.

Savings Proposal CGSS7 (table on Page 39) – 2012 Olympics
Committee requested further information from Finance as to why this appeared as a £100k saving in 2012. TC to provide before plenary session next week.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

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or alternatively e-mail insert e-mail address**