

**MINUTES of the meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 December 2011 at 7.00pm.**

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**Present:** Councillors James Halden (Chair), Pauline Tolson, Steve Liddiard, Joy Redsell and Mike Stone

**Apologies:** Councillor Wendy Curtis

**In attendance:** Councillor Lynn Worrall – Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture and Leisure  
L. Magill – Head of Public Protection  
P. McCusker – Communications Manager  
M. Boulter – Principal Democratic Services Officer

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**15. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny meeting held on 10th October 2011 were approved as a correct record.

**16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

a) Interests

Councillor Stone declared a personal interest in relation to Item 6 by virtue that he works for a company involved in the Olympics.

Councillor Liddiard declared a personal interest in relation to Item 6 by virtue that he works with the Davy Down Trust who are considering organising a campsite during the Olympics.

b) Whipping

No interests were declared.

**17. URGENT ITEMS**

The Chair highlighted the CCTV Car briefing note that Members had received and asked for any comments. The Committee agreed the note should be sent to the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Committee. The Committee also agreed that although it was desirable to have the car in place for the next election, it was highly unlikely it would be ready in time and it was important for the Council to get it right. Councillor Liddiard stated that there were still a number of integration issues and capital/revenue costs that needed to be

resolved. The chair welcomed the car in addition to the PCSO support that was planned.

The chair also requested that the committee agree to undertake a working group to explore the possibilities and functions of a green car agenda.

**RESOLVED that the committee agree to undertake a working group relating to green cars.**

#### **18. EXTRACT FROM ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2010/11**

Officers introduced the report, explaining certain indicators and highlighting that recycling was performing very well. Members discussed the use of food packaging and it was debated that although packaging was still a lot, there were more possibilities for recycling as well.

The Committee was keen to know how the Council compared to other local councils, especially in relation to street cleanliness. There was also a request to receive further information on the coastal erosion indicator.

The Committee agreed that the services were well managed and congratulations should be sent to the relevant teams.

**RESOLVED: That:**

- i) The Committee notes the level of performance achieved in respect of both priority and non-priority performance indicators for 2010/11.**
- ii) The Committee Acknowledges and commends service staff where the performance outturn has met or exceeded target.**
- iii) The Committee notes the actions being taken in respect of areas of under performance.**

#### **19. OUT OF HOURS SERVICE**

257 requests had been dealt with relating mostly to domestic noise. Requests increased in hot weather. The committee was also informed that the Council had prosecuted one persistent offender and that a winter pilot scheme had been started, which had proved to be very busy.

In relation to council tenants, officers explained that the tenants agreement would cover any rules around excessive noise but also, the Environmental Health Team was working closely with the Housing Department to deal with any issues that arose.

**RESOLVED that the report is noted.**

## **20. THURROCK'S PREPARATION FOR THE OLYMPICS**

The Committee received a presentation on the Council's preparation for the Olympics. The following key points were highlighted:

- Lakeside was being used as a park and ride facility for the games. There would be increased security to protect cars left during the day and the transport infrastructure was being altered to allow for the shuttle buses. The police and Council were currently working out the best route for these buses to take to Stratford.
- The A13 was expected to be litter free in preparation for the Hadleigh Cycling event in August.
- The torch relay would be coming to Grays in July.
- There was no confirmation on whether a cruise ship would be utilised as a hotel during the Olympics. It was unlikely considering the short space of time now left.
- No campsites were expected although the Committee learnt that the Davy Down Trust were considering it.
- An officer working group was established to cover the key themes of the events, namely transport, emergency planning, sports, schools and public protection among others.
- Essex Police were not expected to help in London as the Hadleigh event and Stansted airport were two key roles for them.
- The Council's Communications team were working on 'Celebrate Thurrock' and 'Invest Thurrock', both of which were designed to raise the national profile of Thurrock and increase community activity. Part of these projects was to produce a yearly calendar of events.
- Main events the Council were focussing on were T-Fest, the Diamond Jubilee, the Torch relay, the Big Lunch and the Olympics.

The Committee expressed concern that the Dartford Crossing would not be able to cope with the increased traffic or that it did not have appropriate procedures in place to ease congestion in the event of an accident during the Olympics.

**RESOLVED: That**

- i) The presentation and report be noted.**
- ii) The Leader, Chief Executive or relevant portfolio holder be requested to write to Connect Plus to highlight the Committee's concerns relating to the Dartford Crossing**

during the Olympics and to ask for plans to be put into place.

- iii) **An email be sent to all Members requesting any ward specific issues relating to the cleaner, greener or safer aspects of the Olympics to be raised for consideration by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.**

## **21. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee sought reassurances from officers that vulnerable residents were being helped with the digital switch over. It was stated that trading standards were helping elderly residents in no cold calling zones and that the Housing Department had a dedicated officer to help tenants.

### **RESOLVED that:**

- i) **The Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco report scheduled for February be sent to Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- ii) **A report on the Council's Dogs Policy be scheduled for February's meeting.**
- iii) **An update on the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Value for Money Task and Finish Group be scheduled for March's meeting.**
- iv) **An update on the Green Car Working Group be scheduled for February's meeting.**

**The meeting finished at 8.34pm.**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
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or alternatively e-mail [mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk)**