

MINUTES of the meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 November 2012 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Steve Liddiard (Chair), Simon Wootton, Wendy Curtis, Mike Stone, Clare Baldwin and Pauline Tolson.

In attendance: Councillor Angie Gaywood – Portfolio Holder for Public Protection
Councillor Victoria Holloway – Portfolio Holder for Environment
L. Magill – Head of Public Protection
G. Gladwin- Business Services Manager
T. Cutbush – Finance Officer
M. Boulter – Democratic Services Officer

14. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 2 October 2012, were approved as a correct record.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Liddiard declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 5 by virtue that he was a member of Groundworks South West Essex and the Davy Down Organisation as they received services from the Environment Department.

16. BUDGET 2013/14 – GROWTH AND SAVINGS PROPOSALS

The Committee was taken through the savings and growth proposals.

In relation to the reconfiguration of the waste round, councillor Tolson raised a number of instances of fly tipping and littering in areas around the Stanford Le Hope West ward. The Committee agreed that there were areas of private or unknown ownership in the borough that were heavily littered and also used regularly as a thoroughfare for people. Officers stated that private land was not within the remit of the Council's current policy but could bring back costs relating to the cleaning of particular areas to the January meeting. However, it was added that the Council was still facing a £3.5 million budget gap and that additional costs in this area would require savings in others.

Continuing with waste round reconfiguration, officers stated that they were confident of reaching the saving by working more efficiently.

With regards to extending the service to support further HRA work and business waste collections, officers confirmed that this extension could be met within existing resources and would not require additional staff, vehicles or an overextension of the service.

Business waste collection expansion was directed at schools, which could be undertaken after normal work hours, which fitted with the current service rounds.

There was a brief discussion on the differences between revenue budgets and capital budgets. Officers clarified that all savings and growth were part of a revenue budget.

Officers stated that the reduction in health and safety spending was due to the Council recognising that it provisioned for a certain amount of money each year that was not spent. Officers felt the budget in this area could be comfortably reduced by £80,000 without affecting the purpose of the fund.

RESOLVED: that

- i) The Committee notes the proposals for budget growth and savings in 2013/14 and future years set out in the appendices of the report.**
- ii) Officers return to January's meeting with costings around cleaning key areas of private land exposed to fly tipping and littering.**

16. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the nature of the budget setting process and felt that they needed to see the entire budget to make a full scrutiny of it. It was felt that simply looking at service specific growth and savings proposals was not adequate.

The Committee also discussed the Civic Amenities Site Review update and the Street Action Plan, questioning when they would be available for committee to review.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) December's meeting be cancelled.**
- ii) Reports on Integrated Offender Management and CCTV be added to January's meeting.**

The meeting finished at 7.53pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Matthew Boulter, telephone (01375) 652082,
or alternatively e-mail mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk**