

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on
Tuesday, 26 November 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

Portfolio Holder: Mick Martin

Councillors in attendance:

Opposition spokesmen: Janet Lockwood and Hazel Smith

Officers:

Patrick Adams

Iain Green

Mike Hill

Paul Quigley

Senior Democratic Services Officer

Environmental Health Officer (Public Health
Specialist)

Health and Environmental Services Director

Head of Environment Commissioning

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

19. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

20. COLLABORATIVE WORKING IN WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Head of Environment Commissioning presented this report, which invited the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder to consider a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Council and Cambridge City Council for the development of collaborative working in the provision of waste and recycling services, initially at cross border developments. He highlighted the guiding principles of the draft MoU as laid out in the appendix. The initial aim was to have only one council collecting in each specific new development area on the border, at the lowest additional cost to the public sector. It was noted that the Council were still waiting for a response from the City Council's legal section, hence the need to ask for delegated authority to the Director of Health and Environmental Services. It was noted that the MoU would not be legally binding.

In response to questioning the Head of Environment Commissioning explained that he did not expect access issues to properties through narrower streets of the city to be a problem. No immediate change in staffing was expected through these proposals, although this could not be ruled out in the future.

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder

AGREED

- A)** The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as presented, subject to any final comments being received from Cambridge City Council.
- B)** To delegate authority to the Director of Health and Environmental Services to incorporate any agreed final comments received from Cambridge City Council into the MoU in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

21. HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DRAFT DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES 2014-15

The Director of Health and Environmental Services presented this report, which sought the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder's agreement to the suggested high-level priorities for the financial year 2014/15. It was noted that these priorities would form part of the Corporate Plan.

It was understood that more partnership working with Cambridge City and Cambridge County Councils would be considered in the future as a way of reducing costs.

In response to questioning the Director of Health and Environmental Services stated that there was Government funding for working with families with complex needs and recent case studies suggested that this initiative was successful.

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder urged councillors to suggest what they wanted included in the Service Plan, which would be agreed by the end of March 2014 and he

AGREED The emerging priorities for his Portfolio to be developed and delivered in the Health and Environmental Services Directorate Plan for 2014/15.

22. BUSINESS SATISFACTION WITH REGULATORY SERVICES

The Director of Health and Environmental Services presented this report which informed the Portfolio Holder of the results of the first quarter Business Satisfaction with Regulatory Services Survey for 2013/14 and made comparison with the survey results October 2012 to March 2013. The figures for the second quarter, ending 30 September, were circulated at the meeting. It was noted that figures were collected quarterly to ensure that visits could still be remembered by the customer. It was understood that those who were experiencing an ongoing issue should only receive one questionnaire.

Concern was expressed about the decreasing percentage of service users who felt that they had received a full explanation of what the Council had done at the result of a visit. It was suggested that either providing prompter feedback or giving a clearer definition of what constituted a "full explanation" could address this issue. It was also suggested that with further reductions in Council funding it was necessary to try and manage public expectations.

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder expressed concern at the reduction in the return rate of questionnaires and he announced that alternative research methods would be considered if this trend continued. It was suggested that in the current economic climate, returning a questionnaire from the Council was not a priority for many businesses.

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder **NOTED** the report.

23. PILOT SHARED PUBLIC HEALTH POST WITH CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Environmental Health Officer – Public Health Specialist presented this report which updated the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder on the establishment of a shared public health post between the Council and Cambridgeshire County Council's Public Health Team. He explained that he had been fulfilling this role for two weeks and it was working well. Cross party working had allowed him to gain knowledge on transport that

could be shared with fellow officers and it was hoped that he could advise colleagues from the county council on housing issues. It was understood that not only did both organisations benefit from this arrangement, but all districts benefited from the presence of the Environmental Health Officer at meetings of the County Council.

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder **NOTED** the report.

24. FORWARD PLAN

Matters which would be considered at the next meeting included:

- Fees and Charges
- Independent Living Grants
- Update on the biggest projects in the Directorate

It was suggested that private landlords who were concerned about complying with the law should refer to the national Registered Landlords Association in the first instance.

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 14 January 2014 at 2pm.

The Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.
