

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on
Tuesday, 12 October 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

Portfolio Holder: Sue Ellington

Councillors in attendance:

Scrutiny and Overview Committee monitors: Mike Mason

Scrutiny and Overview Committee monitors
and Opposition spokesmen: Jose Hales

Opposition spokesmen: Hazel Smith

Also in attendance: Lynda Harford and Deborah Roberts

Officers:

Patrick Adams	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Steve Hampson	Executive Director (Operational Services)
Stuart Harwood-Clark	Environment Operations Manager
Kylie Laws	Waste Recycling & Minimisation Officer
Fiona McMillan	Acting Legal & Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
Ian Senior	Democratic Services Officer
Susan Walford	Health Protection Team Leader

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

26. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2010 were accepted as a correct record, subject to the addition of the words "in number" to the end of the fourth bullet point in Minute 10 (Performance Indicators) so that that point reads as follows: "It was explained that PIs prefixed with SE were set by officers, those with NI were set nationally and likely to be reduced in number"

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2010 were accepted as a correct record

27. ACHIEVING MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CHARTER STATUS - UPDATE

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder considered a report detailing the different budgets used to fund Member training, and providing an update on the Council's quest to achieve Member Development Charter Status.

Officers requested that Recommendation (a) in the report be withdrawn until feedback had been received from Members. Those present discussed training needs in general, focussing on Information Technology and the need to use resources effectively. The Senior Democratic Services Officer referred to the programme of forthcoming Member Training events relating to Scrutiny (18 November 2010), Licensing (23 November 2010), Corporate Governance (25 November 2010) and Finance (2 December 2010).

The Senior Democratic Services Officer referred those present to paragraph 8 of the

report, and said that it had been decided subsequently that political leaders would now be asked to sign-up to the Charter at the Cabinet meeting on 11 November 2010.

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder concluded that Member training budgets should be clearly identifiable but remain separate to cater for essential and specialist training.

28. HAUXTON: FORMER BAYER CROP SCIENCES SITE - UPDATE

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder received and noted a report summarising site remediation activities on land previously occupied by Bayer CropSciences in Hauxton.

The Health Protection Team Leader outlined South Cambridgeshire District Council's involvement in the remediation process and referred specifically to expert advice received from the Health Protection Agency. The Executive Director (Operational Services) emphasised the importance of transparency, and assured those present that information would be published online once it had been received by the Council and assessed by officers.

Further to the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder's reference to an investigation into foliage adjacent to the site, the Health Protection Team Leader confirmed that the Ecology Officer had received an e-mail from the Forestry Commission providing advice about the initial findings. The Council would seek more detail before publishing such findings on its website.

Those present engaged in a discussion surrounding the bentonite wall and water treatment plant on site, and the responsibilities of the Environment Agency.

Graham Ford and J Noble attended the meeting on behalf of HauxAir, a campaign group formed by local residents. Mr Ford spoke at the meeting and made it clear that, while HauxAir might initially have been opposed to the remediation process, it had now become more supportive. Mr Ford accepted that different people reacted in different ways to the emissions at the former factory site, and stressed the importance of a balanced approach to the problem so that resolution would benefit all those concerned. Ultimately, it was essential that the houses to be built on the land be constructed in such a way as to eliminate the danger of health issues for future occupiers being caused as a direct result of the site's former use. The Health Protection Team Leader referred to the conditions attached to the outline planning consent, which would make sure that the site was suitable for housing before construction started.

29. BLUE BIN SCHEME: PROGRESS REPORT

The Waste Recycling & Minimisation Officer and Environment Operations Manager reported verbally on the extremely positive media coverage of, and public response to, the Blue Bin recycling scheme, which the Council had recently introduced into South Cambridgeshire.

The Environment Operations Manager referred briefly to the temporary Materials Recovery Facility put in place, and the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) implications for the Council.

Those present discussed possible future developments.

Referring to the meeting on [10 August 2010](#) (Minute 21 – Blue Bin Scheme), the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder had suggested that the Council ask RECAP

(Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) to assist in identifying how best to engage with 'Hard-to-Reach' groups.

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder acknowledged with thanks the contribution made by the Environment Services Manager, Environment Operations Manager, Waste Recycling & Minimisation Officer and others in ensuring successful implementation of the Blue Bin Scheme.

30. FORWARD PLAN

The Portfolio Holder received and noted the contents of the Forward Plan as at 4 October 2010.

Those present noted that the PITT Review report, due at the meeting on 9 November 2010, had subsequently been rescheduled for the meeting on 24 January 2011. Reports on 'Bring Banks' and the review of waste and recycling collections from schools and village halls, scheduled for the meeting on 9 December 2010, had subsequently also been rescheduled for the meeting on 24 January 2011.

31. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder sent apologies for the next meeting at 2.00pm on Tuesday 9 November 2010, which would be 'chaired' instead by the Leader of the Council.

The Meeting ended at 3.40 p.m.
