

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Public Services, Energy and Environment Scrutiny
Board (4) held at 3.30 pm on Wednesday, 26 March 2014

Present:

Members: Councillor J Clifford (Chair)
 Councillor M Auluck
 Councillor S Bains
 Councillor C Fletcher
 Councillor M Hammon
 Councillor J McNicholas
 Councillor K Mulhall
 Councillor S Thomas

Employees (by Directorate):

N Cowper, Place Directorate
M Rossi, Resources Directorate
N Thomas, Place Directorate
A West, Resources Directorate

Apologies: Councillor A Andrews, T Khan and R Thay

Public Business

44. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

45. Minutes

The minutes of the Public Services, Energy and Environment Scrutiny Board (4) meeting held on 26th February 2014 were signed as a true record.

The Scrutiny Board noted that their recommendations relating to the 20mph Zones and Limits were accepted by the Cabinet Member (Public Services). The Cabinet Member approved that a detailed implementation plan would be drawn up and reported back next municipal year, via the appropriate Scrutiny Board.

46. Flood Risk Management and Drainage Update

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note of the Executive Director, Place concerning a Flood Risk Management and Drainage Update.

The Scrutiny Board noted the latest update from the Flood Risk Management Group and an update on the Surface Water Management Plan, which was ready for consultation.

The Scrutiny Board noted that the Environment Agency would be reducing staffing numbers as part of a national restructure and that some of their work would be transferred to local authorities across the Country. Members noted that the City Council had recently recruited to three posts to address flood risk management work. One of the biggest changes related to changing the consultation on new housing developments from the Environment Agency to the City Council.

Members of the Board raised some concern with causing a disruption when repair works to watercourses were done at different times in the same location, rather than simultaneously. Members noted that where the opportunity arose, Officers would co-ordinate works at the same time but this was sometimes not possible due to when funding was made available to the City Council or other agencies.

The Scrutiny Board also discussed riparian ownership (those with responsibility for water courses) and actively promoting their role in the routine maintenance of water courses.

The Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) was due to go out for consultation and once feedback was received, it would go for approval at Cabinet for implementation. The SWMP was a tactical document that would outline the long term strategy for reducing the risk of surface water flooding in Coventry. The City Council are required to produce this plan under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

The Scrutiny Board also referred to the Sandbag Policy and noted that sandbags would only be issued if they met the criteria stated in the Sandbag Policy.

RESOLVED, that the Scrutiny Board requested that the following issues be reflected in the final development and implementation of the Surface Water Management Plan:

- 1. Actively promoting the role of landowners (including Council departments) for the routine maintenance of water courses.**
- 2. The development of examples of actions and interventions for different situations, so that the community can understand what could be done in response.**

47. Review of 2013/14 Scrutiny Activity

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator, outlining the review of scrutiny activities during 2013/14.

RESOLVED, that the Scrutiny Board requested that priority be given the following items next municipal year: –

- Public toilets review**
- 20mph limits and zones**
- Traffic enforcement, particularly including the role of enforcement in improving traffic flows**

48. **Work Programme**

The Scrutiny Board considered the Board's Work Programme for 2013/14.

49. **Meeting Evaluation**

The Scrutiny Board evaluated the meeting and their comments would be used to ensure the continued efficiency and effectiveness of future meetings.

50. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.**

There were no additional items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 4.40 pm)