

6.00 pm

Time commenced
Time finished 7.35 pm

ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION 26 MARCH 2007

Present: Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)
Councillors Afzal, Care, Carr, Ingall, Poulter, Rawson, Travis
and West

Also present: Councillor Wynn, Cabinet Member for Planning and
Transportation

79/06 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hird and Tittley.

80/06 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

81/06 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

82/06 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

83/06 Call-In

There were no items for call-in.

Items for Discussion

84/06 Performance Eye

The Commission considered which performance eye indicators they wished to look at in more detail at the next meeting.

BV215(a) Average number of days taken to repair a street lighting fault

Martin Follows – Project Manager - reported that the target set by Environmental Services for the number of days taken to repair a street lighting fault was 10 days. It was noted that we were currently meeting this target as the average time to repair was 9.5, however the target under the PFI scheme is 5 days.

Councillor Ingall asked if drive rounds to check the street lights in the city were still completed by staff and with what frequency.

Martin Follows responded that the drive rounds were still carried out with regular frequency although there was currently no target of how often the checks were carried out.

Councillor Rawson asked what penalties would be imposed on the contractors if the PFI targets were not met.

Martin Follows responded that there were a number of penalties that could be imposed, all of which were financial.

Resolved to note the update.

BV216 (b) Percentage of sites where remediation of the land is necessary

The Commission received a presentation from Julian de Mowbray – Group Leader – Pollution Control - that provided details of the performance indicator relating to the percentage of sites where remediation of the land was necessary.

It was reported that the Council's role was to identify contaminated sites and bring about their remediation either by voluntary means or enforcement action. The Commission were advised that approximately 1500 potentially contaminated sites have been identified in the City and are recorded on Environmental Health's GIS database. Julian de Mowbray reported that 20-30 sites per quarter were turned up, mainly through the planning process. He considered that performance indicator was misleading as we were currently scoring 1-1.5% per quarter, however as more potentially contaminated sites are found, even if remediation was carried out the figure would be low.

Resolved to note the presentation.

85/06 Retrospective Scrutiny

No items were identified.

86/06 Derby City Council's Enforcement of Dog Fouling and Dog Control Legislation

The Commission received a verbal update from Ian Donnelly – Group Leader – Public Health - on the enforcement of dog fouling and dog control legislation. He reported that a review of the service had been carried out with a focus on stray dogs, dangerous dogs and dog fouling.

The Commission were advised that there were problems surrounding kennelling as the kennels that the Council use are based in Ilkeston, the contract had not been renewed and travelling was impacting on resources.

Ian Donnelly reported that in the last two weeks two kennels in the city had been identified. He advised the Commission that currently the Police have responsibility for stray dogs, however in October 2007 the responsibility would transfer to local authorities. He also reported that the number of complaints had reduced from the previous year as had the requests for dog fouling signs.

It was reported that five fixed penalty notices for dog fouling had been served so far this year. It was considered difficult to prosecute for dog fouling as wardens need to see the fouling occurring or if the incident was reported a witness statement would be needed. It was noted that the current amount for a fixed penalty notice was £50, although it could increase to £100 if we had Dog Control Orders in place.

Resolved

- 1. to note the update**
- 2. to receive a report on the proposed Animal Welfare Bill at the next meeting of the Commission.**

87/06 Street Lighting PFI

The Commission considered a verbal report from Martin Follows – Project Manager – that provided an update on the progress of Street Lighting PFI. It was reported that financial close would be achieved in Edinburgh on 4 April 2007.

Martin Follows reported that 23,000 of the city's illuminated columns and bollards would be replaced in the first five years of the PFI contract. The remaining lights would be replaced after 15 years or when they reached the end of their life. The residential lights would be energy efficient and designed to EU standards. After 25 years the contract would revert back to Derby City Council and the lights would have a guaranteed further five years of life after the PFI contract ends.

The Commission were advised that there would be an even spread of lights and areas of concern and blackspots would disappear, however areas that were not currently lit would not be due to financial restraints.

Councillor Rawson asked if there was a possibility of Wifi being included in the columns and also asked if the columns that were taken out would be recycled. Martin Follows responded that Wifi would not be going in straight away, but may in the future. He advised that any materials from the columns that could be recycled would be.

Councillor West asked how quickly the lights would be repaired if damaged. Martin Follows responded that the contractors have to make the column safe in two hours and that replacement would be within five days.

Resolved to note the update.

88/06 Work Plan – Report on the Commission’s Review of Public Art

The Commission considered a report from the Chair of the Environment Commission that detailed the final report and recommendations arising from the Commission’s review of Public Art.

Resolved to:

- 1. approve the final report and recommendations arising from the Commission’s review of Public Art.**
- 2. report the outcomes and recommendations arising from the review to the appropriate Council Cabinet Member.**

89/06 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission identified the following items on the Forward Plan for consideration at a future meeting:

50/06 Revised Derby Cityscape Masterplan
63/06 Cathedral Green and Derwent River Footbridge

90/06 Responses of the Council Cabinet/ Council Cabinet Members to any reports of the Commission

There were no items.

91/06 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet/Council Cabinet Members

There were no items.

MINUTES END