

**Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee**

**Meeting held 15 November 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Helen Mirfin-Boukouris (Chair), Neale Gibson, Bob Johnson, Steve Jones, Alf Meade, Robert Murphy, Joe Otten, Sioned-Mair Richards, Steve Wilson, Keith Hill (Substitute Member) and Clive Skelton (Substitute Member)

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received and substitutes attended the meeting as follows:-

<u>Apology</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
Councillor Ian Auckland	Councillor Keith Hill
Councillor Terry Fox	Councillor Clive Skelton
Councillor Roger Davison	No substitute nominated

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

2.1 No items were identified where a resolution may be moved to exclude the public and press.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 The minutes of the Special Meeting of the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012, were approved as a correct record.

4.2 The minutes of the meeting of the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012, were approved as a correct record. Arising from their consideration, it was noted that clarification would be obtained regarding the Declaration of Interests issue, relating to item 8 (Review of Household Waste Recycling Centres), raised by Councillor Joe Otten.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

5.1 There were no petitions submitted or public questions asked.

## **6. OLYMPICS DEBRIEF**

6.1 Gary Clifton, Major Sports Events and 2012 Programme Manager, gave a presentation on the benefits of the 2012 Olympic Games for Sheffield and the 2013 Major Events Programme. The presentation highlighted the benefits which would not have accrued to the City without the Games, the 2012 successes, high performance success and events such as the Torch Relay. Specific reference was also made to the legacy for the City and the crucial role played by the City's partners in achieving these successes. The Committee was also informed of the highlights of the 2013 Major Events Programme.

6.2 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions in relation to the presentation, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- The issue raised regarding the installation of table tennis tables will be referred to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure.
- The £30 million economic benefit to the City was measured in terms of the number of training camps and additional sporting events, the presence of GB high performance sports being based in the City and the selection of Sheffield as a National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine, over the past four years of the Lighting the Flame project.
- The various GB Sports Associations were presently going through a funding dialogue with UK Sport, with the outcome of these discussions deciding what each of them could do. The funding cycles lasted four years and were determined by medal success and those teams which had most funding would be targeted in relation to them using the City's facilities.
- With regard to specific issues raised regarding imposing a charge for the Park Run in Graves Park and the provision of indoor bowls facilities, these could be considered for discussion at a future Committee meeting.

6.3 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the presentation; and
- (b) thanks Gary Clifton, Major Sports Events and 2012 Programme Manager, and his team for their work in making the most of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games for the City.

## **7. CABINET MEMBER UPDATE**

7.1 Councillor Jack Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene, gave a presentation which provided an overview of the key issues and priorities within his Portfolio. He made particular reference to climate change and sustainability, the Streets Ahead contract, heat and energy and recycling and waste, together with a number of other areas of responsibility including emergency planning, drainage, food hygiene, pest control and rivers and reservoirs.

7.2 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions in relation to the presentation, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- In the light of reduced amounts of waste going to landfill, a conversation was required with the operators of the Parkwood Landfill site with regard to an end date for operations there.
- It was anticipated that approximately half of the City's 35,000 trees would be replaced over the life of the Streets Ahead contract and it was a challenge for the Council as to how the timber could be used.
- It was acknowledged that there had been a mismatch with the work of Sheffield Homes in relation to the provision of waste collections from blocks of flats and any black bins being stockpiled by households would be recovered and returned to the rightful property.
- In relation to the Streets Ahead contract, the Council would receive reports on the work undertaken on items such as gully cleaning and would also run independent checks in order to monitor performance.
- The Community Assembly Stewards would be able to assist in co-ordinating the implementation of small schemes within the works being undertaken on the Streets Ahead contract. In addition, the client team would check on progress in this respect and keep Members informed and co-ordination would also be facilitated through the Streets Ahead Opportunities Team.
- As a result of the introduction of the Alternate Weekly Collection of waste, the Energy Recovery Facility would be receiving less waste and this fall off would continue when Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham had their own facilities operating in 2014. Cabinet Members across the region were to meet in an attempt to co-ordinate this process and join up any opportunities which could be identified.
- It was acknowledged there was an issue with the fitness for purpose and user friendliness of the blue recycling boxes.

- Where roads were unadopted, their resurfacing was not included in the Streets Ahead contract, but the Council could make available its standing list of contractors for residents or road owners to make their own arrangements to repair their roads.
- Councillor Scott was aware of the ratings system being used by Sheffield Homes to indicate whether properties had recycling facilities and it had been found that more flats now had recycling facilities. There was an issue around building bin sites, but it was hoped that all properties designated as red under the system would be amber within six months. A green rating indicated that properties had access to appropriate recycling facilities.
- There were 96 Snow Wardens in total and this mirrored the levels of volunteering in different parts of the City. It was necessary to involve more people, but it was important to do this in a fair way.
- The Blackburn Meadows plant was presently under construction and there would be sufficient demand for the energy generated from organisations and works in the Lower Don Valley. If the decision to use the plant as a heat source in that area proved to be the wrong one, there would still be a pipeline through the valley connected to the Energy Recovery Facility to which businesses could connect in the future.

7.3 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks Councillor Jack Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene, for his presentation; and
- (b) notes the contents of the presentation.

## 8. **STREETS AHEAD UPDATE**

8.1 The Committee received a report of the Head of Highway Maintenance which gave a brief update about the Streets Ahead contract and how it had progressed in its first few months of operation. The report was supplemented by a presentation given by Steve Robinson, Head of Highway Maintenance, Sheffield City Council, and Graeme Symonds, Network Director, Amey. This provided information on what was included in the contract, with particular reference being made to street lighting, the levels of highway works being undertaken, the way in which Amey would work in carrying out the contract, the way in which the works were categorised, communication with stakeholders and also gave contact information for requesting service.

8.2 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions in relation to the report and presentation, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- Following the completion of Amey's works in any particular area, the utilities were only allowed to undertake emergency works for a period of between three and five years and inspectors would monitor such works to ensure that they had been properly designated.
- A profile of expenditure had been agreed with Amey to cover the 25 year period of the contract.
- Trees would not be removed simply due to the cost of maintenance and decisions would be made on merit for each tree. Over 100 dead, dying or dangerous trees had already been removed.
- Street lighting would be operated from a control centre and, at the moment, only the Police or emergency services could request lights being turned up. A policy as to who could make such requests was presently being worked on and this would ultimately be presented to Members for consideration.
- Shiregreen had been one of the first areas where works had been undertaken and this had gone well with only four cars having to be moved to allow the works to proceed. It was proposed to carry out some vox pops, on camera, with residents of areas where works had been undertaken, to get some idea of their experiences.
- Roads being treated at this stage in the process were likely to receive a further treatment later in the life of the contract.
- The operation of the contract would be overseen by a joint strategic board, a management board, a service operations board and an internal contract board.
- The Council's Procurement Section had a profile of new LED lighting installation and the decreasing use of the existing lighting system and electricity consumption. Monthly figures on lighting electricity consumption could be provided.
- Consideration may be given to turning the power of the street lighting down to save carbon and money, whilst maintaining safety standards. Police and Members would be consulted with regard to this.
- Works would be undertaken on the main highways up to the

Sheffield City boundary.

- The ability to incorporate change was built into the contract.
- The costings in the contract were fixed for its 25 year duration.
- Traffic lights were computer controlled and their timings could be adjusted to reflect any changes in speed limits at a particular location.
- The peak period of works would be from March 2013 to the end of 2017.

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks Steve Robinson and Graeme Symonds for their joint presentation;
- (b) notes the contents of the presentation and report; and
- (c) requests a further update on the Streets Ahead project in approximately six months' time.

## **9. WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN**

- 9.1 The Policy Officer (Scrutiny) submitted the Committee's Work Programme for 2012/13 and the Forward Plan for the period 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013, for consideration.

**RESOLVED:** That:-

- (a) the contents of the Committee's Work Programme 2012/13, be approved; and
- (b) the Forward Plan for the period 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013,
  - (i) be received and noted; and
  - (ii) in view of its non-inclusion, the Policy Officer (Scrutiny) be requested to investigate progress on the Air Quality Action Plan.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012, at 2.30 pm in the Town Hall.