

(Approved by Council 16 July 2013)

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 20 JUNE 2013 AT 12 NOON

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Bowman (Chairman), Councillors Bainbridge, Bowditch, Graham, Nedved, Watson and Whalen.

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor Glover – Deputy Leader and Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder
Councillor Mrs Martlew – Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder
Councillor J Mallinson – Observer
Councillor Bloxham – Observer
Councillor Ellis – Observer
Councillor Mrs Prest - Observer

OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive
Director of Local Environment
Overview and Scrutiny Manager

EEOSP.39/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor McDevitt.

EEOSP.40/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted.

EEOSP.41/13 BRING SITES REVIEW

Executive Decision EX.54/13 from the Executive on 31 May 2013 concerning Bring Sites Review had been called-in by Councillors Mrs Bowman, Bainbridge and Nedved.

The Executive had decided:

“That the Executive approved the following proposals:

1. Reduce the number of bring sites from 151 to 90, the detail of which to be delegated to the Director of Local Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport
2. Cease the adopt-a-site payments as of 1 July 2013
3. Provide an in-house service for the collection of bring site materials as from 1 April 2014 pending the wider procurement exercise in 2015
4. Consider further the provision of an in-house skip service from April 2014
5. Recommended that the City Council make an invest to save bid for the new vehicles required to provide an in-house service and place orders for machinery with immediate effect (should the service be outsourced in 2015, the vehicle would be included within the specification for the contract)”

The reason for the decision by the Executive was that the in-house bid would save £77,000 in 2014/13 compared to £16,206 (£8,103 savings in 2013/14 and 2014/15) in the Cumbria Waste Recycling proposal

The in-house service offered greater overall savings, provided an enhanced service, contributed to the Love Where You Live campaign and supported a more cohesive cleansing service in local environment. An in-house service would provide greater flexibility and direct control of the service, pending the wider procurement exercise in 2015

The current contract with Cumbria Waste Management did not offer value for money and should therefore not be extended.

The reasons given by the Members for the call-in was "To consider the representations arising from consultations with stakeholders about the changes to Bring Sites."

A Member had been disappointed that the Scrutiny Panel had not been able to consider the consultation responses before they scrutinised the decision on the Bring Sites Review.

The Director of Local Environment responded that the meeting was to consider the call in of the decision of the Executive on 31 May 2013 which had not included the consultation responses. The consultation responses were currently being collated and formulated into a report.

The Member commented that the consultation period had ended on 11 June 2013 and Overview and Scrutiny required the opportunity to see the responses and the list of sites but they had so far been denied that opportunity. She added that Scrutiny Members had the right to see the full consultation responses and the updated list of sites.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder reminded the Panel that the previous Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel had not objected to the processes. The Panel had not been denied the opportunity to see the consultation responses as they were not yet ready.

The Member reiterated the requirement for the Panel to see the consultation responses as the Panel had a lot of local knowledge which should be passed on before the decision was actioned.

The Director of Local Environment explained that the information which had been provided to the Panel included a detailed list of the sites. The evaluation of the consultation responses was not yet complete.

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder informed the Panel that the previous Executive had signed a contract for the current provision in 2009. The Director of Local Environment had not been happy with the contract and had requested an audit of the contract. The audit showed that the contract did not provide value for money for the Council. The City Council had more sites than any other authority and the usage was not being maximised. The decision would save £77,000 per year.

The Member disagreed with the Portfolio Holder and asked for a full site list, how much money each site received and evidence that the City Council had more sites than other authorities.

The Deputy Chief Executive outlined the purpose of the meeting and asked how the Panel wanted to proceed.

A Member highlighted the minutes of the Panel's meeting on 8 May 2013 which stated that 'the consultation period would end on 28 May 2013 and a summary of responses would be circulated to Panel Members prior to the Executive meeting'.

Members requested that the meeting be adjourned to allow for more information to be circulated to the Panel to aid deliberation.

The Deputy Leader and Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder commented that he thought there was great value in scrutiny's input in influencing the decision making process. The matter had been considered by the Panel on 8 May 2013 and Executive had relied on the scrutiny carried out at that meeting to make their decision. He accepted that a new Chairman would have a different view of matters but he felt that the call in brought into question the scrutiny that had been carried out.

A Member felt strongly that the scrutiny had been carried out properly and asked for clarity with regard to the subject of the call in.

The Panel adjourned for ten minutes whilst clarity was sought with regard to adjourning the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the matter be referred back to the Executive and allow the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel to consider the consultation responses in full.

It was moved and seconded that that the matter not be referred back to the Executive and that the decision take effect from the date of this meeting.

Following voting thereon it was:

RESOLVED – That the matter shall not be referred back to the Executive and the decision shall take effect from the date of this meeting.

(The meeting ended at 12.40pm)