A meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel was held at the Town Hall, Nuneaton, on Monday, 15th March, 2010.

Present

Councillor J.S. Clarke - Chair

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.C. Jones and A.A. Lloyd.

RESOLVED that

(a) the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th February, 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chair; and

(b) the disappointment of members of the Panel at the non-attendance of Cabinet Members at Scrutiny Panel meetings to report back from the Cabinet meeting be noted.

Declarations of Interest/Party Whip

Councillor W.B.H. Lobbett declared a personal interest in any item on the agenda by reason of him being a member of Warwickshire County Council.

Councillor R.G. Copland declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 by reason of him being employed by Coventry City Council.

Councillor W.J. Hancox declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 by reason of him being employed by the Probation Service

Rail Spending in Warwickshire

Daniel Caldecote, Senior Transport Planner, Warwickshire County Council attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the proposed future improvements to the local rail service - NUCKLE (Nuneaton, Coventry, Kenilworth and Leamington) Phase 1.
Works proposed would include a new bay at Coventry, a new station at the Ricoh Arena, platform extensions at Bedworth, a new platform at Bermuda and increasing the frequency of trains to link these areas. A funding bid of £20.2m is to be submitted to the Department of Transport and if successful, work would commence in 2012, to be completed in 2014.

Members asked various questions and the following points were made:

- concern that this may encourage more retail migration from Bedworth;
- the frequency of the trains would be a vital aspect as buses run every 10 minutes from Bedworth;
- more development is needed in Bedworth to attract people into the town by train;
- concern that Stockingford - an area of deprivation - was not included in the scheme;
- the need for a regular rail service to and from the Ricoh Arena after 7.00 p.m. when events could be taking place there;
- the need for better access to the proposed station at Bermuda, with provision of suitable car parking, and possible links to the hospital.

RESOLVED that

(a) Daniel Caldecote be thanked for his presentation; and

(b) copies of the presentation be sent to members of the Panel, together with the proposed plans for the Bermuda station and parking;

(c) it be noted that concern had been expressed at the lack of information provided to members prior to the meeting, preventing real and meaningful scrutiny of the issue; and

(d) rail travel be considered for inclusion in the work programme for next year.

Speaker: Mr. K. Kondakor

476 Cleansing Services Update

Sarah Elliott, Refuse and Cleansing Manager, gave a presentation updating members on the cleansing service, why change was needed, what has been done and what needs to be done.

Members asked questions and the following points were made:
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- who makes the decision on how the litter is collected;
- who issues fixed penalty notices;
- concern at this Council’s rating 32nd out of 34 in respect of NI 195 and the need to learn from other authorities;
- the need for improved publication of the hotline for the public to report on rubbish, graffiti, etc.
- the timescale for the removal of graffiti;
- concern that customer satisfaction for cleansing was only 64%;
- the need for resources and education to be targeted to areas where there is more litter;
- the need for liaison and partnership, both internally and with outside organisations;
- Members were concerned at a perceived increase in dog mess around the borough and requested information on the number of prosecutions;
- The issue of car litter resulting in the considerable amount of litter on the A444

RESOLVED that content of the presentation be noted and that the comments made by the Panel be referred to the appropriate Cabinet member for consideration.

477 Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2010-2013

The report of the Environmental Services Director advising Members on the outturn of the 2007/10 Sustainability Strategy and presenting the draft 2010/13 Strategy for comment was considered.

Members asked questions and the following points were made:

- concern that the target of homes in the private sector raised to the decent homes standard may not be met by the end of 2010;
- the need for the Council to set an example by investing in the provision of electric vehicles;
- concern that heat in some old peoples’ complexes may not be able to be controlled in corridors and other communal areas;
the need to set policies on sustainability and energy efficiency in respect of new developments and the need to be more radical in respect of design, construction and open space provision;

Members queried the information on the percentage of brown field sites and proximity of bus stops to developments; and

the lack of consistency with regard to contributions within Section 106 Agreements

**RESOLVED** that

(a) the report be noted; and

(b) the comments made by the Panel be referred to the appropriate Cabinet Member.

**Speaker:** Mr. K. Kondakor

478 **Work Programme**

The Principal Democratic Services Officer (Overview and Scrutiny) requested that she be informed of any items Members wished to be considered for next year’s work programme by the end of March, 2010.

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Chair