

Environment Sub-Committee

3 February 2016

Present: Councillor B Burdis (Chair)
Councillors L Bell, D Drummond, F Lott, T Mulvenna and
M Thirlaway.

Councillor P Brooks via Skype

Also in attendance: Councillor J J Stirling (Cabinet Member for the Environment)

E26/02/16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G Bell, J Cassidy, E Hodson, W Lott and P McIntyre.

E27/02/16 Substitute Members

The following substitutes were reported:

Councillor F Lott for Councillor W Lott
Councillor T Mulvenna for Councillor J Cassidy.

E28/02/16 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

E29/02/16 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2015 be confirmed.

E30/02/16 Update on the Future Reporting Arrangements of the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the future reporting arrangements of the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership. It was explained that the work of the Partnership had been reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis and the Sub-committee had considered these reports in advance of the Cabinet meeting to allow Members the opportunity of submitting any comments to the Cabinet if considered appropriate. As the Partnership was now more established it had been agreed that the Cabinet would in future receive reports on an annual basis.

It was **AGREED** that the report be noted

E31/02/16 Report of the Cycling Strategy Sub Group – Cabinet Response

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on Cabinet's response to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee's report on the review of the North Tyneside Cycling Strategy. Cabinet at its meeting held on 14 December 2015 had accepted the 4 recommendations contained in the report and had produced an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations.

The Sub-committee welcomed the decision of the Cabinet and decided that the implementation of the action plan should be monitored on an annual basis.

It was **AGREED** that (1) the Cabinet response to the recommendations of the Cycling Strategy Sub Group be noted;
(2) The implementation of the report's recommendations be monitored on an annual basis.

E32/02/16 Work Programme

Consideration was given to a report which outlined a number of suggestions for topics which could be added to the Sub-committee's work programme for the remainder of this municipal year and for consideration to be included in the work programme in the following municipal year.

In considering the suggestions members had regard to the previously agreed criteria for the selection of topics:

- Does the topic relate to one or more of the Council Plan Themes?
- Would a scrutiny investigation make a positive contribution to the formulation of future policies or strategies?
- Is the topic of interest or concern to members of the public and is there an opportunity for the public to contribute to the review?
- Is an overview and scrutiny investigation the most appropriate route for addressing the issue?

The Sub-committee considered the following topics:

- The preparation by the authority and its partners to deal with the health implications of climate change in North Tyneside;
- The increase of habitat and biodiversity in North Tyneside through the planning process;
- The creation of a community woodland in the Borough;
- The options for domestic and business users in North Tyneside to make more use of renewable energy;
- The threats of invasive species in North Tyneside and the steps being taken to address and avoid those threats
- Street cleansing in North Tyneside

Members considered that the health implications of climate change was an extensive topic which could fall within the remit of a number of sub committees and it was therefore suggested that the topic be referred to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee with a request that consideration be given to including it within the Committee's work programme for 2016/17.

Members were advised that active consideration was currently being given to the creation of a Community Woodland in the Borough. The Cabinet Member also explained that plans were currently being drawn up and that any comments or suggestions from elected members would be welcomed. In view of the above members agreed that a briefing on the current proposals and the various options available should be presented to the next meeting of the Sub-committee.

It was **AGREED** that (1) A presentation be made to the next meeting on the options for the creation of a Community Woodland in the Borough;
(2) The following topics be considered for inclusion in the Sub-committee's work programme for 2016/17:

- The active promotion of nature into development within the borough through the planning process;
- The options for domestic and business users to increase their usage of renewable energy;
- The threats of invasive species and the precautions being taken to avoid the threats;
- Street Cleansing in the Borough.

(3) The Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee be requested to give consideration to adding a study into the authority and its partners preparedness for the new health problems associated with climate change to its work programme for 2016/17.