

AT A MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Tuesday, 6 April 2010.

PRESENT

Chairman:
a Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Ian Beagley	a Rupert Kyrle
p Adam Carew	p Steve Rippon-Swaine
a Vaughan Clarke	p Elaine Still
p Mark Cooper	p Marilyn Tucker
a Edward Heron	p Alan Weeks

Apologies also received from Councillor Mel Kendal – Executive Member for Environment

Councillor Geoff Hockley in the Chair.

28. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

There were no declarations of interest.

29. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 12 January 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Arising thereon:

Agenda Format

The Committee agreed previously that future Committee agenda items should be split between matters for overview and matters for scrutiny. This change had now taken effect.

Carbon Management Plan

The Hampshire County Council Carbon Management Plan was due to appear before today's Select Committee meeting, following the January 2010 meeting discussion of the 10:10 campaign. The agreement of this plan has been delayed, and therefore has been deferred. Instead, an update on developments in relation to carbon will be heard at this meeting.

30. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Road Maintenance in Winter Weather

The Environment Department agreed in January to provide the Select Committee with an update on their review of road maintenance in the recent winter months. Since this time, the Policy & Resources Select Committee has agreed to undertake a review of the 'severe winter weather experienced in Hampshire in 2009/10', and therefore it would be unnecessary to duplicate this piece of work. It is suggested instead that the Members of the Select Committee are invited to observe the evidence given by the Environment Department to the review. A date, time and venue will be circulated when agreed by the Policy & Resources Select Committee.

Road Works

The Environment Department will present to the June meeting of the Select Committee on Hampshire County Council's powers in relation to road works. This will specifically look at how road works completed by utility / external contractor companies are followed up by Hampshire County Council, in terms of highway repairs and maintenance. This follows on from reviews the Committee has previously engaged in, such as road infrastructure and housing growth, and topics the Committee is currently looking at, such as pothole management.

31. **POTHOLE MANAGEMENT**

The Director of the Environment and Kunle Kolaru, Service Director, Amey, presented to the Committee on Pothole Management. Members heard:

A date, time and venue for the Policy & Resources Review to be circulated to the Committee when agreed.

Road Works item to come before Select Committee in June 2010.

That the Executive Members gives consideration to:

(Take in Report and Presentation)

- That a significant amount of wet weather and rainfall has recently led to localised flooding and high aquifer levels within the County.
- That such adverse weather has increased the number of potholes on the road network in Hampshire.
- That temperatures below the road surface are monitored by sensors, which have recorded consistently low (< 0°C) readings since January 2010. Such low temperatures are known to affect gravel and chalk materials that make up the road foundation over much of Hampshire.
- That surface delamination tends to occur more within residential urban areas. Treatment for such potholes is not straightforward, due to the need to reinstate large patches of road.
- That roads subject to haunch widening are more susceptible to edge defects, due to the roads not being supported by kerbs and cars overrunning the road edges.
- That temporary repairs are expected to have a life expectancy of up to two-years. Such repairs are primarily used to make the road 'safe' before a permanent repair is carried out.
- That the use of infrared is a good method for permanent repairs, as the use of heat melts surfaces together, ensuring that there isn't a joint into which water can seep.
- That the jet-patcher is used for smaller potholes, termed 'elephant footprints', which are mainly found in rural areas.
- That the number of potholes repaired annually is estimated by data recorded from public reporting and pothole-gang activity. Currently 1,000 potholes per week (as a direct result of adverse winter weather) are reported by members of the public.
- That repairs to the roads are made by Amey, and managed by local area engineers.
- That an electronic data capture pilot is ongoing in Eastleigh Borough Council, where gangs 'find and fix' potholes.
- That around 1,000 – 1,500 third party claims are made each year to Hampshire County Council relating to damage to a vehicle (80% of cases) or a person (20% of cases) by potholes. These are recorded on a map, so that areas of highest concern can be investigated.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That a repair of a pothole costs about £75 with a 2 – 5 year life expectancy, compared to surface dressing costing £2 per square metre, with up to 10 to 15 years life expectancy. In contrast resurfacing cost upwards of

The release of funding needed for 'Operation Restore & Resilience'.

An investigation into the technology needed to capture data on repaired potholes, as well as the roll out of the electronic data capture pilot to all road networks within Hampshire.

The opportunity to work in partnership with Hampshire District and Borough Councils, in order to expedite the clearing of debris left over from pothole reparation on the road network.

- £25 m2 to give a completely new running surface.
- That currently permanent repairs are aimed to take place within up to 6 months of a temporary repair, with all repairs being made permanent within two years. Amey now aim to repair all potholes permanently within one month of temporary repair.
 - That Amey will try to complete a permanent repair first time, but this is not always possible, especially owing to the recent adverse weather.
 - That Amey make the choice between completing permanent or temporary repairs on 'A' road networks, and Hampshire County Council on all other roads.
 - That the online webform for pothole reporting has been successful for the public to inform the Council of road defects out of office hours. Hampshire County Council also receive reports of potholes through their contact centres (such as HantsDirect).
 - That Amey are able to respond to a pothole report within 24 hours.
 - That the Environment Department have the power to request adjacent landowners to clear roads on which mud / plant life has slipped. Hampshire County Council also work in partnership with District and Borough Councils, and the District Association of Road Sweepers, to clear roads of debris..
 - That there country lanes are not widened when reinstating road edges. This is to ensure that the character of this important heritage is retained and that there is no encouragement to manage vehicle speeds
 - That Operation 'Restore & Resilience' was recently announced by the Environment Department as a way of restoring the road network to its condition before the adverse weather in 2009. That funding of £12.5 million will be used for the first year of this operation.
 - That there will need to be an investment in GPS technology if the electronic data capture pilot in Eastleigh around the finding and fixing of potholes by gangs is to be rolled out across the County.
 - That the electronic data capture pilot also aims to record a history of a pothole, in order that Amey can keep a record of the number of times a road defect has been repaired.

RESOLVED

1. That the Executive Member for Environment gives consideration to the following:
 - a. The release of funding needed for 'Operation Restore & Resilience', thus enabling the road network in Hampshire to be restored to its original condition previous to adverse weather experienced in 2009-10.

- b. An investigation into the technology needed to capture data on repaired potholes, as well as the roll out of the electronic data capture pilot to all road networks within Hampshire.
- c. The opportunity to work in partnership with Hampshire District and Borough Councils, in order to expedite the clearing of debris left over from pothole reparation on the road network.

32 **CARBON MANAGEMENT – 10:10 CAMPAIGN**

The Director of the Environment presented to the Committee on carbon management within Hampshire County Council.
Members heard:

- That since the Select Committee was reported to on the 10:10 campaign in January, there have been several issues that have been clarified by the organisers. This has included:
 - that schools and street lighting carbon emissions will not be included within the data submission to the campaign at the end of the year;
 - that national indicator data collected as part of Council activities can be used as evidence of carbon reduction to the 10:10 campaign;
 - that Property, Business & Regulatory Services have received confirmation of an interest free loan to purchase and fit carbon emission boiler controls, which will help to reduce total emissions within Hampshire County Council by 900 tonnes.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That signing up to the 10:10 campaign is as much about showing leadership in relation to being environmentally aware and changing behaviours, as reducing real term carbon emissions.
- That Hampshire County Council will reduce carbon emissions by at least 3%, but with other initiatives ongoing aside from boiler controls, may be able to reduce by a further 300-400 tonnes.
- That the interest free loan from central government is secure.
- That the Committee now felt it was in possession of the data needed to make a recommendation to Full Council on signing up to the 10:10 campaign.

RESOLVED:

1. That Hampshire County Council signs up to the 10:10 campaign, based on the following recently emerged findings:
 - a. That the 10:10 campaign will collect data only

That Hampshire County Council signs up to the 10:10 campaign.

That the Environment & Transportation Select Committee receive an update on the reduction of carbon emissions at its meeting in October, to include details of the Carbon Management Plan and progress with the 10:10 campaign.

from Hampshire County Council's corporate estate, residential units and employee business travel;

- b. That the organisers of the 10:10 campaign will accept Hampshire County Council's national indicator data set as its formal evidence submission for carbon emission reduction.
 - c. That Hampshire County Council will be in receipt of an interest-free loan from central government for the fitting of carbon emission boiler controls, which will produce a carbon emission reduction of at least 3% in one year.
2. That the Environment & Transportation Select Committee receive an update on the reduction of carbon emissions at its meeting in October, to include details of the Carbon Management Plan and progress with the 10:10 campaign.

33 **DISPLAY OF ENERGY CERTIFICATES**

The Director of Property Business and Regulatory Services presented to the Committee on progress to date in providing Display Energy Certificates to Hampshire County Council buildings. Members heard:

(Take in Report)

- That 360 Display Energy Certificates have now been issued to Hampshire County Council buildings, 96% of which have been for schools.
- That an extra 167 buildings will need to have Display Energy Certificates from April 2010, as buildings on campuses will need to be individually registered, rather than certified as one body.
- That a majority of these new registrations will have default 'G' ratings, as such campuses will not have individual energy meters for each building. However, smart meters will be rolled out to these in the future, in order that accurate readings can be taken.
- That costs for the Display Energy Certificate process have decreased in the previous year, due to the smaller costs involved in renewing certificates, but an increase is expected in the next year due to the new regulations.
- That the overall ratings of Hampshire County Council buildings has improved by 4%.
- That currently only buildings with over 1,000m² floor space need to be registered, but central government is currently out to consultation on plans to reduce this to 500m² within five years, and 250m² after this. The possible cost of this to the Council is currently being investigated.

In response to questions, Members heard:

That an update is provided to the Select Committee on the efforts made to improve the Display Energy Certificate ratings of its building portfolio in April 2011, to include a cost/benefit analysis of the DEC scheme.

- That an 'A' to 'C' rating is positive, a 'D' rating average and an 'E' to 'G' rating negative in relation to the energy used by a building.
- That each Display Energy Certificate costs £30 to register, and £420 in professional officer time and data collections costs.
- That Hampshire County Council does not currently have an 'A' rated building, and that buildings previously rated as 'A' in 2008 that have now been downgraded may have incorrectly recorded energy data in previous years.
- That the number of 'G' rated buildings will reduce as more accurate data is recorded.
- That a Display Energy Certificate has a lifespan of one year – after this time it needs to be renewed.
- That the new Elizabeth II Court building has not yet been rated, as it has not been in operation for a year at the time of this Committee meeting, but will receive a Display Energy Certificate after June 2010.

RESOLVED:

That an update is provided to the Select Committee on the efforts made to improve the Display Energy Certificate ratings of its building portfolio in April 2011, to include a cost/benefit analysis of the DEC scheme.

34. **WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY**

The Director of Environment presented to the Committee on Hampshire County Council's role as a Waste Disposal Authority. Members heard:

(Take in Presentation)

- That Hampshire's current population, including the Unitary Cities of Portsmouth and Southampton, is 1.65 million, with 750,000 current households but with up to 125,000 new homes planned over the next 15 years.
- That Hampshire generates 850,000 tonnes of waste every year.
- That waste in Hampshire is managed in partnership between the 13 waste collection authorities (11 Boroughs and Districts and two City Councils), 3 waste disposal authorities (Hampshire County Council and two Unitaries) and Veolia Environmental Services. Together, these form Project Integra.
- That there are two Material Recovery Facilities in Hampshire, one based in Alton and one in Portsmouth, where dry recyclable material collected from the kerbside is sorted. Over 140,000 tonnes of material were processed through these in 2008/09. The combined capacity of the two sites is 160,000 tonnes.
- That due to Hampshire's focus on collecting quality materials, its world class infrastructure, and our

That the Environment & Transportation Select Committee arrange to visit some of the facilities used by Project Integra.

contractor's position as a major player in the European waste industry, Hampshire continues to be in a very strong position to weather the ongoing global economic downturn. As a result, every tonne of material processed for recycling in Hampshire was sent on to market in 2009.

- That there are 26 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in Hampshire, which recycled a total of 115,000 tonnes in 2009.
- That there are three composting sites in Hampshire, with a combined capacity of 100,000 tonnes. These sites composted a total of 95,000 tonnes of material in 2008/09.
- That there is a glass recycling centre at Southampton Docks, which has processed 30,000 tonnes of glass for recycling in the past year. The contract for glass recycling is currently under renewal, co-ordinated by Portsmouth City Council.
- That there are three Energy Recovery Facilities in Hampshire: one in Portsmouth, one in Marchwood, and in Chineham, with a combined capacity of 420,000 tonnes.
- That the Bottom Ash from such Energy Recovery Facilities is now recycled, being re-used in industries such as road construction.
- That there is now only one landfill site in use in Hampshire for household waste, located in the New Forest.
- That there are 11 closed landfill sites managed by Veolia and the Waste Disposal Authorities. Some of these are now important sites for biodiversity.
- That the 'Recycle for Hampshire' campaign has been nationally recognised, and has helped to improve capture rates and participation, improved education programmes in schools and facilitated an overall change in behaviour towards reducing, re-using and recycling.
- That Hampshire County Council aims to be the first Local Authority to reach 0% of household waste being landfilled by 2015.
- That it is likely new legislation will require Waste Disposal Authorities to reach 50% recycling rates by 2020 – this is achievable with the Hampshire Waste Framework Directive.
- That Waste Disposal Authorities must have a waste prevention plan in place from April 2010, a recent directive of the European Parliament.
- That waste strategy development must take into account the rising trend in waste, with private and commercial household numbers increasing.
- That currently around 80,000 tonnes of domestic waste per year are still being landfilled.
- That one of the aims of Project Integra is to maximise the impact of the waste hierarchy, where prevention,

minimisation, re-use and recycling are promoted as the best ways of dealing with waste.

- That joint working with Planning and Development officers is being incorporated in the development of strategies for waste management for the future.
- That from the Summer of 2010, Project Integra authorities will start to collect aerosol cans for recycling.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That Waste teams constantly review which materials are viable to recycle at the Materials Recovery Facilities, and which are likely to contaminate others. Currently, foil is not collected due to its likelihood to be contaminated with food waste, and it's low volume/weight, but foil banks are located within some Waste Collection Authority areas.
- That the highest recorded rate of recycling reached in the County by an individual HWRC was 80%, but averages at 65%. A sign is placed on the gate entrances to all Centres to highlighting that site's recycling rate.
- That in order to ensure commercial waste vehicles are not taking advantage of Household Waste Recycling Centres, automatic numberplate recognition equipment is installed across the County.
- Commercial waste facilities are lacking within Hampshire, but HCC recognises that there is a need for waste processing and disposal to be more joined up across municipal and commercial sectors in the future
- That Hampshire County Council is able to continue to increase the amount of goods recycled at HWRCs by finding innovative ways to recycle items that were previously thought to be waste only. Examples of such include clean and dirty wood, metal within mattresses, etc.
- That work is ongoing with Waste Collection Authorities to ensure that following the introduction of trade waste controls, fly-tipping does not increase. Fly-tipping on private land is more of an issue, but the Environment Agency, Police, Forestry Commission, land owners and others are now working in partnership to combat this problem.
- That fly ash are removed safely from Energy Recovery Facilities and taken to Hazardous Waste sites, where it is disposed of in the correct fashion.
- That dioxins from the boiler go through an extensive flue gas cleaning process. This consists of a gas scrubber which combines the gases with lime milk, and a bag filter where particulates are filtered out. The resulting alkaline material known as Air Pollution Control Residue is sent for disposal at a licensed site, where it is mixed with acidic material to neutralise it.

RESOLVED:

That the Environment & Transportation Select Committee arrange to visit some of the facilities used by Project Integra. To include:

- Materials Recovery Facility
- Energy Recovery Facility
- Household Waste Recycling Centre

35 **FLOODING – LIGHT TOUCH SCRUTINY REVIEW**

The Chief Executive presented to the Committee an update on the outcomes of the Flooding Light Touch scrutiny review.

Members heard:

(Take in Letter)

- Following the agreement of the final Flooding Light Touch Scrutiny review report in January, both the Executive Member for Policy & Resources and the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Select Committee received a copy of the report and emerging findings/recommendation.
- The Executive Member for Policy & Resources welcomed the Chairman of the Environment & Transportation Select Committee to their decision day on 11 March, where they agreed the urgent recommendation of the review. This was:

‘That Hampshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit, (in conjunction with its Hampshire Flood Response Group partners), subject to funding being identified, explores options for producing for all County, District and Parish Councillors a current handbook which contains information for use in a flooding emergency, including key agencies, roles and responsibilities of such agencies and useful contact numbers / websites.’
- The County Emergency Planning Officer is currently agreeing a business plan for such guidance with the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council Corporate Communications department. The Committee will be informed this recommendation’s progress.
- The Policy & Resources Select Committee considered the review report and its emerging findings at its 11 March meeting. A copy of the letter sent by its Chairman to the Environment & Transportation Select Committee concerning the review is attached as Item 8 in the minute book.
- The Policy & Resources Select Committee will be scoping the topic as an in-depth review in September 2010, following the completion of the Winter Resilience review currently being undertaken.

36. **WORK PROGRAMME AND ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme and annual report for 2009-10.

(Take in Work Programme and Annual Report)

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's Work Programme and Annual Report be approved, subject to the issues raised at this meeting.