

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 JULY 2009

Recommendations to the Leader of the Council and Executive Director of Operations

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations
Floods and Water Management Bill	<p>That the Leader of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be advised of the significant implications of the proposed new legislation for the Council and local communities; and (b) be recommended to identify a Cabinet Member and Lead Officer to take forward preparations for the requirements of the new Bill in readiness for its enactment. 	<p>This clearly falls within the portfolio of Cabinet Member Councillor Peter Hiller, who has been briefed on the issues and will become part of a partnership group led by the local authority (Executive Director – Operations) to bring together the appropriate agencies to deliver a coordinated Flood Risk Strategy and Surface Water Management Plan. We are considerably further down this route than a lot of local authorities and preparation for further work on mapping the Surface Water Management Plan and subsequent actions are in hand. The Leader has received a briefing by the Resilience Team.</p>
	<p>That the nominated Cabinet Member and Lead Officer be recommended to build links and seek joint working with surrounding local authorities and other relevant agencies, including Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire County Councils and the local Internal Drainage Boards.</p>	<p>See above</p>
	<p>That the nominated Cabinet Member and Lead Officer be requested to submit a further report within a period of 6 months to this Committee providing responses to items 1 and 2 above and also giving assurances that the Council is preparing for the new legislation.</p>	<p>See above – update report will be provided in six months.</p>

Recommendations to the Cabinet Member of Environment Capital & Culture and Executive Director of Operations

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations
Environmental Enforcement and Education	<p>That it be recommended to the relevant Lead Officer, subject to confirmation that the costs of outsourcing enforcement cases are less or similar to employing an additional, dedicated legal officer, that outsourcing should be the preferred option in dealing with environmental enforcement cases in order to provide greater flexibility in resourcing this service in the future.</p> <p>(Linked to NI195 & NI196 – improved street and environmental cleanliness)</p>	<p>We acknowledge this and are currently carrying out this process which will be reviewed on a regular basis.</p>
	<p>That it be recommended to the Lead Officer that whilst environmental enforcement activity is supported by the Committee there should be clear discretion allowed to officers not to issue a fixed penalty notice should litter be dropped accidentally.</p> <p>(Linked to NI195 & NI196 – improved street and environmental cleanliness)</p>	<p>If the dropping of litter is accidental then there would be no prosecution. This will be up to interpretation of the officer at the time of ticket issue.</p>
	<p>That it be recommended to the Lead Officer that further financial information be provided to the Committee on the balance between environmental education and enforcement by this Council during the current financial year and innovative ways be examined of engaging with the public to provide more publicity and education on the implications of littering, the outcomes of court cases and the availability of services such as the Bulky Waste Collection Service in order to minimise environmental pollution.</p> <p>(Linked to NI195 & NI196 – improved street and environmental cleanliness)</p>	<p>This is quite a significant amount of work and we are currently discussing the balance between each aspect and how this can be better delivered. I request the ability to schedule in a future date when we are clearer as to the best way forward.</p>
	<p>That it be recommended to the Lead Officer the initiative with NHS Peterborough on using smoking cessation programmes as an alternative to issuing fixed penalty notices be introduced as soon as possible.</p>	<p>We are working hard to introduce this and I have sign up from both PCT Chief Exec and ourselves. We need to locate the finance of which there are bids in hand and ensure that we can manage the process legally before introduction.</p>

Item	Recommendations	Response to Recommendations
	(Linked to NI195 & NI196 – improved street and environmental cleanliness)	
Response to Adverse Weather Conditions – Footpaths	That it be recommended to the Executive that this Committee recognises the relative infrequency of the adverse weather conditions that were encountered in 2009 but requests that the inclusion of funding for an increased treatment programme for public footpaths be considered during the development of the Council Budget for 2010/11 alongside other budget pressures.	This comment has been noted and passed to Councillor Hiller, the Cabinet Member for this area.
Biodiversity Strategy – Progress Report 2008/09	That a further report be received at the next meeting of the Committee on the revised Biodiversity Strategy and that it be recommended to the relevant Cabinet Member and Lead Officer that the revised draft should include more substantive proposals and fewer references to establishing trial sites. (Linked to NI197 – improved biodiversity)	The report is in the final stages and will be considered by the Committee at the meeting on 17 September

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