

Minutes of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on 12 April 2016

PRESENT -

Councillor John Beckett (Chairman); Councillor Mike Teasdale (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Lucie Dallen, Neil Dallen (as nominated substitute for Councillor Steve Bridger), Liz Frost, Rob Geleit, Keith Partridge and Jane Race

Absent: Councillor Steve Bridger, Councillor Hannah Dalton and Councillor Tella Wormington

Officers present: Kathryn Beldon (Director of Finance and Resources), Mark Berry (Head of Place Development), Stewart Cocker (Countryside Manager) (For item 48), Michael Smith (Chief Accountant), Teresa Wingfield (Senior Accountant) and Fiona Cotter (Democratic Services Manager)

45 SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Neil Dallen was in attendance as the nominated substitute for Councillor Steve Bridger.

46 QUESTION TIME

No questions were asked or had been submitted by members of the public.

47 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 21 January 2016 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Environment Committee held on 9 March 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

48 EPSOM & EWELL LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2015 UPDATE

The Committee noted progress during 2015 in implementing the Epsom and Ewell Local Biodiversity Plan and acknowledged the hard work undertaken by staff and volunteers, in particular in relation to the creation of the new balancing ponds in Horton County Park.

It was highlighted that it had been another successful year, particularly in respect of the objective to "*ensure opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of the whole biodiversity resource in Epsom and Ewell (being) identified, considered and acted upon*". Planning and infrastructure clearly influenced the environment and in September 2015, the Council published its new Development Management Policies which strengthened the achievement of this objective.

49 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT: PROGRESS REPORT THREE 2015/16 AND PROVISIONAL TARGETS FOR 2016/17

The Committee received and considered a report which set out performance against the Committee's actions in Progress Report Three 2015/16 and Provisional Targets for 2016/17.

The Committee did not consider that the action associated with EV1 (Encouraging a vibrant and successful retail and business environment in the Borough) had been achieved and requested that this action be recorded as "not met".

The Committee further agreed targets for 2016/17 as outlined in paragraph 3 of the report and detailed in Annex 2 to assist in meeting the Key Priority of "*Keeping our Borough Clean and Green*". These related to keeping the streets and open spaces clean and tidy; taking action to reduce graffiti, littering, flyposting, illegal advertising and dog fouling; introducing a premium weekly collection service as standard for all residents for recycling and waste and encouraging more household waste to be recycled and encouraging and supporting volunteering initiatives.

50 OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

The Committee noted references outstanding to Officers as at 12 April 2016.

51 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee resolved to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

52 STREET TREE MAINTENANCE

The Committee agreed a way forward as set out in the Minutes

Note: The details are considered officially sensitive at this time and the Minutes for this item will be exempt from publication.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.05 pm

COUNCILLOR JOHN BECKETT (CHAIRMAN)