



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 27 JANUARY 2023 AT 10.00 AM

CIVIC CENTRE, RIDLEY STREET, REDCAR, TS10 1TD

CONTACT

Sarah Connolly
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Wednesday 18 January 2023

CIRCULATION

Councillors P Thomson (Chair), J Craig (Vice-Chair), N Baldwin, A Brook, C Cawley, C Jones, C Morgan, I Nightingale, L Pallister, V Rider, Stuart Smith, V Smith and S Waterfield

Councillors Foggo, Hunt, Lanigan and Westbury (Cabinet Members - for information)

All Members of the Council (for information)

Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)

The Press [except for Confidential item(s)]

A G E N D A

	<u>Pages</u>
1. Apologies for Absence	
2. To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16 December 2022	2 - 9
3. Declarations of Interest	
4. Relevant Cabinet Reports	
Would Members please bring their copy of the Cabinet Workbook with them to the meeting (these papers will follow)	
5. Motor Homes & Overnight Parking Restrictions - Presentation	
6. Solar and LED installations - Presentation	
7. Biodiversity Strategy - Update	
8. Action Update	
9. Action Plan update Jan 23	10
10. Any Items the Chair Certifies as Urgent	

16 December 2022

CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Climate and the Environment Scrutiny and Improvement Committee was held on 16 December 2022 at the Civic Centre.

PRESENT Councillor Thomson (Chair),
Councillors Baldwin, Brook, Craig, Jones,
Morgan, I Nightingale, Rider, Stuart Smith, V
Smith and Waterfield

OFFICIALS S Connolly, R Hoof, C Moon and P Rice.

IN ATTENDANCE Councillors Foggo, Hunt, Lanigan and Westbury.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cawley and Pallister.

1 RELEVANT CABINET REPORTS

Members were directed to the item relating to Fees and Charges and Cllr Thomson advised that comments and recommendations from Members would be presented to Cabinet on 20 December 2022.

The Assistant Director - Environment advised Members that the report was indicative of fees and charges that may be incurred, and Members would be consulted as part of the process.

As part of the ensuing discussion the following points were made:

- A member asked how the staggered introduction of fees would impact on anticipated income projections. The Assistant Director - Environment advised that income would come in across varying timescales and would be subject to formal and informal consultation.
- A Member commented that the potential revenue, expenditure and timescales for the introduction of charges were missing. The Assistant Director – Environment confirmed that a paper outlining further details would be provided to Members.
- A Member advised that it is hard to vote on the item without further detail. The Assistant Director – Environment advised that there was a need to accelerate the programme as part of the review of the service, and that an indicative programme would be shared with Members.

CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

16 December 2022

- A Member suggested that the programme seemed premature given that it was still in pre-consultation phase.
- A Member asked why an increase of 33% had been applied, as this seemed unreasonable, and not in line with inflation. The Member asked if a business plan has been produced to justify the increase? The Assistant Director – Environment, advised that increases were calculated by rounding, and mostly sat around the 11% figure.
- A member asked if there was a grid of all existing meters showing how much income they generate, and also noted that the machine servicing Guisborough Woods Walkway had not been working on two separate occasions over the previous months. The members suggested that the practice of fee increasing was pointless without working machines. The Assistant Director – Environment advised that, owing to lack of investment, the infrastructure was extremely old. Investment was required to update the stock. Figures, including revenue, capital and enforcement costs would be included in the business plan.
- A Member asked if, in the plan, all locations were viable? The Assistant Director – Environment advised that the authority possess intelligence to support the roll out, but it would be subject to consultation. The intention is that the service become self-supporting, but charges must be set at a level that does not dissuade users. Ideally, the service should be high quality and effectively supports the visitor and business economy.
- A Member noted that there has been a problem with old machines for 6-8 years, and there is a concern that the Authority are not getting a grip on the problem. The Member requested view of historical investment in the service and suggested that valuable revenue is being lost.
- A Member asked for clarification on why percentage increases have been applied, particularly where charges have been doubled, as this was hard to justify. The Assistant Director – Environment a higher price was justified in areas of higher demand, as this will generate the most revenue. The member responded that this doesn't help local people who will have to pay double parking charges on top of Council Tax.
- A Member supported previous concerns about the 100% increase, citing possible damage to the tourism and the likelihood of damage to the Council's message relating to health and physical activity.
- A Member raised concerns that there was no reference to provision for motor homes to park overnight at Cat Nab car park, which was a Borough wide measure to encourage mobile vehicles to visit the area. The Assistant Director – Environment advised that measures at Cat Nab would be reviewed when issues at Marine Parade were resolved.

16 December 2022

- A Member suggested that the introduction of charges at Flatts Lane might have a very detrimental effect on visitor numbers there, and might also discourage volunteers from visiting to work. The Member asked if the project would raise enough revenue to cover the cost of installation. The Member also asked for clarity given that it is currently not clear that charges are indicative. The Assistant Director – Environment advised that a full analysis would be provided in due course, and also confirmed that volunteers would not be expected to cover the cost of parking when undertaking conservation duties.
- A Member asked if the Council had previously charged for parking at the Ironstone Museum, and voiced concerns about the possible impact on visitor numbers, which would be problematic following major investments. The Member also queried whether Trustees had been consulted? The Assistant Director – Environment advised that such discussions would take place as part of the consultation process.
- The Assistant Director – Environment confirmed that consultation would only take place where charges do not currently apply and would not take place in relation to sites that currently charge.
- A Member asked if the Council have retained responsibility for the car park at Eston Leisure Centre, and if monies raised will be ringfenced to be spent on the centre and surrounding areas? The Assistant Director- Environment confirmed that income would have to be spent on delivery of the car parking service.
- A Member asked where a machine would be sited on Westgate, and whether the application of a charge would displace parking to surrounding areas. The Assistant Director – Environment confirmed that this is always a risk with the introduction of charges and would be considered as part of the review.
- A Member asked Committee to support removal of item 217 relating to resident and visitor parking permits. The member shared concerns that parking permits were required for around 80% of Coatham residents, which is an area of high deprivation. This increase represents a 6% Council Tax rise and would disproportionately negatively impact on those residents. Members voted unanimously to support the recommendation. Removal of item 217 - **RECOMMENDED**
- A Member voiced concerns about the future of Normanby if parking charges are introduced, as this is already a fragile area, and suggested the need to emphasis the message that this is currently in consultation and not already determined.
- A Member suggested that a 120% rise in charges for bulky items might encourage incidents of fly tipping. The Assistant Director – Environment advised that there has been an issue of multi-waste charges being very low in relation to other Councils, which skews

16 December 2022

the picture. There should not be an increase in fly tipping as this is generally commercially driven.

- A Member commented that an increase in charge for disposal of bulky items might encourage residents to use unlicensed waste disposal services, which would be counterproductive. The Assistant Director – Environment advised that work would be done, in partnership with the police and DVLA to crack down on rogue traders.
- A Member asked if the cost of replacement bins outlined in the Fees and Charges reports took into account the upcoming change of type of bin to be used by residents. The Assistant Director – Environment confirmed that the cost outlined in the report was based on the costs of new, cheaper black bins, and associated administrative costs.
- A Member asked if we had any discretion to waive charges for replacement bins lost from terraced houses. The Assistant Director – Environment advised that a scheme exists to utilise second hand bins, and that there is some flexibility around this.
- A Member suggested that there might be a problem for tenants in rented accommodation, as bins are often taken by previous tenants. The Assistant Director – Environment advised that the Authority are currently looking at engaging landlords with the need to supply and maintain refuse facilities. Members would be updated on progress relating to this.
- A Member advised that the biggest social landlord had removed its pest control service and as a result, some tenants are being overrun with rodents. Who would ultimately be able to take control of the situation? The Assistant Director – Environment advised that the Council were unable to compete with the private sector. Pest control is not a statutory requirement. The member suggested that the Council might consider acting as a signposting service, as well as continuing to engage in conversation with the social landlord, particularly regarding support for families on low incomes.
- It was advised that a Member had written to the Committee regarding section 443 of the Fees and Charges table, with concerns regarding the need of poorer families to pay £50 to access the energy efficiency assessment. It was confirmed that the rationale behind the charge was to recover admin costs, and further details would be confirmed in writing.

16 December 2022

2 REPORTS OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

a) CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION

The Assistant Director for Climate Change presented the 2023/23 Performance Summary. The following was noted:

- HVO increases the life span of a vehicle but needs to be tested in cold weather.
- EMT have agreed building temperature guidance, with 19 degrees set at a suitable temperature. A 5 hour ramp up, though, is required for the Council Chamber which demonstrates the inefficiency of the current system.
- A Member suggested that it is a waste of resources to heat the Council Chamber for smaller meetings. The Assistant Director – Climate change agreed and advised that it will be raised with Democratic Services.
- A Member asked if we are keeping an eye on the number of electric vehicles operated by the Authority in relation to the number of charging stations available, as we don't want to lose capability. It was confirmed by the Assistant Director – Climate Change, that there had been an increase at the depot, and that home charging was becoming more manageable as a result of technological advances. A change in behaviour was also necessary with ownership of electric vehicles
- A Member enquired as to the sustainability of companies providing EV charging points. The Assistant Director – Climate Change advised that a change in legislation allowed for transferrable technology, making it easier to be fluid.
- A Member asked if HVO is reprocessed locally, and how competitive the market was. The Assistant Director – Climate Change informed the Committee that supply currently originates in American and is refined in Western Europe. Price and supply should steady as the impact of the war in the Ukraine subsides.
- A Member asked if oils produced locally could be fed into the system.

16 December 2022

b) ENVIRONMENT PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

The Assistant Director for Environment presented the performance summary. The following comments were noted:

- A Member asked what constitutes contamination in terms of recycling? The Assistant Director – Environment advised that cardboard co-mingled with polystyrene was the most problematic issue and could be addressed primarily via awareness raising.
- A Member requested a breakdown of numbers relating to FOI requests. The Assistant Director – Environment advised that teams are very operationally focussed and there has been little support to deal with administrative tasks.
- A member requested that Teesville Primary School be approached to engage students with tree planting initiatives, as this would be good publicity for the Council.
- A Member asked if there was a link between difficulties completing appraisals and high sickness levels across the service? The Assistant Director – Environment advised that this was a possibility, as appraisals deal with aspirations and concerns of employees. It was noted that a Workforce Development Office was now in post.
- A member drew attention to the fact that no tree planting was planned in the Saltburn area.

c) RECYCLING CADDIES

The Assistant Director – Environment presented the report to Committee and the following was noted:

- A member asked if source segregation would require another caddy, and also asked for confirmation that residents were no longer required to use the caddies? The Assistant Director – Environment advised that residents were still able to use the caddies, but they would no longer be replaced
- It was noted that a review of the service is required in view of possible changes to collection methods. Communication with residents on the changes will be a priority

d) EV CHARGING STRATEGY

The Assistant Director – Climate Change presented the report to Committee and the following was noted:

CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

16 December 2022

- A Member asked if EV Charging points could be installed at Flatts Lane car park without the introduction of a parking charge. The Assistant Director – Climate Change confirmed that they could.
- A Member asked if the two locations identified as suitable for off-street rapid charging could be revealed to the Committee. The Assistant Director – Climate change advised that, owing to commercial sensitivities, this was not currently possible.
- A discussion took place relating to accessibility issues and EV charging.

e) SOLAR AND LED INSTALLATIONS

The Assistant Director – Climate Change provided an update to Committee and the following was noted:

- Current focus is on return on investment, and a multi-phased scheme of LED and solar installation was underway, with phase 1 focussed on properties around the Borough. An update on the scheme will be reported at the next Committee meeting.

3 ACTION UPDATE

The Assistant Director – Environment referred Members to the update and the following was noted:

- Hard copies of issues related to the gulley cleaning scheme are available upon request.
- The contact for issues relating to ash dieback is Kevin Wilson
- 3 Members attended the visit to the recycling facility and confirmed that it was interesting and informative. Further dates would be arranged to allow other Members of the Committee the opportunity to visit, possibly during January

4. ANY ITEMS THE CHAIR CERTIFIES AS URGENT

Cllr Thomson advised that issues relating to motor homes had been reallocated from the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Committee to the Climate and Environment Scrutiny Committee and would be discussed at the next meeting.

Climate & Environment Scrutiny Committee

ATTENDANCE RECORD - 2022/23

Surname	First name	23.09.22	4.11.22	16.12.22	dd.mm.yy	dd.mm.yy	dd.mm.yy	dd.mm.yy	dd.mm.yy	dd.mm.yy	Total Meetings Attended / total possible
Thomson	Phillip	✓	✓	✓							
Brook	Adam	RA	RA	✓							
Cawley	Ceri	✓	✓	Apols							
Pallister	Lynn	RA		Apols							
Morgan	Carol	✓	✓	✓							
Jones	Chris	Apols	✓	✓							
Nightingale	Irene	Apols	✓	✓							
Baldwin	Neil	✓	✓	✓							
Rider	Vera	✓	✓	✓							
Smith	Stuart	Apols	Apols	✓							
Smith	Vince	✓	✓	✓							
Craig	Julie	✓	✓	✓							
Waterfield	Stephen	X	✓	✓							
Substitutes											
Brown	Alec	✓	✓								
Richardson	Carrie	✓									

Key

✓	Attended
RA	Apologies Submitted (replacement attended)
Apols	Apologies Submitted (no replacement)
X	Did Not Attend (no apologies received)
C	Cancelled Meeting
n/a	Not a Member

Reason for Absence (NB Full details may not be provided for reasons of confidentiality)

1	Personal Commitment
2	Work Commitment
3	Illness/Medical
4	Conflicting Council Commitment
5	Other
6	Civic Duties

Climate & Environment Scrutiny and Improvement Committee – Action list

Actions from 16 December 2022		
SOLAR AND LED INSTALLATIONS An update on the scheme will be reported at the next Committee meeting.	CM	Presentation scheduled in for January Scrutiny meeting