

ENVIRONMENT POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting - 4 September 2013

Present: Mr Naylor (Chairman)
Mr Bradford, Mr Clark, Mrs Plant, Mrs Royston and Mr Walters

In attendance: Mrs Woolveridge

Apologies for absence: Miss Hazell and Mrs Wallis

12. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the PAG held on 12 June 2013 were received.

13. FUTURE WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES REPORT

The PAG received a report which updated Members on the progress of the project to introduce new waste and recycling collection services from February 2014.

The report, after explaining how the project was being managed, went on to explain the additional capital and revenue costs that would need to be met as set out in more detail in a Part 2 report.

Members were advised that following advice from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Director of Resources, officers were recommending that wheelie bins and other ancillary products be purchased using an established Framework Contract. This, it was explained, would negate the need for the Local Authorities to undertake costly individual procurement exercises and would therefore provide best value for the Council.

The PAG noted that whilst the project was currently on schedule, certain vehicles were expected to be delivered up to 4 weeks late so a small number of additional vehicles would be hired to ensure that the service can be introduced as planned.

In the discussion which followed, the PAG noted the importance of the road shows, which were due to take place in late October and November, to ensure that residents understand how the new service will operate.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder has **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet/Council that

1. The capital and revenue budget changes as outlined in Part II of this report are made;
2. A Framework Contract is used for the purchase of wheelie bins and ancillary equipment, such as food waste caddies;
3. That the authority previously delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Resources Portfolio Holder and the Head of Finance be extended to cover the purchase of wheelie bins and ancillary equipment.

14. CAR PARK CHARGES

The PAG has considered a report reviewing the Council's pay and display car parks and related matters.

The majority of the PAG supported the proposal to increase the budget for 2014/15 by 2% in line with the Council's general increase in charges and advised that the most suitable option to consult upon would be a general increase of 10p per transaction. This increase would cover the predicted shortfall for the current year, the proposed 2% budget increase for 2014/15 plus some contingency in case ticket sales fall.

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The PAG agreed that a modest increase in season ticket prices should also be part of the consultation. Furthermore, the PAG supported the proposal to consult on whether free parking in the Council's car parks on one or two Saturdays in December 2013, at an approximate cost of £3,000 per Saturday, should be introduced.

After looking at a number of options, the Portfolio Holder has **AGREED** to carry out a consultation on the following possible changes:

- 1) A general increase of 10p per transaction with effect from April 2014;
- 2) A modest increase in season ticket prices with effect from April 2014;
- 3) To have free parking in the Council's car parks on one or two Saturdays in December 2013 at an approximate cost of £3,000 per Saturday.

15. UPDATE ON CAR PARKING CAPACITY SURVEY AND PROPOSED PROCUREMENT OF DESIGN SERVICES

The PAG received a report which provided an update on the survey of car parking capacity agreed for Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross and asked Members to consider the procurement of any consequential design services.

On 16 July 2013, Cabinet gave approval for the council to conduct a parking survey of Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross at an estimated cost of £25,000. In order to ensure that a scheme, to address any shortfall in car park capacity identified by the survey in Beaconsfield or Gerrards Cross, is progressed expeditiously, officers were requesting an estimated £25,000 from general reserves to appoint architects to undertake feasibility and design services for construction of an additional deck or decks on one or more of the Council's existing car parks and to seek the planners' views.

The PAG were asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on recommendation 6.3 of the report, for which the PAG were in support of.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED**, subject to the advice of the Resources Portfolio Holder, to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that the Director of Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be authorised to procure such feasibility and design services.

16. BEACONSFIELD OLD TOWN COMMON LAND - PARKING AND LAND SWAP

The PAG received a report which provided an update on parking on Beaconsfield Common Land and asked Members to consider the way forward.

Members noted that further discussions have now been undertaken with Bucks County Council, Beaconsfield Old Town Residents Association (BOTRA), the Beaconsfield Society and Hall Barn Estates, who have all shown support for the scheme (details of which were set out in a previous report to the PAG on 12 June 2013). Further discussions will be undertaken with the Town Council early in September with a view to obtaining their further support for the scheme. Further to discussions with the Town Council, a full public consultation will then need to be undertaken.

The PAG supported the proposal to carry out a public consultation at a cost of £10,000 (funded from balances), the results of which would be reported to the December PAG. The PAG also recommended that authority be delegated to the Head of Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to agree minor detailed variations.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder has **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that

- 1 A public consultation at a cost of £10,000 be carried out funded from balances with the results reported to Councillors at the December PAG;
- 2 Delegated authority be given to the Head of Environment in consultation with the Environment Portfolio Holder to agree minor detailed variations.

17. **ELECTRIC VEHICLE RAPID CHARGING POSTS**

Councillor Naylor declared a personal interest in this item, having previously carried out consultancy work for the Department for Business of which the Office for Low Emissions Vehicles (OLEV) is a sub agency.

The PAG considered a report which notified Members of the funding for the installation of three double Rapid Charging Posts for electric vehicles (EV's). Members of the PAG were asked to advise the Portfolio Holder on whether to support the initiative and approve the process of implementation.

The PAG were advised of the awarding of funding for the installation of three double Rapid Charging Posts for electric vehicles (EV's) to be installed across the District. The PAG were made aware of the benefits to installing Rapid Charging Points in key locations across the District, as set out in paragraph 4.6 of the report. The PAG also noted that whilst some initial in kind contribution will be required, there will be no further capital or on going revenue costs.

In the discussion which followed, Members indicated their support for the initiative. In response to a question, the PAG were advised that clear signage will be used to direct residents to the posts.

Having considered the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet that support be given to the initiative and the process of implementation be approved.

18. **CONSULTATION ON FILMING ON THE HIGHWAY**

The PAG were asked to comment on a proposal by Buckinghamshire County Council to promote a private bill to gain legal powers to make it easier to film movies, television shows advertisements and other film productions on the highway.

In the discussion which followed, the PAG whilst supporting the proposal in principle, felt that film notices should be posted at least one week in advance, rather than the 24 hours as stated in the proposal, to minimise disruption for residents.

RESOLVED that the proposal be noted and that the comments made by the PAG be submitted to Buckinghamshire County Council.

19. **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

None received.

20. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

Members noted that the following item contained information which was not available to the press and public

Future Waste and Recycling Services - Part II report

(Schedule 12A Part 1 para (3) - because of information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular individual (including the authority holding that information))

Following the advice of the PAG, the Portfolio Holder agreed to recommend to the Cabinet that the capital and revenue budget changes as outlined are made.

The meeting terminated at 7.14 pm