

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

CABINET – 19 June 2012

REFERENCES FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 Cabinet is asked to consider the following references from the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission held on 7 June 2012 in respect of:

- (1) Governance & Performance Monitoring
- (2) Air Quality Monitoring
- (3) Environmental Services Contract – Options Post 2015

2. Governance & Performance Monitoring

2.1 The Commission received the first Quarterly Monitoring Report produced by the new Performance Plus system. Members' views were sought on the most appropriate format to present future reports.

2.2 It was felt that the new system was more complicated than the old 'traffic light' system which had been easier to understand. Various suggestions for future reporting were made.

2.3 The following suggestions for additions/improvements to the report were **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET**

- New risks and risks that had been removed should be noted in future reports.
- An explanatory note was required at the start of each section and should include information on why targets were not being met, or were being exceeded.
- Detailed explanations were needed to accompany the symbols
- Comments columns should not be left blank
- Not all items should be reported quarterly – attention should be focussed on areas of concern or where performance was exceeding expectations
- Annually the report should be presented in full.

3. Air Quality Monitoring

3.1 The Commission received a report on the Council's statutory duty to meet National air quality objectives (copy attached for information).

3.2 Changes to Planning Policy 23 (Planning & Pollution Control) would require local authorities to put in place local arrangements relating to planning pollution control measures.

3.3 The Norfolk Environmental Pollution Group (NEPG) had worked in partnership with colleagues in Suffolk to produce guidance entitled Air Quality and Land Use Planning, to guide and assist planning colleagues and developers.

3.4 Members were aware of problems in meeting the National air quality objectives in Swaffham and were concerned that future planned developments there

would exacerbate those problems. They supported the introduction of such guidance.

- 3.5 It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND TO CABINET** that the Technical Guidance document be adopted and issued to Planners, Developers and Agents.

4. Environmental Services Contract – Options Post 2015

- 4.1 The Commission received a report on negotiations concerning the Environmental Services Contract. Details were discussed below the line.
- 4.2 Price comparisons with neighbouring authorities had shown that the current contract provided good value for money. Customer satisfaction surveys were generally positive and the contract was performing well.
- 4.3 A Member proposed that the information gained from Customer Satisfaction surveys should be used to improve the service further.
- 4.4 Other suggestions included:
- litter picking should take place before grass cutting
 - grass cuttings should be collected and removed in line with Norfolk County Council's service
 - an additional column should be included in the comparator table at Appendix A to identify which local authorities used in-house or out-sourced providers.
- 4.5 It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND TO CABINET** that the Option at paragraph 4.1 of the report be supported.