

# ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Excellence Policy Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on 18 November 2021 at 6.00pm.

<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Councillors: N Brennan (Chairman for the meeting), D Britcher, J Fisher, K Lawrence, G Nurden, S Prutton, J Ward.
<b>Other Members Present:</b>	Councillors: J Leggett (ex officio) and E Laming.
<b>Officers in Attendance:</b>	The Assistant Director Community Services (S Phelan), the Assistant Director of Regulatory (N Howard), the Contracts Officer (C Davies) and the Democratic Services Officer (LA).

## 19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr K Kelly.

## 20 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

## 21 BENEFITS OF USING HYDROGENATED VEGETABLE OIL FUEL TO DELIVER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CONTRACT FROM APRIL 2022

The Assistant Director for Community Services introduced the report, which outlined the positive environmental impacts of using 100 percent Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in place of diesel within the new Strategic Environmental Services Contract which commences in April 2022. Officers also highlighted the additional benefits that would be achieved through the Council's provision of match funding of up to £50,000 per annum, which would enable the use of 100 percent HVO fuel.

The Panel noted that during the tender of the Waste Contract Bidders had been asked to demonstrate how they would work with the Council to improve and reduce the environmental impacts of the service. The Assistant Director for Community Services highlighted the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction as set out within section 3.10 of the report.

In response to a concern raised by a member regarding the source of the HVO fuel. It was noted that HVO fuel was sustainable and would be sourced from waste vegetable oils from restaurants across the Country. A further question was raised around whether there would be enough supply of fuel to complete the contract and members noted that it had been stipulated in the contract that Veolia would ensure the fuel was sourced.

The Panel noted that the waste collection vehicles could use a mix of both HVO and diesel fuel when operating and that the HVO fuel would be stored at the tanks in the depot once they had been cleaned out.

The Assistant Director of Community Services clarified further details on the funding of the HVO fuel. Members noted that the Council had agreed to provide up to £50,000 match funding each year. This would form part of the contract price, which was based on Veolia reclaiming the additional costs on the actual amount of HVO used to deliver the contract in the given year. The Panel also noted that for year one of the contract the costs to the Council of using 100 percent HVO fuel would be £11,700 at current prices. If HVO costs were to increase past the £50,000 from the Council, further negotiations would need to take place with Veolia to find the best path forward. A review of the service and the fuel use would take place on an annual basis and the use of other renewal sources of fuel would be considered.

The Chairman thanked officers for the report and it was;

## **AGREED**

### **To recommend that Cabinet**

Notes the positive environmental impacts that result from the Council providing match funding of up to £50,000 per annum to support the use of 100% Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil in the delivery of the Strategic Environmental Services Contract from April 2022.

## **22 REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES**

The Assistant Director for Regulatory introduced the report, which set out proposals for fixed penalty notice charges for specified environmental and anti-social behaviour offences. The formal report was a continuation of the discussion at the last Environmental Excellence Policy Development Panel

and was intended to refresh and update the current enforcement policy in place.

Members noted that the Council as a regulatory authority had arrangements in place for enforcement by serving fixed penalties and ensuring the penalties were set right was a key factor in this. For example, setting them too high could result in the fines being challenged in court, and setting them too low would reduce their impact. Collaboration with South Norfolk Council had led to the alignment of fees to create a simple process that applied to both Councils.

In response to a question regarding the changes in procedures at local recycling centres and the potential impact it would have on fly-tipping. Members were advised that there had been no evidence to suggest that this had led to an increase in fly-tipping and that a new recycling centre had been recently opened with the District.

In answer to a query, the Assistant Director for Regulatory confirmed that investigation and enforcement through Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) had created a ripple effect on overall littering. Officers were confident in the results they had seen regarding the reduction of repeat offenders after the introduction of the Notices.

It was confirmed FPN were only enforceable on public land and that , private landowners were responsible for the removal of waste on their land. Members noted that the Council would work with landowners to help prevent incidents of fly-tipping.

In answer to a query about CTCV recording being used to help catch offenders, officers confirmed that this method was available, but was only used within reason. If the Council was to conduct covert surveillance, a notice would need to be published first.

In response to a query regarding how fly-tipping incidents were calculated, it was confirmed that it would fall under one incident and not by individual items. The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence added that fly-tipping offences were decreasing and within Quarter One there were 123 cases, and in Quarter Two there were 102 cases reported.

In answer to a question regarding nuisance fires it was confirmed that they were not covered by the Policy, but if the remains of a fire was discovered and were traceable a prosecution could be made. Following a vote, it was unanimously:

**AGREED**

**To recommend to Cabinet**

1. To agree the setting of fixed penalty notice charge levels for specified environmental and anti-social behaviour offences as proposed in Appendix 1; and
2. To agree that the proceeds of paid fixed penalty notice charges be reinvested in the respective service area's revenue expenditure budgets to support further service delivery.

## **23 WORK PROGRAMME**

Officers gave members a brief presentation on the progress of the Environmental Strategy. The presentation highlighted key projects which included Tree Planting within the Broadland area.

Members noted that the free trees scheme with Norfolk County Council would provide 1000 trees across the District. Alongside this, officers explained that two sites were currently being considered in Hellesdon and Sprowston for the Tiny Forest project, with works commencing in winter once all sign-off checks had been completed.

Further updates were given, and a question was raised regarding the progress of the Environmental Strategy as a whole. Officers confirmed that several areas were still being investigated with baselines being formulated. Officers also confirmed a review would take place to refresh the Strategy with the Committee receiving regular updates on its progress.

The Panel noted that a food waste options report would be added to the Work Programme for member's consideration. The Chairman thanked the officers for the presentation and closed the meeting.

(The meeting concluded at 7.11pm)

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Chairman