

CARBON AND WASTE REDUCTION PANEL

Thursday, 6 September 2018

Commenced: 10.00 am

Terminated: 11.55 am

Present: Councillors Fowler (Chair), Buglass, Pearce, Peet, Taylor and Patrick

In Attendance:

Alison Lloyd-Walsh	Head of Environmental Development
Garry Parker	Head of Waste Management
Liz Harris	Programme Manager (Population Health)
Gary Mongan	Environmental Services Manager
Danielle Bamford	Project Support Officer
Christina Morton	Environmental Development Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Cooper and Mills

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

10. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel held on 28 June 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11. LOCAL GREEN SUMMIT

The Head of Environmental Development provided an update on the Local Green Summit.

She advised the Panel that a Tameside Green Summit was planned for 6 November 2018 commencing at 10am to be held at Dukinfield Town Hall. An invitation would be sent to interested parties and Members of the Panel were encouraged to make suggestions to officers on possible attendees. It was hoped that up to 150 people would attend the event from the Council, CCG, local businesses and partner organisations.

The Summit would be a call for action in order to make Tameside a greener borough and to also support the objectives of the Greater Manchester Green Summit that was held in March 2018. A number of guest speakers had been invited to speak at the event including Kevin Anderson, a Climate Scientist from The University of Manchester, Councillor Ganotis, Leader of Stockport Council and Green City Region Portfolio Lead, Chris Boardman, Cycling and Walking Commissioner, and Phil Korbelt, Carbon Literacy.

It was confirmed that all Tameside Councillors would be invited to attend the event and a save the date notification would be sent imminently.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided be noted.

12. CLEAN SWITCH

The Project Support Officer gave an update on the Greater Manchester Big Clean Switch, which was an initiative that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority had been working on since October 2017 to encourage residents and businesses in Greater Manchester to switch to clean energy.

It was reported that there had been 20 switches in Tameside and residents had saved on average £255 per year. The average saving across Greater Manchester was £289 per year and a total of 283 homes had switched energy tariffs. All Greater Manchester residents were eligible and could access the scheme via a self-service website. The scheme had been promoted in a variety of ways including leaflets and posters distributed at schools and events in addition to an electronic image to be displayed on TV screens in GP surgeries.

The next steps for the scheme were outlined and included promotion at the Greater Manchester Green Summit in March 2019, plans to launch a collective switch campaign for households and a switching platform for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Panel Members suggested that social housing providers should promote the scheme and a Member gave their views and experience of using the service to switch energy suppliers.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided be noted.

13. FOOD POVERTY

The Programme Manager (Population Health) gave a presentation on a Healthy and Sustainable Food Strategy for Tameside.

She began by outlining the importance of a balanced diet, which was essential for an individual's health and wellbeing and met nutritional and social needs. The biggest risk factor for ill health was the food that people ate. Eating patterns had changed over the years with an increase in eating out and the use of fast food outlets where the food was high in fat, sugar and salt and was of low nutritional value.

There had been a large emphasis on tackling obesity and offering advice on healthy diets, which unfortunately had little impact. A broader approach was needed to create a healthier and more sustainable food culture with education on how food impacted people's health and also the environment with an aim of reducing diet related disease and the carbon footprint of food.

The main way to reduce the carbon footprint was to eat less meat, tackle food waste, procure local food, reduce food packaging, reduce single use plastics and increase sustainable and healthy food. This could be supported by raising awareness via a communications plan.

The Tameside Food Strategy Group had adopted the Sustainable Food Cities model, which involved the establishment of a local cross-sector food partnership based on six key areas, as follows:-

1. Promoting healthy and sustainable food to the public
2. Tackling food poverty and access to affordable healthy food
3. Building community food knowledge, skills and projects
4. Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy
5. Transforming catering and food procurement
6. Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system

The aim was to work with partners to support food culture and food system transformation and to build a multi-stakeholder 'good food' movement at a local level. The next steps were outlined and, following consultation, a Healthy and Sustainable Food Strategy for Tameside would be developed with an associated action plan. It was proposed that the Tameside Food Strategy Group would report to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

A wide ranging discussion ensued and Members of the Panel commented that there was conflicting advice in the media on healthy foods, which could be confusing. Fast food outlets should not be located near to educational establishments and there needed to be greater emphasis on this during the planning process in addition to licensing. A vibrant food economy needed to be developed that offered healthy food and the Council should lead by example by offering healthy food options at events and in Council establishments. Education and awareness were crucial to changing food culture, which should begin at school.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the content of the presentation be noted; and**
- (ii) That the Panel supports the development of a Healthy and Sustainable Food Strategy for Tameside.**

14. AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Environmental Services Manager provided an update on the government's Air Quality Plan.

It was reported that poor air quality was the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK and accounted for 40,000 deaths each year. Emissions from vehicles were the main contributing factor with fine particulates and nitrogen dioxide the main pollutants. There were a number of existing Greater Manchester strategies to tackle the problem of air pollution including:-

- GM Strategy
- GM Spatial Framework
- GM 2040 Transport Strategy
- The GM Congestion Deal
- Streets for All & Cycling and Walking Commissioner
- GM Low-Emissions Strategy
- GM Air Quality Action Plan
- GM Climate Change Strategy
- GM Highways Strategy
- GM Freight and Logistics Strategy
- GM Common Taxi Licensing Standards

The Government had identified 11 roads across Greater Manchester where air quality needed to be improved by 2020, including a section of the A635 in Ashton-under-Lyne, which exceeded health based limit values for nitrogen dioxide. Tameside was one of 22 local authorities across England that had been instructed by the government to take further action on air quality.

A Clean Air Plan needed to be developed and approved by the Joint Air Quality Unit by December 2018. Transport for Greater Manchester had led a detailed feasibility study that set out proposals to tackle air quality exceedances in the shortest possible time and a Greater Manchester Clean Air Steering Group had been created. The Plan was a 3 stage process and consisted of a Strategic Outline Case that had been submitted and approved, an Outline Business Case and a Full Business Case. Public consultation would be undertaken in spring 2019 and measures would be implemented by 2021.

A discussion ensued on traffic congestion and air pollution throughout the borough. It was confirmed that although only one road had been identified by government there was a local plan that

looked at issues and other problematic areas across the wider conurbation. Council staff had worked with schools on a successful anti-idling vehicle campaign that saw pupils encourage people to switch off their engines when dropping off / picking up children at school.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided be noted.

15. WASTE UPDATE

The Head of Waste Management provided an update on waste services.

The Panel were informed that the recycling rate for August 2018 was 60%, which was an increase of 2% on the figure for July 2018. The rates fluctuated on a monthly basis and an annual recycling rate of 58-59% was anticipated. The monthly average of fly-tipped waste was 10 tonnes and up to 30 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued each month for littering offences.

It was reported that the biggest issue for the team was the contamination of co-mingled waste and paper and cardboard, which was very costly to the service. Education and enforcement were key to achieving compliance and the amount of waste needed to be significantly reduced with an emphasis on reusing plastics. Up to 10,000 tonnes of food were thrown away in Tameside per year, at a cost of £690,000, which was avoidable and demonstrated that a change was needed in people's habits.

The Government had launched a 25 year Environment Plan on January 2018 based on six goals:-

1. Using land more sustainably
2. Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes
3. Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing
4. Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste
5. Securing clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans
6. Protecting and improving our global environment

Waste needed to be minimised, materials reused as much as possible and materials that had reached the end of their life needed to be carefully managed in order to minimise their impact on the environment. This could be achieved by eliminating all avoidable plastic waste and promoting a circular economy.

With regard to the Waste PFI, companies had been invited to submit an Interim Tender, which had been evaluated by officers and then separated into three lots. The contract would be awarded in December 2018 and implemented by April 2019.

Members enquired about the current recycling process. It was explained that recyclable material was sent to one of the greenest processing plants in Europe with less than 1% of by-product ending up in landfill. The plant crated steam which was re-used on site and bottom ash, which was used by a neighbouring company to create products.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided be noted.

16. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR