

CARBON AND WASTE REDUCTION PANEL

Thursday, 15 March 2018

Commenced: 10.00 am

Terminated: 11.45 am

Present: Councillors Kinsey (Chair), Feeley, B Holland, Mills, Patrick, Pearce and Peet

In Attendance:

Lee Holland	Head of Environmental Services - Design and Delivery
Alison Lloyd-Walsh	Head of Environmental Development
Gary Mongan	Regulatory Services Manager
Danielle Bamford	Project Support Officer
Christina Morton	Environmental Development Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Cooper, Taylor and Whitehead

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

27. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel held on 30 November 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

28. WARM HOMES FUND

The Environmental Development Officer updated the Panel on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority bid for Warm Homes funding, which provided gas central heating systems.

It was reported that the funding was applicable to properties in the 25% most deprived areas across Tameside that had no heating system. The provider would be Cadent and Affordable Warmth Solutions with a value of £180 million over three years. It was anticipated that each area had funding for the installation of 40 gas central heating systems and 10 air source heating systems.

The next steps were outlined and included the identification of properties that had no central heating system. This could be achieved by utilising internal data sources such as building control, advertising the scheme through press, social media and leaflets, engaging with landlords and letting agents, referrals from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and word of mouth.

The Panel were informed that 12 properties had already been identified across the borough through the recent Local Energy Advice Programme and it was hoped that further funding could be applied for in September 2018.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided be noted.

29. GREEN SUMMIT

The Project Support Officer gave an update on the Greater Manchester Mayor's Green Summit, which was being held on 21 March 2018 at Manchester Central Convention Centre.

It was reported that participants had been requested to make a pledge at the event and the information collated would form a 'Green Charter', which would be a Greater Manchester wide document stating the actions that Greater Manchester would need to undertake in order to reduce carbon emissions. The ambition was for Greater Manchester to be one of the leading green cities in Europe.

Tameside had hosted a Green Summit Listening Event on 22 February run by Sheffield University and was attended by 30 residents who provided a variety of ideas to be taken to the Greater Manchester Mayor's Green Summit on 21 March. Themes from the event included sustainable and safer travel, renewable technologies, legislation and a reduction in plastics.

It was confirmed that a Member of the Panel was attending the Mayor's Green Summit and following discussion it was agreed that Tameside's pledge would be as follows:-

Tameside Council pledges to run a number of campaigns aimed at reducing the amount of plastic used in the Council, starting with a drive to reduce plastic bottle usage amongst staff.

The Head of Environmental Development notified the Panel that the new college and joint public service centre in Ashton had a Grade A Energy Performance Certificate. The Council was working with providers on a range of efficiency measures such as recyclable hand towels and the building had good insulation, sensor lights and a centrally controlled heating system.

Members enquired about fitting solar panels to Council buildings. It was confirmed that many Council buildings had listed status therefore were unsuitable, however feasibility studies were undertaken when an opportunity arose and options to retrofit existing buildings to make them more energy efficient i.e. LED lighting, boilers was regularly explored.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided be noted.

30. AIR QUALITY

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

It was reported that the National Air Quality Plan 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. A detailed feasibility study needed to be undertaken to set out proposals to tackle air quality exceedances in the shortest possible time against a benchmark measure of a charge based Clean Air Zone. A charge based Clean Air Zone would mean that certain vehicles not meeting specified emission standards would be charged to enter a defined geographic area. The type of vehicle, emission standards to be met and geographic area would all need to be agreed.

Officers from a number of services across the Council had attended workshops to discuss what package of measures would be best implemented as an alternative approach to a Clean Air Zone. These measures, known as a Strategic Outline Case, would be presented to the government for approval in March 2018. Following this, a Tameside specific meeting would be held in April to look specifically at which of the measures would have the greatest impact within Tameside.

The Panel were informed that on 21 February 2018 the High Court ruled that the government's efforts to combat air pollution were illegal. This was the third time that Client Earth, an environmental law firm, had taken the government to court over its air quality plan and won. The

judge ruled that the government's plans were based on over optimistic modelling of pollution levels and had not done enough to improve air quality in the shortest time possible.

The Panel were notified that an anti-idling vehicle campaign was due to be launched with schools across the borough, encouraging them to ask parents and carers to switch off their engines when dropping off / picking up children at school. Signs would be distributed to schools to display in prominent places, an example of which was shown to the Panel. Members welcomed the campaign and voiced their concerns about parking outside schools.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided be noted.

31. STREET LIGHTING

The Head of Environmental Services (Design and Delivery), gave an update on LED street lighting across the Borough.

It was reported that the three year installation of LED lighting in residential areas was nearing completion and over 16,000 lanterns had been replaced to date. Details were given of energy consumption and CO2 savings, with comparisons between a standard lantern and an LED lantern, and the associated costs. The total cost savings had exceeded the prediction of £451,000 with an actual saving of £494,000.

Comparison photographs were shown, which highlighted the differences between traditional lampposts and their LED replacements. The main changes were LED's offered less light pollution and were more targeted at lighting the highway with better light recognition. Existing columns had been utilised for the new LED lanterns and there had been some comments from residents that the street was too bright, too dark and some properties had reported light pollution. Shields had been installed in response. Details of problematic installations were outlined to the Panel, such as fitting lanterns on non-standard columns, heritage columns and subways.

The Panel were informed that the Capital investment costs relating to the installation of LED street lighting on main roads had significantly decreased mainly due to improvements in technology and a reduction in the costs of the lanterns. Replacing 7,500 lanterns would result in energy savings of £236,000 and 999 tonnes of CO2.

Members reported faulty lanterns and gave examples of areas where they were not working. The Head of Environmental Services (Design and Delivery) explained that the lanterns were guaranteed for a period of 25 years and would be replaced by the provider free of charge within this timespan. Members also queried the replacement of lanterns on motorways. It was confirmed that this was the responsibility of Highways England.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the information provided be noted; and**
- (ii) That the Panel supports the installation of LED street lighting on the main roads in the Borough.**

32. WASTE SERVICES

The Head of Environmental Development provided an update on waste services.

The Panel were informed that the current recycling rate for Tameside was 54%, there had been a reduction in the tonnage of landfill waste in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17 and the tonnage of recycling material was similar to the previous year's data of 36,000 tonnes.

During January and February 2018, 113 FPN's had been issued for littering offences and the team had visited 276 fly-tipping complaints. With regard to the Waste PFI, it was reported that six of eleven companies had successfully progressed through the first part of the tendering exercise.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided be noted.

33. CORPORATE INITIATIVES

The Head of Environmental Development gave a presentation on three Corporate Initiatives – plastic pollution, no personal workplace deliveries and Earth Hour.

In relation to plastic pollution, it was reported that plastics were destroying the ocean's ecosystem and micro plastics were a particular problem. A recent study conducted by the University of Manchester found 517,000 plastic particles per square metre of sediment in the River Tame. This was double the previous record for any waterway or ocean in the world. The government had a 25 year environment plan, which had an aim for zero avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042. One of the major sources of pollution was plastic bottles – 1 million were purchased every minute, less than 50% were collected for recycling and only 7% were turned into new bottles. Options for reducing plastic usage were free refill points and a deposit based plastic bottle recycling system. There were a number of nationwide campaigns to raise awareness of the issue. Tameside Council were launching a scheme to encourage staff to take small steps in order to make a change. A campaign would be launched to reduce plastic bottle usage amongst staff by encouraging them to reuse existing bottles.

The Air Quality Plan had recommended that all Greater Manchester Councils should stop personal workplace deliveries to council offices to reduce the number of 'white van' courier journeys and to support the operation of small parcel consolidation centres. White vans contributed to 17% of roadside emissions in Greater Manchester so a reduction in deliveries would help to reduce emissions. Members suggested that the option of using council buildings as small parcel consolidation centres be explored.

The final initiative was Earth Hour on 24 March 2018 at 8.30pm. The event started as a symbolic lights out event in Sydney in 2007 and had become the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment. Tameside Council would be supporting the event by switching off the lights in its buildings for one hour and would also promote the events to residents.

Members supported all of the initiatives and suggested an educational campaign for people to take large bulky items to their local recycling centre in an effort to combat the growing problem of fly-tipping.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the presentation be noted.

34. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR