

CARBON AND WASTE REDUCTION PANEL

29 November 2018

Commenced: 10.00 am

Terminated: 11.05 am

Present: Councillors Fowler (Chair), Cooper, Mills, Pearce, Peet, Taylor, Whitehead and Patrick

In Attendance: Alison Lloyd-Walsh Head of Environmental Development
Shamshed Ali Environmental Services Manager
Christina Morton Environmental Development Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Buglass

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel held on 6 September 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

19. LOCAL GREEN SUMMIT - UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

The Head of Environmental Development provided an update on the Local Green Summit and outlined the next steps.

She told the Panel that the Tameside Green Summit had been held on 6 November 2018 at Dukinfield Town Hall, which was attended by approximately 130 invited delegates. The Summit was a call to action for organisations and individuals from across a range of partners in Tameside including businesses, schools, public services, and voluntary and community groups. A webpage had been created www.tameside.gov.uk/tamesidegreensummit that contained useful information and various conference material.

The event included presentations from leading experts, debate on key topics and facilitated work streams. Speakers on the day included Councillor Warrington, Executive Leader of Tameside Council, Professor Anderson, a Climate Scientist from The University of Manchester, Councillor Ganotis, Leader of Stockport Council and Greater Manchester's Environment Portfolio Lead, Mr Deegan, advisor to Greater Manchester's Walking and Cycling Commissioner and representatives from IKEA, who advised on their corporate sustainability. Photographs from the Summit were shown to the Panel, which were available on the dedicated Green Summit website.

The day also consisted of a question and answer session, a speech by Tameside Youth Council representatives and a number of focus groups led by facilitators from Transport for Greater Manchester, GMCA, Tameside Council and the Environment Agency. The keys points of discussion were climate resilience, natural capital, buildings and energy, transport and sustainable waste and consumption. At the conclusion of the event delegates were invited to make pledges that would have a positive impact on the environment and climate change.

It was reported that the Chief Executive of Tameside Council pledged for Tameside Council and Tameside and Glossop CCG to seek accreditation as a Carbon Literate Organisation and Tameside Council made the following two pledges:-

1. To reduce the energy demand from heating, cooling, hot water and appliances across the corporate estate through better management and installation of appropriate retrofit measures.
2. To continue the programme of tree planting in Tameside by planting 3500 trees across green spaces in 2018/19. To continue the partnership with City of Trees and encourage all new developments to include high quality tree planting.

The next steps were outlined and it was explained that the Council would use its own resources effectively and undertake audits at its key sites with a view to installing appropriate retrofit measures, the results of which would be reported back to the Panel. With regards to the second pledge, Panel Members asked for their thanks to be extended to City of Trees for the work they were carrying out around the Borough. It was confirmed that the Head of Operations and Greenspace would attend a future meeting of the Panel to present the work that the Greenspace team were undertaking and a City of Trees representative would also be invited to present to the Panel.

The Panel were informed that the next Greater Manchester Mayoral Green Summit would take place on 29 March 2019 at The Lowry, Salford. A table, that detailed a set of Greater Manchester proposals for each district to consider undertaking, was explained to the Panel and focused on particular areas of concern such as reducing CO₂, energy use, transport and buildings. The Head of Environmental Development asked Panel Members to feedback their views on the proposals.

A detailed discussion ensued and Members requested that invitations to future events be extended to more organisations and commented that a unified approach to carbon related planning matters was needed across Greater Manchester. Members also requested that the Panel be updated on the plastics motion that was carried at the October 2018 Council meeting and what action the Environment Agency was undertaking in relation to the problem with micro plastics in the River Tame. It was agreed that an update on plastics be brought to a future meeting of the Panel and a representative from the Environment Agency be invited to present to the Panel.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the information provided be noted;
- (ii) That the results from the audits on key Council sites around installing retrofit measures be brought to a future meeting of the Panel;
- (iii) That the Head of Operations and Greenspace attend a future meeting of the Panel to present the work that is being undertaken by the Greenspace team;
- (iv) That a representative from City of Trees be invited to attend a future meeting of the Panel to present the work they are undertaking within Tameside;
- (v) That an update on the plastic motion that was carried at Council be brought to a future meeting of the Panel;
- (vi) That a representative from the Environment Agency be invited to attend a future meeting of the Panel to present the work they are undertaking with regards to micro plastics in the River Tame.

20. CURRENT FUEL POVERTY AND AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEMES

The Environmental Development Officer delivered a presentation on three fuel poverty and affordable warmth schemes that were currently available to eligible Tameside residents, as follows:-

- Local Energy Advice Partnership
- Emergency Central Heating Offer
- Warm Homes Fund

With regards to the Local Energy Advice Partnership, Members were informed that the scheme helped households by providing help, advice and support around energy efficiency in the home. The Council and other partners could refer vulnerable residents into the scheme as well as self-referral by individuals. A Home Energy Advisor undertook a home visit to carry out a thorough assessment of the home, which included giving energy advice, switching utility provider, maximising income and reducing debt and installing small measures such as LED light fittings, radiator panels and power down devices. They could also refer onto larger energy efficient measures, such as a new boiler and cavity wall / loft insulation and any applicable local schemes that would benefit the resident. The eligibility criteria was outlined and the Panel was shown a flow diagram demonstrating the process and provided with details in order to make a referral.

Panel Members were provided with information on the Emergency Central Heating Offer, which was an emergency boiler repair and replacement scheme. The scheme offered fuel poor and vulnerable homeowners that had a broken gas boiler a replacement free of charge within ten working days. The eligibility criteria was outlined and included certain benefits and / or a local authority flexible eligibility declaration.

It was explained that the Warm Homes Fund was a Greater Manchester scheme that provided a full gas central heating system to certain households that had never had a system. The scheme had a value of £180 million over a three year period and operated on a first come first serve basis, which would close to new applications once all the funds had been allocated. The eligibility criteria was outlined and included Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation benefits and / or a local authority flexible eligibility declaration.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the presentation be noted.

21. WASTE UPDATE

The Environmental Services Manager provided an update on waste services.

The Panel were informed that the recycling rate for October 2018 was 56%, 22.9 tonnes of fly tipped waste had been collected and 26 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued for littering offences. Contamination of co-mingled waste and paper and cardboard loads continued to be the biggest issue for the team and investigations were ongoing to discover the current confusion around recyclable plastics. Photographs and a table detailing the paper and cardboard contamination was shown to the Panel.

With regard to the Waste PFI it was reported that the deadline for companies to submit their tenders was 20 December 2018. The tenders would be checked for compliance and evaluated in January 2019, the winning tender would be announced by March 2019 and the new contract for waste disposal would commence in June 2019.

A discussion ensued and Members commented on the contamination problem and suggested that the rejection rate of contaminated loads be looked at as part of the new contract.

RESOLVED:

That the information provided be noted.

22. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.