

CARBON AND WASTE REDUCTION PANEL

14 March 2019

Commenced: 10.00 am

Terminated: 11.10 am

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

In Attendance: Alison Lloyd-Walsh Head of Environmental Development
Christina Morton Environmental Development Officer
Nick Sayers Head of Environmental Operations and Greenspace
Christopher Watkins Environmental Project Support Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Peet

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

24. MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel held on 29 November 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

25. MICRO PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE RIVER TAME

The Panel received a presentation on the Micro Plastic Pollution in the River Tame by Professor Jamie Woodard & DR James Rotherwell from the University of Manchester and Mark Turner from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

It was reported in a number of news and media outlets of large amounts of micro plastic contamination in the river Tame. Professor Jame Woodward & Dr James Rothwell conducted the largest survey of micro plastic contamination in the world. The results of the research, including an analysis of the source of the contamination and methods for tackling the contamination were shared with the panel.

Members enquired on whether the research gave an indication of the cause of the contamination, Professor Jame Woodward & Dr James Rothwell explained that the research suggested that it was a point source.

Members discussed the Environmental Agency's findings on the River Tame and how their assment of waterways does not assess Micro Plastic pollution.

RESOLVED

That the information provided be noted.

26. 5 YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

The Panel received a presentation on the 5 Year Environmental Plan for Greater Manchester by the Head of Environmental Development. The Plan sets out the ambition for GM to be carbon-neutral by 2038 and a first 5 year plan to put us on track to meet that target. The Panel were consulted on the Plan, including connected proposals and the 5 Key Principles of the Plan.

The Head of Environmental Development delivered a summary of actions to be taken to achieve the plans objectives concerning Energy Supply, Travel and Transport, Homes, Workplaces, Public Buildings and sustainable Consumption and Production.

The Panel discussed the use of developer contributions within the 5 Year Environmental Plan and the need for suitable housing to meet sustainable and efficient energy use.

RESOLVED

That the information provided be noted.

27. GO NEUTRAL PROJECT

The Panel received a presentation on the Go Neutral Project by the Environmental Development Officer. The target for Greater Manchester is to become carbon neutral by 2038. The Panel were informed of the main points from the Go Neutral Phase 1 meeting. The Panel discussed the technologies that could be used to achieve Go Neutral including Solar and Battery Storage. At the Phase 1 meeting 13 sites were put forward for consideration. Following further discussions and investigation four sites would be considered at the Phase 2 meeting.

The Panel considered a case study where a Local Authority invested in advanced solar panels to cut its annual electricity bill and free up money for front line services. Members discussed the possibility of further projects being undertaken in Tameside. The Panel were informed of sites which could be used for solar power and how unused contaminated land presented an opportunity, as the land could be used again to generate solar power.

RESOLVED

That the information provided be noted.

28. GREENSPACE AND TREES

The Panel received an update on the Greenspace Service and Tree Planning by the Head of Operations & Greenspace. The Panel were informed of the work undertaken by ground functions, including War memorials, Allotments, Greenspace volunteer programme and the Arboriculture Unit. The Panel were informed of the changes to the weed spraying service since it had been brought in house and the development of the Arboriculture team.

The Head of Operations & Greenspace informed the panel that 10,000 trees had been planted in the last year of which 225 were planted on the highway. The Panel were informed of Tree Planting which had take place at Limehurst, Broadmills, Park Birch and Corrie Copse. The Panel expressed their thanks to the Greenspace Volunteers for the 18,000 hours of volunteer time in 2018.

The Panel discussed the possibility of planting trees along the roads included in the Bee Lines scheme. Members enquired to how Ash die back had affected the Trees within Tameside. Members were informed by the Head of Operations & Greenspace that a survey had been completed and that the service collects data on trees this helps assess the effects of incidents such as Ash die back.

RESOLVED

That the information provided be noted.

29. WASTE UPDATE

The Environmental Services Manager provided an update on waste services. The Panel were informed that the recycling rate for January 2019 was 52%, 22.44 tonnes of fly tipped waste had been collected and 18 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 on going to discover the current confusion around recyclable plastics.

In January 2018 Government launched its 25 year Environment Plan which sets out six key goals to improve the environment. A consultation is in progress to review a number of questions around the waste industry.

Members were informed of the progress of the procurement of the disposal and processing services. Following further analysis of the value for money and options in light of policy uncertainty around bio-waste, the delegated decision was made to cancel the Lot 3 procurement and to place the management of this tonnage and the 2 associated in the vessel composting facilities under the lot 1 contractor. Following those changes and the late withdrawal of Viridor from Lot 1, only Suez and Veolia were left bidding for the contract in Lot 1 and Lot 2. Suez went on to become the preferred bidder on the 4 March 2019, winning both Lots 1 and 2.

RESOLVED

That the information provided be noted.

30. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.