

## **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 20 July 2005**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **20 July 2005** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P A Capon  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr J M Pullen

Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr R A Oatham  
Cllr P K Savill

Cllr Mrs M A Starke  
Cllr P F A Webster

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr Mrs T J Capon

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs S A Harper.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| S Scrutton    | - Head of Planning Services                  |
| G Woolhouse   | - Head of Housing, Health and Community Care |
| F Laycock     | - Senior Environmental Health Officer        |
| S Worthington | - Committee Administrator                    |

### **COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT**

|            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| P Grimwood | - District Manager |
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### **ALSO PRESENT**

S Peirson, ADAS Consultancy  
R Babbington, Anglian Water  
P Tovell, Anglian Water

## **292 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **293 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs T J Capon declared a personal interest in item 7 of the agenda by virtue of being a resident of Stambridge and Chairman of Stambridge Parish Council.

Cllr P A Capon declared a personal interest in item 7 of the agenda by virtue of being a resident of Stambridge and a Member of Stambridge Parish Council and Cllr Mrs M A Starke also declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of being a resident of Stambridge.

### **294 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS**

The Committee noted the schedule relating to progress on decisions.

### **295 ODOUR EMISSION SURVEY – ROCHFORD SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, STAMBRIDGE**

Members considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care outlining the key findings of the odour emission survey relating to Rochford Sewage Treatment Works.

The Chairman welcomed Mr S Peirson, of ADAS Consultancy, to the meeting. Mr Peirson advised Members that the odour sampling programme took place both on site and off-site in order to establish the most significant odour emissions on and around the site and to help identify measures for controlling potential off site odour impact.

The survey concluded that the primary sources of odour emission on site were the primary settlement tanks, large Peacemaker air outlet, the smaller sewage treatment works Peacemaker and sludge PFT tanks, respectively.

Off-site monitoring of odour emissions was also conducted over two days, at different times, at a number of locations in the vicinity of the treatment works. Samples of background air were taken using a Jerome 631-x hydrogen sulphide meter. Wind speed and air temperature were also noted, as was any odour detected at the time. Monitoring was conducted at Talana, The Bays, The Police House, Moat and Springs, Wheatfields and also on the access road to the treatment works, upwind.

The survey concluded that certain measures could be taken in order to substantially reduce odour emissions from the treatment works. The following measures, in particular, were highlighted:-

- primary settlement de-sludging should be conducted at more frequent intervals;
- the effectiveness of the large Peacemaker should be reviewed, with more thorough monitoring procedures implemented. Some form of pre-treatment should be introduced in order to reduce the hydrogen sulphide loading;

- the effectiveness of the smaller sewage treatment works Peacemaker should be reviewed and improvements introduced;
- there should be better sealing of the picket fence thickener tanks.

Responding to a Member enquiry as to whether or not odour levels in the vicinity of the treatment works were acceptable, Mr Peirson confirmed that odour emissions were above acceptable levels and that there was scope for significant improvement.

In response to a further enquiry relating to whether or not the treatment works were sufficiently up to date, Mr Peirson advised that the works were state of the art.

Addressing an enquiry relating to tables 3 and 4 in the consultant's final report, Mr Peirson confirmed that readings taken at neighbouring properties on the first day of monitoring showed unremarkable odour levels. However, readings taken at the same properties on the following day were higher than what would be deemed acceptable levels, largely as a result of wind direction. The monitoring highlighted that the high hydrogen sulphide levels were coming from the sewage treatment works.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Babbington and Mr Tovell, who were representing Anglian Water, to the meeting. They confirmed that the consultant's report was to be welcomed, that Anglian Water accepted the findings of the report and that work had already started at the treatment works to begin to address some of the issues raised. Anglian Water intended to address the issues highlighted in the report, which were substantially maintenance issues.

The Anglian Water representatives advised that, with respect to the primary settlement tanks, a new pump had been installed and new timers would be fitted shortly. Anglian Water had, in light of the report, developed a new odour management plan. They had asked OCS, who had provided the Peacemaker units, to visit the treatment works in September in order to review the performance of these units.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to staffing at the treatment works, the representatives confirmed that there were two men on site working 7.5 hours per day, who also went into the treatment works on Saturdays. Both men were, in addition, subject to a 24-hour callout regime.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to progress on the planning application to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council for a new plant to process sludge from the Southend and Rochford catchment area, the Anglian Water representatives advised that no decision had yet been taken by the Southend Planning Committee.

In response to a Member request relating to Anglian Water's updated odour

management plan for the Rochford sewage treatment works, officers confirmed that copies would be sent to Members of the Committee when it is finalised.

Officers advised that estimates would be obtained from ADAS Consultancy for a consultant to undertake some follow up monitoring at the treatment works next spring in order to gauge whether odour emission levels had decreased. A report would come back to Committee in due course.

In concluding the debate, there was a general consensus that Members should be kept closely informed of progress made by Anglian Water in implementing the recommendations highlighted in the consultant's report. It was noted that officers would write to Anglian Water asking them to confirm formally when they would expect to implement the recommendations contained within the report. A copy of the letter would also be sent to the MP for Rayleigh.

### **Resolved**

That the contents of the ADAS report be noted. (HHHCC)

### **296 HIGHWAYS LOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT UPDATE REPORT: APRIL – JUNE 2005**

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Highways and Transportation Services updating Members on progress with respect to the Highways Local Service Agreement between Essex County Council and Rochford District Council for the period from April to June 2005, as required in the Agreement.

During debate, Members commented that, in respect of paragraph 4.2 of the report, it would be preferable to avoid generalities, but rather to provide clear, specific examples for each point raised. Better use should be made of cross-referencing within future update reports.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the timetable for a follow up report on the County Council public rights of way 5 year rolling maintenance plan, the County officer confirmed that the South Area pilot scheme had just ended. The statistics were in the process of being produced, and it was therefore anticipated that Members would be updated in September.

In response to a Member concern relating to the lengthy process associated with the introduction of limited waiting bays in High Street, Rayleigh, the County officer advised that he would follow this up for Members and would update them on progress.

### Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted. (County Highways)

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....