

105/05 - **GM FOOD:** The Chair of the Environment, Overview and Scrutiny Commission, Councillor Heather Adderley, submitted a written report in respect of the above, following receipt of a request from the Friends of the Earth for the Council to adopt a policy to become GM free and commit to associated principles. The report, therefore, explained details of the work undertaken by the Environment, Overview and Scrutiny Commission which had, as part of a two year review, held an informal public meeting during 2004, at which time evidence from interested parties had been gathered. Section 7 of the report provided Cabinet with a summary of the findings of the Commission, which had concluded that the Council could not practically adopt a fully GM free policy, but should support it as far as possible by encouraging the use of GM free products. In considering those findings, in particular that requiring that no GM crops were grown on land over which the Council had control, Cabinet accepted the finding that this proposal could not be adopted, but supported as far as possible by communicating this principle to all tenants which in respect of Council House tenants was thought better, not by a specific letter, but as part of the regular newsletter issued to all the such tenants.

RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):

That:-

(1) the Environment, Overview and Scrutiny Commission's summary of findings as detailed below be approved, subject to the qualification detailed above with regard to the inclusion of an article in the Council House tenant's newsletter in respect of finding (c).

Adopting a Policy to become GM Free

- (a) The Council cannot practically adopt a full GM free policy but should support it as far as possible by encouraging the use of GM free products.

Adopting a GM Free policy for all goods and services for which the Council is responsible.

- (b) This proposal cannot be adopted in full but the Council should have a policy that promotes GM free products throughout the Council accepting that it could only be actively considered where the Council had, or was intending to have, a contractual relationship with the supplier ie where practical.

Ensuring that no GM crops are grown on land over which the Council has control

- (c) This proposal cannot be adopted but the Council should support it as far as possible by writing to all tenants (including Council house tenants relayed via the Tenants Newsletter) promoting GM free crops/products.

To consider each prospective GMO Marketing Consent and, where appropriate, writing to both the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and to the European Commission requesting that a condition under Article

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19(3)(c) of 2001/18/EC be added to such marketing consent so as to exempt the Harrogate District from the scope of such consent.

(d) This proposal should not be adopted.

Declaring the Harrogate District to be a GM Free Zone.

(e) The Council cannot declare that the Harrogate District was GM free but should support it as far as possible by “encouraging GM free in the Harrogate District”.

(2) the Chair and Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Commission be thanked for their significant contribution to this particular topic.

(5.44 pm – 5.51 pm)

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