

**ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
HELD ON 18 MARCH 2004
(FROM 5.30 PM TO 7.05 PM)**

PRESENT: Councillor Ellington in the Chair. Councillors Heather Adderley, Robin Adderley, Mrs Atkinson, Grange, Hawke, Hoult, Anne Jones, Newby, Theakston and Wren.

Late Arrivals: Councillor Grange at 5.34 pm.

Early Departures: None.

89/03 -APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Marsh and Willis.

Notification had been received that Councillor Theakston was to act as a substitute for Councillor J Smith and Councillor Grange for Councillor Smith.

(5.30 pm)

90/03 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations.

(5.31 pm)

91/03 - MINUTES: In relation to those present at the last meeting it was agreed that Councillors Anne Jones and Wren should be added to the list and that Councillor Willis should be removed. It was also agreed that it should have been noted that Councillor Nash acted as a substitute for Councillor Heather Adderley. Subject to these amendments the Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 16 February 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Six Members voted for the motion and there were four abstentions)

(5.32 pm)

92/03 – EXEMPT INFORMATION: There were no exempt information items.

(5.32 pm)

93/03 – PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – QUESTIONS: There were no questions to consider pursuant to Standing Order 27.

(5.33 pm)

94/03 -REQUESTS FOR INCLUSION OF ITEMS IN FUTURE WORK

PROGRAMME: The Scrutiny Officer circulated the Environment Commission revised Work Programme for consideration by Members. No requests for future items of work were received. Members considered the revised work programme timetable. It was moved and seconded that the dates for the consideration of items would remain the same.

(Seven Members voted for the motion and there were four against)

(5.33 pm – 5.43 pm)

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95/03 – **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS:** The Commission noted the attached forward plan key decisions which fell within its remit:

- Annual vehicle replacement;
- Review of Public Conveniences Service Improvement Plan;
- Local Waste Management Strategy Review;
- Parking Policy for the Harrogate District; and
- LA21 Progress Report and Strategy Review.

(5.43 pm)

MATTERS FOR REPORT

96/03 – **ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995 PART IV: LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DRAFT AIR QUALITY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENTS** The Director of Health and Housing submitted a written report regarding the Draft Air Quality Review and Assessments. The draft Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment (USA) 2003 was attached and Members were asked to note and comment upon the draft. The Chair introduced Mr Mark Lee, Area Environmental Health Officer, to speak to the item.

The Officer advised that under the Environment Act 1995 there was now a statutory duty placed on local authorities to undertake periodic reviews and assessments of air quality across the District. The review involved an assessment of air quality at known pollution hotspots in the District. In cases where the review assessment identified areas/pollutants that failed to meet the national objectives the Council would have to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), then prepare an action plan (to be approved by DEFRA) outlining methods of improving the air quality. The review covered seven pollutants, namely, 1,3-butadiene, lead, benzene, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate matter. The Council completed the first round of reviews and assessments in 2001, when it had been concluded that there were no predicted breaches of pollutant objectives in any area of the District. Therefore, there was no need to declare any air quality management areas, although further monitoring work of nitrogen dioxide had been recommended at certain localised areas. The Authority was under a duty to carry out such reviews and assessments every three years up to 2009 and to prepare annual air quality progress reports between subsequent rounds of reviews and assessments. -

The Officer explained that the 2003 Air Quality Review was divided into two parts for each pollutant, these being, Updating and Screening (USA) and Detailed Assessment. The USA looked at each pollutant and identified any significant changes since the first round of reviews and assessments. A Detailed Assessment must be carried out if any of the objectives were unlikely to be achieved. The draft report, as attached, contained the second round USA of air quality within the District.

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The Officer informed Members that, based upon the information collected, all of the objectives were likely to be achieved throughout the District and that there was no need to progress to a Detailed Assessment for any of the pollutants. However, further survey work for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀ had been identified and consequently would be fed into future Air Quality Reports. He added that the Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment had been sent to the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs and they had commented that, on the basis of the evidence provided, the conclusions reached were acceptable for all pollutants. The draft report would now be subject to a consultation period and, upon completion of this, a final report would be presented to the Cabinet Member (Environmental Health) for approval.

It was suggested that local asthmatic groups should be consulted. It was also agreed that when the report was agreed the Cabinet Members for Planning and Public Works, as well as North Yorkshire County Council would be asked to identify how they had included air quality assessments in their considerations.

The Officer then invited comments and questions. One Member commented that, although all the objectives had been achieved, further work still needed to be identified on improvements that could be made. The Officer agreed to take these comments on board. The Commission noted the report and thanked the Officer for his presentation.

(5.43 m – 6.43 pm)

(D)

97/03 – LOCAL ECONOMY BEST VALUE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN: The Director of Harrogate International Centre submitted a written report which outlined the substance of consultation responses to the draft Best Value Service Improvement Plan (SIP). The Best Value Steering Group had agreed the draft SIP, in October 2003 and, following consultation, had revised and updated the SIP and a copy of which was attached to the report. He added that, upon approval by the Council, the initiatives contained in the SIP would be developed and regularly monitored by the Officer Review Team.

The Commission noted the report and agreed that they should receive an update upon the initiatives in six months time.

(6.43 pm – 6.58 pm)

(D)

98/03 – WASTE TRANSFER AND RECYCLING PANEL: The Commission received the Minutes of the Panel held on 3 February 2004 (a copy of which are attached to these Minutes). Councillor Robin Adderley advised that a site visit of the District's recycling centres had been arranged to take place on Thursday 15 April 2004.

(6.58pm – 7.03 pm)

(D)

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99/03 – **TRAFFIC PANEL:** The Commission received the Minutes of the Panel held on 17 December 2003 and 12 February 2004 (copies of which are attached to these Minutes).

(7.03 – 7.05 pm)

(D)