

# ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

## 6 October 2005

Present: Councillor McGowan (Chair), Councillors Counce, David Dickinson, T Gray, Heaton, Miss Iddon, R Lees, Livesey and M Lowe.

### 05.ENV.27 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor S Smith.

### 05.ENV.28 DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS

No Member declared an interest in relation to matters under consideration at the meeting.

### 05.ENV.29 MINUTES

**RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 1 September 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.**

### 05.ENV.30 BUSINESS PLANS FOR 2005/06 - FIRST QUARTER UPDATES

The Panel received the first quarter updates of the Business Plans for the services and functions falling within the remit and area of responsibility of the Panel:

Planning Services

Environmental Services

Public Space Services

The Panel received from the Head of Environmental Services an update on the implementation of the Enhanced Recycling Scheme following the introduction of the second and final phase and the associated move to alternate weekly collection of an increased range of recyclable materials.

The service was now fully implemented with approximately 94% of households receiving the service.

The Panel note that the scheme design had to be substantially amended during implementation which meant that the promised delivery of the service to the remaining rural and difficult access households could not be delivered.

Options for the extension would be prepared later this year.

The Panel also received the Business Plan for Public Space Services with reference made to issues on the grass cutting service.

The Panel **AGREED** 1) That the Business Plans update for the period 1 April to 31 July 2005 be noted.

2) That the Panel considered the Business Plan for the former Planning Services at its next meeting on 10 November 2005.

### 05.ENV.31 ACCESSIBILITY OF CYCLING AS A LEISURE PURSUIT

The Panel continued to make progress in its inquiry into the "Accessibility of Cycling" as a Leisure Pursuit, within the Panel receiving draft findings and

recommendations for inclusion in the first report.

The Panel **AGREED**

- 1) That the following recommendations be approved.
  - a) Education. A Code of Conduct to focus on the rights and responsibilities of all user groups in order to reduce ambiguities concerning issues such as right of way, passing etiquette, the increased use of bells, control of dogs and the recommended speeds that should be adopted for safety and courtesy. User to be tolerant of other users.
  - b) Shared use routes should have information panels at the access points detailing Code of Conduct and a contact point to when comments, complaints and conflicts can be reported.
  - c) Poor environment conditions that reduce sight lines and visibility.
  - d) To improve signage, both off road and the Sustrans route 55 through Chorley as well as developing the route through Chorley to join up the route from Preston to Wigan.
  - e) To improve the publicity of routes.
  - f) To create short circular routes suitable only for families driving out to the country to take their children for a five mile ride as exist in National parks and some access areas.
  - g) To investigate the feasibility on creating a safe cycle route along the Yarrow Valley as well as the River Goit, White Coppice to Anglezarke.
- 2) That the following findings from the inquiry be approved.
  - a) To acknowledge there to be a difference and to understand the impact of 'actual and perceived' conflict. Conflict can be complex and is emotive. To progress an inquiry on these lines would be time consuming and would not achieve a successful outcome in relation to the Council's top priorities.
  - b) Research has shown there to be a perceived conflict - particularly intrusiveness and hostility as well as anxiety and fear about personal safety. This feeling was intensified by a number of factors including crowding, cyclists, cyclists travelling at speed, meeting groups (especially young people) and encountering poor environmental conditions that reduce sight lines and visibility. In the extreme, these perceptions can lead to people avoiding shared use routes.
  - c) Research has found that conflict is very frequent, is generally slight and is mainly concerned with intrusion. Conflict where it occurs can be caused by people (such as the behaviour of others) or the environment (such as inadequate maintenance of the route). That route users should accommodate others by changing their speed and pattern of travel; cyclists to slow down, while walkers move in a straight line and speed up.
  - d) That research had found that when people gather together to talk about conflict they talk it up and their recollection of how many others they meet while on the route escalates. Their perception of conflict were much higher than that actually experienced.
  - e) There was a need to improve signage; both off road and the Sustrans route 55 through Chorley as well as developing the route through Chorley to join up the route from Preston to Wigan.
  - d) To take the opportunity to trade on the success of the Commonwealth Games cycling events and build a purpose built off road route, had enough to encourage visitors which would increase tourism into Chorley.

## **05.ENV.32 SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES - CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

The Panel received a request from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to submit its views on the Government's Consultation Paper on proposals to introduce a ban on smoking in public places.

The Chorley and South Ribble Primary Care Trust had requested the views of

the Council and a draft response was enclosed with the Panel's agenda.

The Panel **AGREED** to note the draft response.

**05.ENV.32 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2005/06**

The Panel received the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and discussed the items for the Environment Panel.

**RESOLVED - That the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be noted.**

Chair