

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6TH APRIL, 2006

ITEM NO.

PEDESTRIAN HEART GAS MAIN – DIVERSION

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members of the background to date on the discussions to consider which Scrutiny Committee should undertake the investigations into how the position of the gas pipe main failed to be detected during the preliminary checks and surveys as part of the Pedestrian Heart work.

Information and Analysis

2. Members will be aware that, at the meeting of Council held on 23rd March, 2006, when considering the circumstances in which an unexpectedly shallow gas main was found during the course of the Pedestrian Heart works, it was agreed that the issue be referred to scrutiny for a full investigation, specifically into how the position of the gas pipe failed to be detected during the preliminary checks and surveys.
3. Following this decision, the matter was referred to the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group on Monday, 3rd April, 2006, and discussions were held on the most appropriate method of dealing with this issue. Following discussions, it was agreed, at that meeting, that a group comprising all Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs, together with two other Members from each Scrutiny Committee be established to investigate the matter, with the Resources Scrutiny Committee taking overall responsibility and the outcomes being reported back to it.
4. In view of the timescales involved in investigating the matter, it was also agreed that each of the Scrutiny Chairs write to all their Scrutiny Committee Members requesting nominations to serve on the newly-established Group. Updated information will be given verbally at the meeting on the nominations received.

Legal Implications

5. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

6. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Recommendations

7. Members are requested to :-
 - (a) nominate two Members, in addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Group, to serve on the newly-established Group; and
 - (b) confirm the membership and terms of reference of the Group.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

Council report and decision from meeting on 23rd March, 2006.

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