

**MINUTES OF THE GROWTH, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 7.00 PM, ON
TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2022
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors I Yasin (Chair), M Jamil (Vice-Chair), G Casey, C Fenner, J Fox, M Rangzeb, K Knight, R Ray, C Hogg and Co-opted Member Parish Councillor Neil Boyce

Officers Present:

- Rob Hill, Acting Service Director, Communities
- Charlotte Palmer, Head of Service - Environment, Highways and Transport
- Pat Carrington – Principal Peterborough City College and Assistant Director Skills and Employment
- Sarah Hebblethwaite Deputy Housing Needs Manager
- Ian Philips Head of Communities and Partnership Integration
- Clair George PES Manager
- Ramin Shams, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance:

- Cllr M Cereste the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport
- Cllr J Stevenson
- Cllr N Day

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nick Sandford.

Councillor Christian Hogg was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Nick Sandford.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

No declarations of interest or whipping declarations were received.

22. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

The minutes of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny held on Tuesday 20 September 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

23. CALL IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISION

No call ins were received.

24. CAR CRUISING – TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT

Councillor Stevenson, Chair of the Task and Finish group, accompanied by Councillors

Hogg and Day, introduced the report, which provided the Committee with the final report and recommendations of the Task and Finish group. The former Communities Scrutiny Committee considered an interim report from the Task and Finish group in March 2022 and endorsed a number of recommendations, which the Cabinet subsequently approved in June 2022. Since then, the Task and Finish group had continued exploring car cruising issues and completed its investigation. Councillor Stevenson advised Members that the Task and Finish group had worked with the officers and the police and heard evidence from residents and business owners who had been negatively impacted by the anti-social use of cars following events of the car cruising in the city. The Committee sat as the Crime and Disorder for this item.

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report, and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members asked if the Task and Finish group had explored options around 'Noise Cameras' that the Government offered funding for, which could eliminate the drifting. The PES Manager advised Members that she was currently exploring it and had been in contact with a local authority that had gone live with the 'Noise Cameras'.
- Members raised concerns over the likelihood of option one success and if the police could provide the commitment and resources to enforce the injunction. Cllr Stevenson advised Members that the police presence was crucial. When the police attended hotspots and noted the car registration numbers, this had a massive impact, and it went quiet for a few weeks. Councillor Hogg explained that the injunction would give the police the tools to deal with the issue.
- Members asked if the police provided assurances to tackle the issue. Councillor Stevenson advised that this would be a joint action from the police and the Council officers. It would be funded, and the next step for the Council would be to apply for funding and get a successful bid which would be essential to tackle car cruising.
- PES Manager informed Members regarding sources of funding; she explained that the report for the Task and Finish group had now concluded, and it was the right time to seek funding from OPCC (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner) and would also try to explore as many external funding options as possible including the Road Safety grants, if available.
- Members asked to clarify the wording of the city-wide injunction and whether the injunction covers the whole authority. Councillor Stevenson explained that the injunction was authority wide.
- Members questioned whether imposing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) restrictions in Fair Meadow would help tackle the issue and if a city-wide injunction could be more helpful than putting efforts in small measures. Councillor Hogg advised that the Council would extend the existing PSPO for the Fair Meadow, as it already had a CCTV in the car park and would not cost a considerable amount to the Council. It would prove that the action was suitable, and the city-wide injunction would still be needed.
- Members raised concern over placing PSPO restrictions on Fair Meadow and discussed that the Council was not in a position to spend money on small measures. Putting PSPO order would also disperse the event elsewhere in the city. Councillor Hogg explained that the PSPO order would help in the interim as the city-wide injunction would take longer to be implemented, and this would also help with proving the measures to be successful in securing funding for the city-wide injunction.
- Members asked if the Council had all the necessary information for an injunction and why it would take 12-18 months to obtain it. The Acting Service Director for Communities advised Members that the Council would need to apply for the court to obtain a city-wide injunction and had all the evidence available; however, the court process would likely take about a minimum of 12 months.

The following recommendation was made by Councillor Knight and seconded by Councillor Ray; Peterborough City Council focuses its efforts on establishing an authority-wide injunction for car cruising, which had been proven successful in other cities.

The Committee unanimously **AGREED** to the recommendation.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Council would work over the next 12 –18 months to obtain a city-wide injunction for car cruising and explores all opportunities for external funding to support this.
2. In the interim period, the Council extends the Woodston Public Space Protection (PSPO) and include Pleasure Fair Meadow car park and extends to other hot spot areas should they be required, and the evidence supports it.
3. That the council would work with Cambridgeshire Constabulary to develop a Community Protection Notice (CPN) scheme, issued to any driver/owner committing anti-social behaviour.
4. That Council officers explore funding for additional appropriate infrastructure measures such as ANPR cameras, physical barriers and working with private landowners to deter car cruise or anti-social driving as necessary.
5. That the Council made a proactive effort to use existing CCTV resources as evidence gathering for reporting issues to the police and for enforcement.
6. That the Task and Finish group's work was now concluded, and the group was formally closed. However, it should be noted that the Task and Finish group's work had concentrated on the impact from anti-social car driving and had not specifically looked at other vehicles such as motorbikes and e-scooters.

25. PORTFOLIO HOLDER PROGRESS REPORT – CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, PLANNING, HOUSING AND TRANSPORT

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing, Transport introduced the report, which provided the Committee with an update on the progress of the Cabinet Member portfolio.

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report, and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members raised concerns over the lack of cooperation between Anglian Water and the PCC over drainage and asked what the Council had done to ensure having closer ties with Anglian Water. The Head of Service for Environment, Highways and Transport advised Members that the PCC as the highway authority was responsible for the cleansing of the highway drainage gullies, and had a programme of work which the PCC undertook on annual basis to priorities the drains that needed cleansing, and some areas where particularly susceptible to flooding received more frequent cleansing. She explained that the PCC worked closely with Anglian Water to resolve issues.
- Members questioned the impact of recent flooding on Bourges Boulevard drainage and if this would likely happen again. The Head of Service for Environment, Highways and Transport explained that the extreme level of rainfall within a very condensed period that happened back in July 2021, with 92mm of

rainfall in three hours in that area of the city, which was rare to the city, and the drainage across the city were not designed to cope with that level of rain, and to bear in mind that the changing climate was going to have challenges. She advised that the PCC was working closely with Anglian Water to ensure where the issues were occurring and how they could be dealt with and minimise the disruption for the public. On another occasion, when 35mm of rainfall happened only in 6 hours cleared much more quickly, which showed the drainage system was efficient. The PCC and Anglian Water continued to work to develop the city's plan to adapt to a changing climate.

- Members were advised that the Highway Network inspects highways and looks for any defects that were likely to cause a hazard to the motorists, and would immediately intervene to do patching repair to keep the network safe, or sometimes it meant that the network was deteriorating and required a more comprehensive service treatment programme, however, unfortunately, the budget did not stretch to ensure pavements were treated on wholesale, as it was designed and focused on keeping the highway network safe.
- Members queried that on some occasions, the contractors did not inform residents in advance of the work taking place on their pavements and streets, which had caused issues for the residents. The Head of Service for Environment, Highways and Transport advised Members that residents would be informed well in advance of any work taking place on the streets and pavements. There had been an occasion in Hampton where contractors did not inform residents of the work on their street; the PCC had discussed the matter with the contractor and made them aware of the issues that had been caused and were currently being dealt with as a priority.
- Members were advised that a reminder note would be sent out to PCC contractors regarding fly-tipping, as Members reported that some contractors left their kits on site after they finished their work.
- Members raised concerns over the time taken by the Highways when they reported faulty street lighting. Members were advised that the Highways responded to all reported issues, and sometimes it could take longer because of the supply chain issues. The Highways did prioritise issues when reported to them.
- Members raised concerns over communication with the Highways and discussed that when they reported issues to Highways, they had not received any response from them. Members were advised to use the Fix My Street app to report any issues related to faulty street lights or potholes. If it's an emergency, use the emergency telephone lines to report them for an immediate response.
- Members raised concerns over the length of time taking for a decision on a planning application and asked if the PCC's service agreement with the Fenland District Council (FDC) was causing delays for the applications in Peterborough. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport informed Members that the Council was in negotiations with the FDC, as they were currently reviewing to adapt their local plan similar to the PCC's. He explained that he would ensure any joint work currently taking place on this would not affect the planning application process in Peterborough. He advised that the system was improving and was in the right direction.
- The Deputy Housing Needs Manager advised Members about homelessness and the city's cost of living crisis. She explained that assessing the national situation and the cost of living crisis, there would probably be about a 25% increase in the number of homelessness, and that would depend on the future implication of the cost of living and the household funds that would be received from the Government. The Council was also working closely with CIPFA and was in negotiation with CIPFA over improvements that could be made.
- The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport advised Members regarding the hike in the interest rate for the mortgages. He explained that he had regular meetings with the Housing. The Council was well

aware of the implication the increase in the mortgage interest rate would have on residents, as the PCC was evolving and moving on from the shared services, which would likely to create the opportunity to use resources more efficiently and focus on the issues.

- Members were advised that when St. Michael's Gate situation arose, the Housing Team had to find 102 units for the residents of St. Michael's Gate. Officers worked hard over the summer to find accommodation for these residents. The Council did a social media campaign to attract private-sector landlords.

The following recommendation was made by Councillor Hogg and seconded by Councillor Fox that the Highways review their communications with Councillors and Parish Councillors and assess if the Peterborough Limited model could be replicated and used by Highways.

The Committee unanimously **AGREED** to the recommendation.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to endorse the approach being taken under the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport.

26. CITY COLLEGE PETERBOROUGH ANNUAL REPORT

The Executive Principal of Peterborough City College, accompanied by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University, introduced the report, which outlined the progress to date of City College Peterborough and its priorities for the forthcoming academic year.

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee debated the report, and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members questioned the letting out spaces in the City College Peterborough and asked about the amount of income the College received from it. The Executive Principal for City College Peterborough advised Members that the College was getting less revenue than it used to pre-Covid. However, it has started to build up again. The College has undertaken work to identify the capacity and resources to ensure the College could save on the cost of the energy crisis going forward.
- Regarding school uniforms, the Executive Principal for City College Peterborough advised that the College has recently launched the school uniform programme and had contacted the relevant departments in the Council to externally promote the programme.
- Members queried whether the City College provided cooking classes because of the cost of living crisis. Members were advised that City College had started to deliver cooking classes, which included cooking through different measures to save the cost of energy, and had been in discussion with the voluntary sector to fund them to provide classes to community groups.
- Members asked about the financial stability of the City College, as the Chair of the Governance had previously indicated concerns over the reserves for the City College and whether those concerns still remained. The Executive Principal advised that post-covid-19, the City College had reshaped and received its funding from different sources but predominantly from the Combined Authority and the Department for Education and the funding for the City College was secured.
- Members queried regarding the equality and diversity of the City College

Governance Board. Members were advised that the Governance Board was young and heading in the right direction. The City College was working closely with the Further Education Office. It had scheduled training with the National Leaders of Governance to oversee and challenge the City College over its Governance Board.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the content of report and the history and progress to date of City College Peterborough and its priorities for the forthcoming academic year.

27. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Senior Democratic Officer introduced the report, which included the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan of Executive Decisions containing decisions that the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the forthcoming month. Members were invited to comment on the plan and, where appropriate, identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's Work Programme.

Members asked for further information regarding the Debt Write-offs in excess of £10,000. The Senior Democratic Services Officer confirmed that a request for a briefing note would be put forward to the Finance Manager – Business Operations.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

28. WORK PROGRAMME 2022/2023

The Senior Democratic Services introduced the item which gave Members the opportunity to consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2022/23 and discuss possible items for inclusion.

- Members asked if an update on the issues related to dentistry could be provided to the Committee. Members agreed to add it to the Work Programme for the current municipal year.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the work programme for 2022/23

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Committee was noted as being on 29 November 2022.

- The next meeting of the Committee was noted as being the 10 January 2023.

CHAIR

Meeting began at 7:00 pm and ended at 8:50 pm