

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM - TOWN HALL
ON 14 JULY 2011**

Present: Councillors D Day (Chairman), N Arculus, N North, J Peach, B Rush,
J A Fox and N Sandford

Also Present: Councillor JR Fox, Representing the Leader of the Peterborough
Independent Forum
Councillor Sam Dalton, Cabinet Member for Environment
Hannah Reid, Youth Council Representative

Officers Present: Teresa Wood, Sustainable Environment Manager
Trevor Gibson, Director of Environment Capital
Richard Pearn, Programme Manager - Waste Infrastructure
Claire Boyd, Lawyer
Paulina Ford, Senior Governance Officer, Scrutiny

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

Declarations of interest were received from Councillor JR Fox and Councillor Sandford in relation to item 6 on the agenda - Environment Capital: Progress Update. Councillor Fox declared that he was employed by the Peterborough Council of Voluntary Services as a co-ordinator of Shop Mobility. Councillor Sandford declared that he was a Director on the Board of the Peterborough Environment City Trust and worked for the Woodland Trust as an employee. He also declared that he had Solar Panels fitted on his own property and received a Feed-In Tariff.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 June 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2011 were approved as a correct record.

4. Call In of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

5. Members Waste and Recycling Task and Finish Group

The report informed the Committee of the proposal to disband the Members Waste and Recycling Task and Finish Group which had been formed in January 2003 under the former Leader of the Council and was then repositioned as a sub working group of the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee in April 2009. After considering the proposal the Committee sought assurance from Officers that if the Task and Finish Group were to be disbanded that all important items relating to Waste 2020 would be brought before this Committee. Officers gave assurance that this would happen.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that the Members Waste and Recycling Task and Finish Group be disbanded immediately and that all future monitoring of Waste 2020 be dealt with directly through the Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee reporting process.

6. Environment Capital: Progress Report

The report provided information on progress in delivering the “Home of Environment Capital” initiative. The Director of Environment Capital confirmed that the “Home of Environment Capital” Major Policy had been approved by Council in 2010 and was now being used across the authority. Members were informed that a report would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee on the performance of the City in comparison to other cities. The assessment for this had been based on the Forum for the Future Sustainable Cities Index. A full report on the progress of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) would be presented to the Committee in March 2012.

Questions and observations were raised around the following areas:

- Members were concerned that the increase in rejection of wind farms would affect the renewable energy policy. *The objections were usually about visual quality and these would have to be taken into account but if the right sites were chosen then it would not have a major effect.*
- Is it possible to put Photo-voltaic panels on the Lido building? *In the process of setting up an Energy Services Company and as part of that process a full buildings assessment would be carried out. The Lido had not been identified but it would be added to the list.*
- Waste to energy plant. Would it be possible to have a pipe to carry steam to the Regional Pool and Lido for heating? *The facility would be combined heat and power enabled and a requirement would be to extract heat. This would mean that heat could be moved to adjacent industrial or commercial buildings like the Regional Pool. However it would take additional investment to lay the pipes and would therefore take a while to implement.*
- In the report it was mentioned that PCC had completed and submitted a bid totalling £4,999,990 to the Department for Transport which included sustainable transport improvements and aimed at increasingly integrating sustainable travel into mainstream travel planning. It covered four key packages:
 1. Working with individuals, communities and neighbourhoods
 2. Workplace travel planning
 3. Healthier travel
 4. Young peoples travel

How do you propose to publicise these initiatives. *The Sustainable Environment Manager informed the Committee that the bid had been successful for the full amount of £4,999,990. The bid detailed the initiatives under each package and included projects with local businesses, schools, Primary Care Trust and large infrastructure projects such as looking at the cycle infrastructure around the station. A full copy of the bid could be provided to Members.*

Members congratulated officers on their hard work in successfully receiving the full amount of the bid.

- The Cabinet Member for Environment informed Members that Peterborough City Council had just launched a cycle to work scheme where employees were offered the chance to buy a bike through work and claim the tax back.

- Could some of the bid money be used for Bluetooth communications for people who are partially sighted? *The bid does include looking at technology solutions and the Sustainable Environment Manager welcomed suggestions for further investigation.*
- Members wanted further clarification on the tangible benefits of The Peterborough Model and how adaptable it was and what it delivered. *Members were informed that The Peterborough Model used Google Earth for its base and it provided a clearer way of translating data that would normally be presented on spreadsheets. The type of data provided would be information on energy use, water use and flood plains. The information was turned into a graphic 3D image. The benefits will mean that a public website will be launched in a few weeks showing the City's environmental performance.*
- The Cabinet Member for Environment informed members that the Peterborough Model would ideally be used for decision making to benefit the city and a future modelling device. It would also be a useful educational tool for schools and colleges.
- Does the authority get any royalties from the The Peterborough Model if used by other authorities? *No royalties would be received but it will be published and sold as the Peterborough Model.*
- Does the authority have a strategy for promoting solar energy and renewables? *Members were informed that there was no dedicated policy for renewables in place. In the current economic climate if housing developers were expected to build to a code 6 sustainably rating which was a zero carbon home then it would make the housing developments completely unviable. A guidance document for developers was currently being produced on what the authority would like to achieve as an Environment City. When the housing market picked up this would go to Full Council to become policy. The Home of Environment Capital Policy did state the following within its policy:*
 - *We will seek to minimise the use of energy and will ensure that, where energy is used, it will be done so effectively and efficiently.*
 - *We will seek to minimise waste of energy, and will ensure that, where energy is used, the greatest possible proportion becomes useful heat, light or power. We will use environmentally safe and, where practicable, sustainable energy sources and will invest in, demonstrate and promote, the benefits of energy efficiency.*
- Council Landlords could improve the use of Photo-voltaic panels if there was a Green Leasing Policy in place. There is currently no incentive to put them on properties as under tenancy agreements properties have to be returned to their existing state when occupants leave. Has the Council looked into this? *Members were informed that officers had been asked to investigate this. The Director of Environment Capital also advised Members that systematically every council property was being looked at and assessed to see how much electricity could be generated from their roofs and prioritised for its capability to produce electricity.*
- Can we ring fence the money that is saved by using solar panels and reinvest it into wind farms and further Photo-voltaic panels. *The savings that were made would be invested into further green projects. There was some money in the Salix Fund which provided interest free funding to accelerate investment in energy efficiency technologies. Savings made through these investments went back into the fund for further investment. Members were invited to put ideas forward for green projects.*
- Can you guarantee that the public transport budget will remain the same in the next financial year? *The bus subsidy budget had been set and no cuts were planned.*
- Can you evidence that there has been a 9% reduction in traffic. *This information came from the Travelchoice data. In 2004 and 2005, at the beginning of Travel Choice, surveys were completed on a group of people who kept a diary of their travel behaviour. The same group were resurveyed in 2008 and it demonstrated an increase in bus usage, walking and cycling equating to a relative reduction in car use of 9% across the targeted group of people. Of late there is also evidence of more people cycling from the data gathered through the cycle counters placed across the city. In addition, traffic flow data shows no significant increase in car use.*

- 1000 trees had been cut down during the building of the hospital and it was promised that these would be replaced. Approximately 300 trees have been replaced but many of them have died. Can you ensure that the trees would be replaced and that the ones that had died would also be replaced? *The Cabinet Member for Environment assured Members that the trees would be replaced. Approximately 800 trees had been replaced so far and was unaware that many had died. This would be looked into. As part of the Enterprise Contract there was a full survey of all the trees in the city being completed.*
- The Committee are still waiting for a response to the Friends of the Earth questions with regard to costings on the Waste 2020 facility. When can we expect to receive a report in response to the questions? *Officers advised that they were still waiting to hear from Friends of the Earth with regard to clarification on some of the questions. Members requested that a report be brought to the Committee as soon as possible.*
- Can you explain the item in the report which states that there will be a project to expand the Shopmobility scheme to local centres and provide charging points for scooters? *The ConAge bid was a bid to the European Commission to provide funding to improve and increase the use of sustainable travel to people over 50. More detail with particular reference to the Shopmobility scheme would be provided by the officer leading on the project.*

ACTION AGREED

The Committee agreed that:

- I. A full report on the progress of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) would be presented to the Committee in March 2012.
- II. A full copy of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid would be provided to Members.
- III. The Cabinet Member for Environment would look into the replacement of dead trees at the new hospital site.
- IV. A report be brought to the Committee on the costs of the Waste 2020 facility in answer to the Friends of the Earth questions.
- V. Further detail to be provided to Members on the expansion of the Shopmobility scheme to local centres and provision of charging points for scooters.
- VI. Officers to provide a demonstration to the Committee on The Peterborough Model at a future meeting.

7. Environment Capital: Introduction, Overview and Work Programme

The report presented the Committee with an overview of the issues, opportunities, priorities and challenges in connection with the Environment Capital theme. The Committee were asked to identify areas of work to be included in their work programme for the coming year. The report listed the Environment Capital Key Deliverables which were Environmental Businesses, Sustainable Transport, Conserving Natural Resources and Cleaner and Greener.

Members discussed the report and agreed that they should look at the area of conserving natural resources as the main theme of work over the coming year.

ACTION AGREED

That the Committee looks at the theme of conserving natural resources for the work programme for 2011/2012. This to include:

- Consideration of a policy on renewable energy
- Street Lighting Capital Project
- Green Deal Initiative

8. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

The latest version of the Forward Plan, showing details of the key decisions that the Leader of the Council believed the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would be making over the next four months, was received.

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the Forward Plan and agreed that there were no items for further consideration.

9. Work Programme

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme for 2010/11 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

ACTION AGREED

To confirm the work programme for 2010/11 and the Scrutiny Officer to include any additional items as requested during the meeting.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

8 September 2011

CHAIRMAN
7.00 - 9.05pm

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