



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT
CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE BOUGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL
ON 10 JUNE 2015**

Present: Councillors Sandford (Chairman), N Khan MBE, D Over, R Brown, A Iqbal, C Harper, R Bisby, M Jamil, JA Fox, J Whitby

Also Present: Councillor JR Fox, Group Leader, Werrington First

Officers Present: Anne Keogh, Housing and Strategic Planning Manager
Caroline Hannon, Senior Housing Strategy and Enabling Officer
Nicholas Harding, Head of Development and Construction
Steve Bowyer, Chief Executive, Opportunity Peterborough
Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer

1. Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman requested nominations from the Committee for the position of Vice Chairman of the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Jamil nominated Councillor Khan and Councillor Whitby seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations Councillor Khan was nominated as Vice Chairman of the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee for the 2015/2016 municipal year. As the appointment of Vice Chairman was originally approved at Full Council on 20 May 2015 the nomination would now go to the next meeting of Full Council on 15 July for approval.

2. Apologies for Absence

No Apologies for absence were received.

3. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

There were no declarations of interest or whipping declarations.

4. Minutes of Meetings held on 17 March 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2015 were approved as an accurate record.

5. Call in of any Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Key Officer Decisions

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

6. Establishment of Task and Finish Group to Review Peterborough Housing Strategy

The report was introduced by the Housing and Strategic Planning Manager. The report was provided in response to a motion approved at Full Council on 15 April 2015 where a recommendation was agreed that the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee establish a cross party Task and Finish Group to oversee the development of a refreshed Housing Strategy. The report provided the Committee with a draft Terms of Reference for consideration. Nominations from all Group Secretaries for

membership of the Task and Finish Group had been sought by the Senior Democratic Services Officer who updated the Committee on nominations received. The Committee were advised of the following nominations for approval:

- Councillor Thulbourn – Labour
- Councillor Bisby – Conservative
- Councillor Whitby – UKIP
- Councillor Judy Fox – Werrington First
- Councillor Saltmarsh – Peterborough Independent Forum
- Councillor Davidson – Liberal Democrats

A short discussion took place regarding the draft Terms of Reference.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

- Members suggested that some members of the Task and Finish Group should also be part of the Delivery Steering Group. *Members were advised that the Delivery Steering Group would be made up of key stakeholders and would be about the services they delivered. The meetings of the Delivery Steering Group would report back to the Task and Finish Group providing an opportunity for the Task and Finish Group to comment and feedback.*
- Members sought assurance that if the Task and Finish Group were disbanded and the Delivery Steering Group continued that there would be a way for Members to monitor delivery and implementation of the Housing Strategy. *Members were advised that the Delivery Steering Group would remain in place until the Housing Strategy was adopted through Cabinet and Full Council. The Task and Finish Group could continue until adoption of the Strategy and delivery and implementation could be monitored through the Committee.*
- Members agreed that it should be left to the Task and Finish Group to discuss if representation on the Delivery Steering Group was necessary and how long the Task and Finish Group would remain in existence. The Task and Finish Group would report back to the Committee with the draft Housing Strategy prior to presenting to Cabinet for approval to go out to consultation. The Committee would then agree how further monitoring of the strategy would take place.
- Councillor John Fox in attendance as Group Leader asked that the Task and Finish Group take into consideration the Armed Forces Covenant which states that Armed Forces personnel should have special access to private housing schemes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee endorsed the establishment of the Task and Finish Group to review the Peterborough Housing Strategy and agreed the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Task and Finish Group.
2. The Committee also recommended that the Task and Finish Group take in to consideration when reviewing the Housing Strategy that the Armed Forces Covenant was being fully implemented with regard to the provision of special access to private housing schemes for Armed Forces personnel.

7. Growth and Regeneration: Introduction, Overview and Work Programme

The report was introduced by the Head of Development and Construction and provided the Committee with an overview of the issues, opportunities, priorities and challenges in relation to the Growth and Regeneration Directorate. The Committee were recommended to discuss the content of the report and agree items that they might want to include in the work programme for the 2015/2016 municipal year. The Chief Executive of Opportunity

Peterborough was also in attendance and gave a brief overview of the work of Opportunity Peterborough explaining that it was the city's economic development company.

The following areas of activity were highlighted to the Committee for consideration in the work programme:

1. Development and Construction – major schemes:
 - 650 houses at Hampton
 - Ongoing redevelopment of the district hospital site
 - Changes at the Great Haddon development
 - Mixed use scheme at North Westgate
 - Extension to the Queensgate scheme
 - Fletton Quays development
2. Highways – Refresh of the Local Transport Plan
3. Growth agenda – an annual report to the Committee from the Peterborough Investment Partnership.

The Chair thanked the officers for an informative report.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

- Members sought clarification with regard to the North Westgate Scheme and wanted to know how quickly development would start once planning had been approved. *Members were advised that when planning permission is granted a series of planning conditions is attached which would include a time limit condition. The North Westgate Scheme plans would be for outline planning permission initially and then a set of detailed plans will be submitted at a later date through either a reserve matter application or a full application. Implementation of the scheme would be subject to the assembly of the land and for the private sector to determine .*
- Members requested early involvement in the refresh of the current Local Transport Plan (LTP) (2011-2016). Members felt that consideration should be given to diesel buses and links between health and transport. *Members were advised that an initial report to outline the purpose of the LTP and the proposed areas for review could be brought to the next meeting.*
- Members requested an update on the Street Lighting Replacement Programme at the next meeting.
- Members sought clarification as to the difference between the drainage and flood risk management role under the Peterborough Highway Services Team and the management of flood and water under the Sustainable Growth Strategy Team. *Members were advised that the former were involved in the practical aspects of managing surface water and the latter in policy and strategy.*
- Members sought clarification with regard to the role of street naming and numbering. *Members were informed that any new development had to have its streets named and numbered and then registered onto a National Land and Property Gazetteer. This was the primary role for this area of work however it also covered re numbering and naming of properties.*
- Members sought clarification on the name of the new skills centre. *The Chief Executive of Opportunity Peterborough advised Members that it was originally known as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Centre but it was realised that there would be more opportunities if were to be called The Future Business Centre Peterborough. The centre would still cover skills but would also include businesses and innovation. It will be a hub for developing skills for young people and apprenticeships and there will be businesses in the centre which are innovating. It will not be a dedicated teaching centre but skills will be at the core of what is being provided.*

- Members sought assurance that the new remit for the centre would not exclude vulnerable young people. *Members were assured that there would be no exclusions and that the company that would be running the centre was a charitable company called Allia who had done some very good work with young people and communities.*
- Members asked what was happening with the old Parcel Force Site which was now a brown field site. *Members were advised that the site had planning permission for a supermarket however the company which had originally applied for planning permission was now considering how they might develop the site differently.*
- Members asked about future burial and cemetery space as current provision may soon run out. *Members were advised that the Planning Team were working with the Bereavement Team to identify a potential new area for future use.*

ACTIONS AGREED

The Committee noted the report and agreed that the following items be added to the work programme for presentation at the July meeting:

- Local Transport Plan
- Street Lighting Replacement Programme

8. Review of 2014/15 and Future Work Programme 2015/2016

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with a review of the work undertaken during 2014/2015, Terms of Reference for the Committee, recommendations made during 2014/2015 and a draft work programme for discussion. The Officer also delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the principles of Good Scrutiny which covered the following:

The principals of good scrutiny:

- Provide a critical friend and challenge the executive policy makers and decision makers.
- Enables the voice and concerns of the public.
- Is carried out by independent minded governors, who lead and own the scrutiny role.
- Drives improvement in public services.

What makes scrutiny work?

- Ownership – Member led and Officer driven.
- Focus – Clear work programme and objectives.
- Research – Getting to know the real issues.
- Innovation – Engaging in different ways.
- Reputation – Being recognised for adding value and making an impact, tackling issues of direct relevance to local people.

The Committee should ensure that all work carried out by them:

- Is focused and relevant to the remit of the Committee
- Makes a positive impact on services.
- Promotes good practice.
- Challenges underperformance.
- Acts as a catalyst for change.
- Deals, where appropriate, with relevant partnership issues.
- Provides strong and clear recommendations to Cabinet or Council to enable positive outcomes.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer informed the Committee of the possibility of alternative Governance Arrangements going forward and how it was important for all scrutiny committees to think about the following:

- How scrutiny could help to influence change within new governance arrangements.
- There was an opportunity for the scrutiny committees to work together to help design the new model of alternative governance by thinking about what the new model would mean in terms of:
 - Number of scrutiny committees
 - Number of meetings
 - Terms of reference
 - Ways of working
 - How they would fit in to the whole process of reporting in to Cabinet/Council
- It was as an opportunity for scrutiny to make an impact and to add real value to the organisation.

The Chair invited the Committee to make suggestions for items for the 2015/2016 work programme. The following suggestions were put forward:

- Council Farms Estate Strategy – to monitor progress and look at how the educational aspect was progressing.
- Brown bins review and food recycling bins – monitoring progress since implementation and impact.
- Annual HR Monitoring report to include a snapshot over the last ten years on how the workforce has changed.
- Portfolio Progress Reports from:
 - Cabinet Member for Digital, Waste and Street Scene
 - Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development
 - Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital
 - Cabinet Member for Resources
- 20mph – Task and Finish Group Final Report – follow up report on recommendations made.
- Information update item on the installation of the Solar Panels Project across Peterborough.
- Environment Capital Strategy and Action Plan. Progress report. Additional information to be included on how the council protects its boundaries against pollution.

At this point the Chair advised the Committee that he had been approached by a member of the public to ask if he could speak to the committee and provide some suggestions for scrutiny. The Chair then invited the member of the public Mr Richard Olive, Campaigner for Friends of the Earth to address the Committee.

Mr Olive made the following suggestions for the work programme:

- Clarification on how Peterborough is achieving their environmental targets.
- Would like the Council to publish an annual sustainability report.
- Glass recycling.
- Inner caddies.

A short discussion was held around the work programme and it was highlighted that the September meeting currently had a heavy agenda and that thought should be given to moving some of the items. The Chair advised that an in-depth discussion on the work programme would be held at the first Group Representatives meeting where all items suggested would be considered. The work programme would then be looked at for the whole year.

ACTIONS AGREED

1. The Committee noted the report and agreed that the following items should be presented at the July meeting:
 - Biodiversity Strategy 2014/2015 Annual Report (already programmed in)
 - Local Transport Plan - outline the purpose of the LTP and the proposed areas for review
 - Street Lighting Replacement Programme Update
2. The Committee also agreed that all items suggested for the work programme during the meeting would be considered at the first Group Representatives meeting.
3. The Committee agreed to receive a briefing note on the Solar Panel Project.

9. Forward Plan of Executive Decisions

The Committee received the latest version of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions, containing key decisions that the Leader of the Council anticipated the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the course of the following month. Members were invited to comment on the Forward Plan and where appropriate identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's work programme.

Members sought clarification on the following key decisions:

- Fletton Quays – KEY/06MAR15/08
- Pleasure Fair Meadow – KEY/06MAR15/09
- Wirrina Car Park – KEY/06MAR15/10

Members were informed that the ownership of the land and assets referred to in the key decisions would be transferred to the Peterborough Investment Partnership. Council will get a receipt when the sites were developed. The sites had been adopted in the Council's adopted City Plan and have been identified for certain uses. The Chair requested a briefing note to detail the identified use for the sites.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Committee noted the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and requested a briefing note detailing identified use for the Fletton Quays, Pleasure Fair Meadow and Wirrina Car Park sites.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8. 50pm

CHAIRMAN