



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT
CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE BOUGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL
ON 12 NOVEMBER 2015**

Present: Councillors Sandford (Chairman), N Khan MBE (Vice Chairman), D Over, R Brown, B Rush, J Stokes, J Okonkowski, M Jamil, JA Fox

Also Present: Councillor JR Fox, Group Leader, Werrington First
Councillor Eley, Cabinet Member for Digital, Waste and Street Scene
Cllr North, Cabinet member for Communities & Environment Capital

Officers Present: Andy Tatt, Head of Peterborough Highways Services
James Collingridge, Amey Partnership Manager
Richard Pearn, Waste Partnership Manager
Richard Godfrey, Assistant Director Digital Peterborough
Charlotte Palmer, Environment, Transport and Future City Manager
Jon Petralanda, Environment Strategy Technical Officer
Gemma Wildman, Principal Planning Officer
Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Harper, Councillor Bisby and Councillor Whitby. Councillor Rush was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Harper, Councillor Stokes was in attendance for Councillor Bisby and Councillor Okonkowski was in attendance for Councillor Whitby.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

There were no declarations of interest or whipping declarations.

3. Minutes of Meetings held on 15 September 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2015 were approved as an accurate record.

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

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

Chairman's Announcement

The Chairman had received a request to move item 7, Portfolio Progress Report from the Cabinet Member for Digital Waste and Street Scene to the beginning of the agenda as the Cabinet Member would need to leave the meeting early to attend another council meeting. The Chairman asked the Committee if they would agree to this. The Committee unanimously agreed to move item 7 to the first item on the agenda.

5. Portfolio Progress Report from the Cabinet Member for Digital Waste and Street Scene

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Digital, Waste, and Street Scene. The report provided the committee with an annual update on the progress of the digital and waste areas of the Cabinet Members portfolio. The Cabinet Member highlighted the following:

- Two Bigbelly bins were now in place in Cathedral Square.
- The recycling incentive scheme had been launched and 172 residents had signed up.
- The Digital Strategy was being rolled out across the council. The council was now being seen as a leading example across the country.
- The energy recovery facility had now moved into the testing phase.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

- Had there been a decline in the use of the food waste bins. *Members were informed that there had been a decline and this was a national issue. In times of austerity people tend to be more careful and therefore have less waste. A reward scheme was being introduced with the introduction of free waste bags. Schemes were also on trial in blocks of flats.*
- Have alternatives to plastic bags been considered. *Members were informed that the alternative was already there in that people could use newspaper in the caddy.*
- Members referred to page 37 and were pleased to see the graph showing recycling figures included in the report. Whilst the graph did show that the total recycling and composting rates had fluctuated over a three year period it did not appear to have improved much since April 2012. The councils waste strategy states that it increase recycling to 65% by 2020. What action was being taken to improve performance to achieve this target? *Members were informed that whilst work was being done to increase the amount of items being recycled the actual items often weighed less now due to being manufactured out of different materials, also there was a lot less paper being recycled due to digital media. Different trends affected the amount of items to be recycled. New schemes of recycling were continually being taken into account.*
- The type of material that could go into the green bin had been expanded but this did not appear to have had much impact on recycling rates. *Members were advised that the new contract was signed in September but most of the advertising material went out in late October / early November which caused a slight delay in the performance. Recycling was also cyclical e.g. there would be a lot more around Christmas time.*
- Members were informed that the brown bin garden waste scheme did show a dip when the charging scheme was first brought in but then it rose again. Garden waste was affected by seasonality.
- Members commented that the council's internet site had become easier to use.
- Members highlighted that there were still some areas to improve on with regard to the digital strategy e.g. work and private phones and not being able to use as one phone and having a central calendar showing all meetings. *Members were informed that MobileIron security on council phones enabled information on the phone to be cleared should the phone be lost or stolen. It therefore meant that they could not be used for private use as well as this would mean that all private information would be wiped off the phone as well. The central calendar was currently being worked on.*
- Different IT packages were being looked at for Councillors to ensure the best package of IT equipment was issued.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Committee noted the report.

6. Update on Peterborough City Councils 2014/15 Carbon Emissions as Submitted Under Different Reporting Requirements

The report was introduced by the Environment Strategy Technical Officer and provided the Committee with an update on Peterborough City Councils 2014/15 carbon dioxide emissions. The emissions are reported as part of its mandatory participation in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme, the local authorities Greenhouse Gas Report (formerly NI 185) and to assess progress under the city council's Carbon Management Action Plan. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital and the Environment, Transport and Future City Manager were also in attendance.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

- Why were there no indicators around the city to show the levels of pollution? The interactive screen on Long Causeway in the city centre could be used to provide this information. *Members were advised that the content on the interactive screens in Long Causeway was provided through the Peterborough DNA project and was designed by local residents. Additionally as part of the Peterborough DNA project weather stations have been installed in schools across the city. Schools were able to collect data about weather and air quality and young people were able to understand the impact of carbon emissions. New information and environmental statistics could be provided on the screens in due course but there was a cost incurred with each update.*
- What was the most polluted area in the city? *Members were advised that the report did not relate to pollution. The report related to carbon emissions from the council carrying out its day to day activities and its gas and electricity energy consumption.*
- Where does the council get its electricity from? *Members were informed that most of the electricity came from the National Grid and when choosing a supplier one of the factors taken into consideration was the environmental factor. Increasingly more electricity was being taken from the councils own renewable energy schemes.*

7.37pm - Councillor Jamil left the meeting at this point.

- How is the carbon dioxide measured? *The Environment Strategy Technical Officer referred to the report which stated that there were two types of measurements and gave further explanation and context around these.*
- Members sought clarification with regard to paying for carbon and what this meant. *Members were informed that this related to a government scheme which had been introduced to try and decrease the carbon emissions across the UK. All organisations that consumed a certain amount of energy were asked to take part in the scheme which was administered by the Environment Agency. A calculation was made on the amount of carbon dioxide emissions each organisation used and a tariff applied accordingly as a form of tax. The incentive was to reduce the carbon emissions and therefore reduce the amount of tax paid.*
- The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that having the targets in place to reduce carbon emissions brought benefits to the city and to aspire to be the Environment Capital.
- Members referred to paragraph 5.3, table 2, *Carbon Dioxide Emissions* in the report. Why was the street lighting emissions increasing when new lighting had been put in place with the purpose of reducing emissions. *Members were informed that the street lighting consumption had reduced by 4% due to the installation of LED lighting but the overall emissions had increased because the conversion factor had changed. The conversion factor had changed due to the change in the UK energy mix and had become more carbon intensive. The overall trend was however downwards.*
- Members noted that there were several ways of measuring carbon dioxide emissions and asked if there could be a focus on one measure like the Carbon Management Action Plan as this included clear targets. *Members were informed that there was a requirement to report against all areas listed in the report however future reports could focus more on the Carbon Management Action Plan.*

- If electricity was purchased from certified renewable sources would this reduce the carbon emissions. *Members were advised that it would not make a difference as all electricity came from the National Grid.*

ACTIONS AGREED

1. The Committee noted the report and requested the following information to be provided in a briefing note:
 - The amount of renewable energy used by the council.
 - Information on where the council sources its electricity from.
2. The consumption and conversion tables for carbon dioxide emissions to be provided in future reports and provide a focus on the Carbon Management Action Plan.

7. Portfolio Progress Report from the Cabinet Member for Communities & Environment Capital including Environment Capital Annual Report

The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Communities & Environment Capital which provided the Committee with an update on the progress of areas within his portfolio for Environment Capital and a progress report on the Environment Capital Action Plan.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

- Members referred to page 22 of the report and sought clarification on the Green Flag scheme. *Members were informed that the appropriateness of the award for open spaces was being reviewed as it did not always represent the good work undertaken in some areas of open space. An example was the Nene Park Trust and Ferry Meadows who had not reapplied for the award and had decided to focus on other accreditation schemes more suitable for country parks.*
- Members noted and congratulated the initiative regarding the repurpose of hessian sacks and felt that initiatives like this should be promoted when Full Council was in attendance.
- Members commented on an initiative recently published regarding Grow your own food in open spaces including the possibility of roof space should be looked into further by the council.
- Members asked if fly tipping of garden waste had increased. Officers did not have the information available and would find out and report back to the Committee.
- Members referred to page 30 and the Housing Stock survey which was rated as 'Green' and based on the Private Sector Stock Modelling report which had not been published yet. How could the rating therefore be classed as 'Green'. *Members were informed the target was due to be achieved by 2016 but the 'Green' status meant that it was on track to achieve this.*
- The Government's target is to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016 but if the council did not know how many dwellings in Peterborough were in fuel poverty how can you assess if fuel poverty has been eradicated. *Members were informed that the target was to undertake a housing stock survey to ascertain homes in fuel poverty and this had been achieved. The report was currently being reviewed and this could be shared with the Committee.*
- Members referred to the Green Deal Community Fund and that it was due to end in September 2015. It was noted that some of the suppliers had gone bankrupt and therefore not everyone targeted to benefit from this scheme had done so. Could the scheme be extended? What was being done to manage this? *Members were advised that a summary report on the actions to be taken would be provided to the Committee.*
- Members referred to the Forest of Peterborough which had been successful. Members had noted that 25,000 of the 84,000 trees had been planted in Burghley estate away from the city centre. There had not been much of the Forest of Peterborough planted in the

urban areas. What more could be done to plant the trees closer to Peterborough. *The Cabinet Member responded that he was working with the Natural and Historic Environment Manager to ensure the right type of trees were planted in the right areas of Peterborough. A report on the tree canopy across the city and urban areas could be provided.*

- Members referred to page 28 of the report and the statement *“The council introduced five electric vehicles into its fleet..... 25,207 miles have been travelled so far, saving 4,137 kg of CO2e”*. Was this transferring the carbon dioxide emissions from one source of fuel to another? *Members were advised that this was correct but the carbon emissions were lower from electric cars.*

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommended that the Cabinet Member for Communities & Environment Capital investigate the use of council land for food growing and to encourage allotment growers and farmers to make available food not in demand by shops and supermarkets.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Committee noted the report and requested the following information:

- Data on fly tipping of garden waste.
- Report on the housing stock survey to ascertain homes in fuel poverty.
- Summary report on actions being taken with regard to the ending of the Green Deal Communities Fund.

8. Peterborough Preliminary Draft Local Plan

The report was introduced by the Principal Planning Officer. The report provided the Committee with a Preliminary Draft Local Plan for comment before being submitted to Cabinet for approval on 14 December 2015.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

- Members were concerned at what Peterborough might look like in 10 to 15 years' time. It was important to have a city with green areas, was well organised and had the right kind of housing. The Local Plan should have a forward looking view to the future.
- Page 113, paragraph 4.35, *“One or more new urban extension or other nearby large scale allocation may need to be allocated in this Local Plan and any suggestion as to where would be welcome”*. Had consideration been given to the A47 corridor west of Peterborough? *Members were informed that no sites had been identified yet and that was the next stage of the plan. Developers would be asked to put forward suggested sites and a detailed transport assessment would be undertaken.*
- Page 119, paragraph 4.48 regarding the River Nene. Had a bridge over the river been considered? *Members were informed that the adopted City Centre Plan set out a plan to connect the South Bank, Fletton Keys and the embankment.*
- Page 134 and the list of local centres. No mention had been made to Cardea at Stanground. *Members were advised that it should have been included and would check into this.*
- Page 151, Local Green Space. It is mentioned in the report that local green space is a national designation. If a council wanted to build on a piece of green space does national designation apply. *Members were informed that there was a strict criteria that had to be met for an area of green space to become a designated area. The Local Plan is seeking suggestions for designated areas but once designated the default would be that it could not be built on.*

- Page 153, paragraph 5.140, Green Wedges. Members sought clarification regarding the area that separated Stanground from Farcet and the fact that part of it was owned by Huntingdon District Council. Could this area still be protected by Peterborough City Council against development. *Members were informed that a small part of it was within Peterborough City Councils boundary.*
- Could a Green Wedge be created between Peterborough and Kings Dyke, Whittlesey? *Members were informed that the idea of a Green Wedge was to protect the coalescence of the urban area with nearby settlements. It was not like a green belt policy.*
- Page 167, paragraph 6.3, bullet point 2. Members noted the reference to 'wildfire sites' and sought clarification as to whether it should be 'wildlife sites'. *The officer advised that it should be and would correct it.*
- Page 181, Buildings of Local Importance, 118 High Street, Stanground South. Members noted that this building should be listed as Fletton not Stanground South. The Officer to correct this.
- Page 119, paragraph 4.49. *"The transport network in and around the city centre currently prioritises accessibility by car at the expense of pedestrians and cyclists"*. Members urged the officer to liaise with people with disabilities before planning access across roads.
- Page 138, The Policies, bullet point 2, *"Assist those with access and mobility difficulties"*. Members again urged the officer to liaise with people with disabilities to seek advice on the appropriate access required.
- Page 134, The Policies, District Centres. How could District Centres be improved when they were not owned by the council. *Members were advised that it was up to the owners of the centres to improve the areas.*
- Page 136, Transport and Infrastructure. Members noted that there was more detail in the Local Plan on transport than in the current Local Transport Plan which was currently out for consultation. Was this process being integrated into the Local Transport Plan? *Members were advised that officers were working closely regarding the Local Transport Plan and Local Plan and information in the Local Plan has been taken from the new Local Transport Plan.*
- Members asked the Officer to check the detail in the Local Transport Plan to ensure that the detail within the Local Plan was correct regarding Transport and Infrastructure.
- Page 138. Parking Standards. Members noted that there was only one line of information on the various options and suggested that more detail be included. *Members were informed that there would be a sustainability report with more detail that would sit alongside the Local Plan. The officer advised that an extra line of detail would be included to expand on the various parking options.*
- Members requested that the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule be brought before scrutiny before going to Council. *The officer responded that this would be looked into.*
- Page 162, paragraph 5.175, referring to the criteria for development proposals involving one or more wind turbines, namely that the site must be allocated in the development plan (either the Local Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan). Members commented that very few areas in Peterborough had a Neighbourhood Plan. The statement therefore meant that there could not be any renewable energy sites anywhere where there was no Neighbourhood Plan. *Members were informed that this referred to wind farms. If a developer wanted to put up two or more wind turbines then a site would need to have been identified within either the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan. No sites had currently been put forward but paragraph 5.176 did ask for views on this.*
- There was no mention of cemetery sites in the Local Plan. Members were advised that the Local Plan does ask for potential sites for cemeteries but the officer would check this.
- Members were advised that a document would be created listing all suggested sites and a task group would be formed to go through the suggested sites to assist with determining which sites should be ruled out.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee noted the report and recommended that the Principal Planning Officer take into consideration all comments raised by the Committee for inclusion in the Draft Local Plan.

9. Revised Peterborough Statement of Community Involvement

The report was introduced by the Principal Planning Officer. The report provided the Committee with the revised Statement of Community Involvement for comment before being presented to Cabinet for approval on 14 December 2015.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

- Members were informed that a Neighbourhood Plan would become part of the Development Plan and would therefore be taken into consideration with any planning application. If there was a High Court appeal after a planning application with a Neighbourhood Plan was refused the responsibility would lie with the council not the Parish Council.
- How many Parish's or groups have completed a Neighbourhood Plan. *Members were advised that 7 areas had been dedicated and Peakirk would currently developing one.*
- Members commented that the process for producing a Neighbourhood Plan was quite complex was there anything more that the council could do to support the development of the plans. *Members were advised that the support was limited due to costs and resourcing but there were grants that Parish Councils could apply for.*

ACTION AGREED

The Committee noted the report.

10. 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.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Committee noted the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and requested further information on the following:

- Real Time Passenger Information – KEY/10JUL15/02
- Future of America Farm Solar and Wind Project – KEY/02OCT15/02

11. Work Programme 2015/2016

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme for 2015/16 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

ACTION AGREED

To confirm the work programme for 2015/16 and the Senior Democratic Services Officer to include any additional items as requested during the meeting.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 9.20pm

CHAIRMAN