



**MINUTES OF THE GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT 7PM ON  
WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE 2017  
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors Peach (Chairman), C Harper (Vice Chairman), R Brown, M Cereste, A Ellis, D Fower, J A Fox, M Jamil, D King, N Sandford, (Parish Councillor Co-opted Member) Keith Lievesley

**Officers Present:** Simon Machen, Corporate Director, Growth and Regeneration  
Andy Tatt, Head of Peterborough Highway Services  
Charlotte Palmer, Environment, Transport and Future City Manager  
Jim Daughton, Business Director, Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, Skanska  
Vicky Palazon, Head of Finance (Business Operations and Development)  
Marion Kelly, Interim Services Director, Financial Services  
Joanna Morley, Democratic Services Officer  
Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Richard Clarke.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest or whipping declarations.

**3. MINUTES OF THE GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2017**

The minutes of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 15 March 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**4. CALL IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISIONS**

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

**5. SKANSKA ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017**

The Head of Peterborough Highway Services introduced the annual report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to review the overall performance of the key performance indicators for the Peterborough Highway Services contract with Skanska which covered the period from April 2016 to March 2017. The report also contained an update on the implementation of the LED Street Lighting programme.

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

- A new depot had opened in May 2016. Under the previous contract the Council had not had their own depot but as the contract with Skanska was for ten years they now had long term use of the facility at Fengate.
- As part of the new depot a new salt barn had put into operation in September 2016. The barn could store 3,500 tonnes of salt which was double the capacity of the old barn and more than enough to cope with a bad winter.
- The Dragon Patcher was a £300,000 piece of equipment that treated road surfaces before major potholes appeared, because of the contract with Skanska the Council had use of this state of the art equipment for six weeks every year.
- At present the Dragon Patcher was shared with other Councils around the country but once a new machine had been acquired for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough would have increased access and usage of the equipment.
- Peterborough Highways Services (PHS) had won the national GO (Government Opportunities) Contract Management Initiative of the Year Award in March 2017 in recognition of the substantial savings the contract had delivered and also for the strong management of environmental impacts.
- Members were informed that an emergency call out was where the Council had two hours in which to respond and take action. An example of an emergency situation was where electrical wiring was exposed or where a manhole cover was missing.
- Category 1 defects needed to be repaired within 24 hours and an example of this was a large pothole appearing. Three monthly repairs consisted of planned work and a risk assessment was undertaken to determine how quickly repairs should be done and when the work would be scheduled in.
- The Council liaised with the Highways Authority on a regular basis in an attempt to mitigate traffic jams and disruption. Every authority had street work co-ordinators however there was so much work going on in the network that it was becoming increasingly difficult to co-ordinate, especially when the utility companies also had to be consulted.
- The Amey city centre contract had not yet been formalised.
- 2,000 LED units out of an overall target of 19,000 had been installed. There had been an issue with one of the subcontractors that had caused a delay but resources had been increased and the projected timescale was now back on track. The Council was now hoping to beat its target so that efficiency savings could be maximised.
- The LED replacement programme replaced both the bulbs and cables.
- There had been a problem with Rhubarb Bridge where the lights had been out for some time. The bridge and junction 18 was a more complex issue as some of the lights were owned by Highways England. Often with cable faults once repaired the fault would just move further down the line and this was why the Council was upgrading the cables as well as replacing bulbs with LED units.
- The LED roll out was initially planned over three years but PHS were trying to accelerate this to two and a half years. The roll out had to be done in a managed way which was why the heads were being replaced first in order to maximise energy savings. The lampposts or columns would be replaced at a later date and although there was some delay in column purchase no problems were expected.
- The Council was able to put pressure on developers to fix issues on new unadopted roads as they had a duty of care to residents. However with existing unadopted roads there was little that the Council could do.
- There were different types of lighting 'heads' which were designed to specification. The heads used on Bourges Boulevard were larger so that light could spread out and cover the whole of the dual carriageway.
- The latest heads had different connectors so that different technologies eg. Wifi, could be installed at a later date. In this way the Council was hoping to future proof the street lighting system as much as possible.
- PHS hoped to improve communication about impending works with the increased use of social media.

- All four former contracts had been pulled into one contract that had already delivered savings in excess of £1 million. Funding had also been secured through successful bids for grants.
- The level of investment in road maintenance had increased both in terms of capital maintenance and new investment.
- The National Highways and Transport Annual Survey captured public satisfaction of services delivered by local authorities and the survey had been run in Peterborough for the last two years. The government encouraged the use of the surveys so that local authorities could benchmark against each other.
- When major schemes were undertaken survey cards were delivered to residents and the feedback was used when measuring performance against key performance indicators.
- The new lighting columns had identification plaques on them with a telephone number to call if there was a problem. There was a balancing act in placing the plaques where people could see them but at the same time being mindful of potential vandalism.
- The new lighting system had a sensor which sent a signal back to the command centre and which detected the strength of the electricity feed therefore detecting flickers and enabling the Council to fix the light before it failed.
- In some areas such as walking or cycling routes alternative lighting such as footpath and fence lighting might be considered if practical. LED solar studs had been used in some areas but they came at an increased cost.
- LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) growth funding could only be used for housing and growth and could not be used for road maintenance.
- The budget for cleaning signs or bus shelters had been cut a few years ago. The Council worked closely with Amey to cut back foliage to keep signage clear.

## **AGREED ACTIONS**

1. The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note and comment on the report and:
2. Requested that Officers provide a briefing note detailing examples of the sorts of issues that occurred within each of the stated repair deadlines of 7 and 28 days or 3 months.

## **6. TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY AND DIGITAL UPDATE**

The Interim Service Director, Financial Services introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update on the progress of delivering the council's Technology Strategy 2014-2019 and a general digital update including delivery of £2.7m front door savings.

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

- The Council currently had a huge number of servers in one room which was very expensive to maintain. Moving to the Cloud meant that the Council would pay a monthly subscription fee instead which would be much cheaper. The Cloud storage could be increased or decreased, effectively switched on and off as demand dictated.
- Members were concerned that there may be issues such as fee increases once Britain had left the EU.
- Some service area's storage such as that of Children's Services, would not be placed on the Cloud as it did not meet the safety requirements of third party organisations.
- Councillors expressed concern that some of the security measures put in place were not very user friendly.
- The Council had moved to a two-step security process to further guard against cyber-attacks. Training would be provided to Members who had problems using this additional two-step process.

- Internet coverage in Peterborough was currently at 96.7% which exceeded the UK target of 95%. The Council were looking to extend that coverage further to 98%.
- Officers had been working on making the Council's website much more user friendly and were now looking at upgrades which included such things as tracking eyeball movements to see how the website was being used and then changing the front page accordingly.
- The Payment Strategy was due out soon and this looked at increasing online payments using a variety of methods including smartphones and apple pay. The payment strategy would look at digital inclusion. Assistance would be offered to elderly people to encourage the use of new technology. Alternative methods such as payment of council tax at the post office would still be available.
- The My Peterborough app for smartphones was being updated and promoted.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

1. The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the progress of delivering the Technology Strategy 2014 – 2019 and digital projects. The Committee commented on the report and requested that Officers attend Member Officer Working Group meetings to give further updates.
2. The Committee requested that the Interim Service Director, Financial Services come back to the Committee at a later date to discuss the effects of Brexit (if any) on the current cloud storage arrangements in Southern Ireland and Amsterdam

## **7. REVIEW OF 2016/2017 AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2017/2018**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which considered the 2016/17 year in review and looked at the work programme for the new municipal year 2017/18 to determine priorities and agree the proposed way forward for monitoring future recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to recommend that the monitoring of future recommendations as proposed in paragraph 5.2 of the report be agreed and that a report be provided at each meeting to note the outcome of any recommendations made at the previous meeting held thereby providing an opportunity for the Committee to request further monitoring of the recommendation should this be required.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

1. The Committee agreed to approve the draft work programme for 2017/18.
2. The Committee noted the Terms of Reference for the Committee as set out in as set out in Part 3, Section 4, Overview and Scrutiny Functions and in particular paragraph 2.1 item 2 Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee and paragraph 3.8 Flood Risk Management as attached at Appendix 3.

## **8. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Committee received the latest version of the Council's 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 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.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

1. The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and requested further information on the following Executive Decisions:
  - Award of Contract – Social Care Platform KEY/24JULY17/01
  - Award of Contract – Social Care Operating Model KEY/24JULY17/05
2. The Senior Democratic Services Officer to circulate a briefing note on;
  - Market Position Statement – KEY/08AUG16/01
3. The Corporate Director, Growth and Regeneration to provide the Committee with the budget figures for the refurbishment of the town hall as agreed within the following Key decision:
  - Town Hall South Remodelling – KEY/01MAY17/04

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Wednesday, 13 September 2017

CHAIRMAN  
7.00pm – 8.38pm