

**MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 7.00PM, ON
WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2022
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors N Day (Chair), C Wiggin (Vice-Chair), C Burbage, G Casey, M Farooq, JA Fox, A Jones, D Jones, M Rangzeb, M Sabir, L Sharp and Independent Co-opted Members Stuart Dawks and Dr Esther Norton

Also in attendance: Zara Miftari and Miriam Sellick, Youth Council Representatives

Officers Present: Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy
James Collingridge, Head of Environmental Partnerships
Richard Pearn, Head of Waste, Resources and Energy
Hannah Swinburne, Principal Climate Change Officer
Charlotte Cameron, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Councillor Nigel Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene, and the Environment

23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Perkins and Councillor Rangzeb attended as substitute.

Apologies for absence were also received from Parish Councillor June Bull and Independent Co-opted Member Matthew Barber.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

Independent Co-opted Member Stuart Dawks declared a non-pecuniary interest as Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) had been working with Peterborough City Council's waste team on a project called Blueprint.

25. MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

The minutes of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 5 September 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

No call ins were received.

27. **PORTFOLIO PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR WASTE, STREET SCENE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

The Climate Change and Environment Committee received a report in relation to the progress of items under the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene, and the Environment.

The purpose of the report was to provide an overview of all the key portfolio areas. It also provided an overview of the current performance of Aragon Direct Services, including recycling rates and open space management.

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and the Environment accompanied by the Head of Environmental Partnerships and Head of Waste, Resources and Energy introduced the report and highlighted key points including:

Officers confirmed their experience in this area, the Head of Waste, Resources and Energy had 22 years' experience and the Head of Environmental Partnerships had 19 years' experience.

The Cabinet Member referred to the financial situation of the Council and noted the funding priorities of different service areas. Officers had looked at improving recycling rates through an education team that would help promote recycling.

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

- Members referred to page 13 and sought clarification on the number of fly tipping cases by ward area. The Officer advised that Aragon had use of the Bartec service management system that stored that information.
- Members were advised that the team had been successful in a bid for Police and Crime Commission funding and had received some AI (Artificial Intelligence) cameras to help tackle fly tipping in the city.
- Members thanked Officers for the continued updates provided to the past Fly Tipping Working Group.
- Members asked why the frequency of fly tipping had not reduced. The Officer advised that there were surveillance cameras being deployed in known problem areas as deterrents. The Cabinet Member also advised that the Council had only received 2 cameras but would be focused on increasing that number.
- Members referred to the free bulky waste service and the Cabinet Member advised that the free bulky waste service would be unlikely given the financial situation of the Council.
- Members sought clarification on this as section 4.5.5 of the report had referred to the bulky waste service being free from November 2022. The Head of Environmental Partnerships advised that this referred to the use of the Fix my Street app to record a collection request, which would have the capacity to offer a free service in the future.
- The Cabinet Member advised the Committee that enforcement issues fell under another Cabinet portfolio but that the Cabinet were and would continue to work together on these issues.
- Members questioned what the nationally available tool kit referred to in section 4.2.2 was. The Head of Waste, Resources and Energy advised that this was a project called Scrap It which had been initiated by the Home Office. The goal of the project would enable Council's to raise awareness of recycling and waste initiatives.

- Members were advised that the team had made a bid for Police and Crime funding to purchase more ANPR cameras.
- Members referred to section 4.2.4 and sought clarification on the length of time it took for bulky waste to be collected. Members were advised that Aragon staff were currently making 30 collections a day and when staffing levels allowed, bulky waste visits per day would be increased.
- Members questioned the restrictions on the types of vans allowed to enter the recycling centre. The Cabinet Member advised that anyone with a van could apply for a permit and attend the site 12 times a year. Members were further advised that it was the statutory duty of the Council to dispose of household waste and not commercial waste.
- Members were advised that there had been work undertaken to investigate building a fit for purpose commercial waste centre to allow more residents to make use of the recycling centre.
- The Head of Waste, Resources and Energy clarified that the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) was provided to residents free of charge, for household waste only.
- Members questioned if the caddy's had been used consistently and were advised that the uptake had dropped off but there were plans for another round of communications to promote them.
- Members referred to the quality of the new dark grey caddy's and questioned why the Council would charge for low quality items. The Cabinet Member advised that he had met with the supplier of the caddy's as they had felt the quality was not what was expected, and the wider team were looking at alternative suppliers.
- Members requested a checklist be provided that detailed how Councillors could be involved directly with the recycling and waste campaigns.
- Members referred to the recycling rates on 4.2.3 and the Cabinet Member advised that it had been a difficult 18 months but that things had improved.
- The Head of Waste, Resources and Energy advised that there had been a meeting with Feridor Energy who had informed the team that levels of residual waste had fallen. He furthered by stating that work would be ongoing with the HRC to provide some educational tools on segregating waste.
- Members were advised of the business case that had been submitted which had requested an additional 5% in funding to support recycling education.
- The Head of Environmental Partnerships advised that they could be target specific with data contamination issues and could develop specific projects in various wards.
- The Youth Councillor referred to the 4 parks with green flag status and queried whether Central Park had retained theirs. The Cabinet Member advised that the funding had been lost to provide green flag status to Central Park.
- The Youth Councillor referred to Home-School Transport provision and asked whether active travel routes had been considered. Members were advised that the Home-School Transport Policy had been to the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and further details on the active routes could be found in that report.
- The Head of Environmental Partnerships further advised that the transport Aragon dealt with related to accessible minibuses for children with special educational needs.
- Members referred to section 4.2.7 and the Extended Producer Responsibility legislation and sought clarification on where producers were with this work. The

Head of Waste, Environment and Resources advised that some packaging had moved from a hybrid package to one material which highlighted that the market had reacted prior to the legislation being enacted.

- The Cabinet Member also advised that the legislation meant that the signage on packaging would be clearer and would make it easier for people to recycle.
- Members referred to biodiversity areas and sought clarification on what the negative comments received by residents were and what work had been done to overcome them. Members were advised that there had been an assumption that the areas were not maintained, and new signage had been put in to explain the benefit of the areas.
- The Head of Environmental Partnerships advised that there had been fires in two of the areas but after discussions with the fire department, work had been done to increase the gap between resident's fences and the area. The fire departments were happy with the work and the team were now looking at some potential new sites.
- Members were encouraged to let the team know of any areas in their wards which would be suitable as a biodiversity area.
- Members asked what the targets for recycling rates were and how they compared to the Council's statistical neighbours. Members were advised that the Council had met the national average for recycling targets and were confident that with an education team this would improve by 10%.
- Members noted the lack of waste minimisation information in the report and queried why that had not been included. Members were advised that campaigns had run which provided education on waste management.
- Members were also advised that the HRC had an area for goods that were suitable to be reused.
- Members queried if Westcombe Industries production had returned to pre-covid levels and if they would continue their partnership with Perkins Caterpillar. Members were advised that they had turned the corner and had expanded their partnerships. The Head of Environmental Partnerships followed and stated that Westcombe had diversified to include small business in Peterborough and larger business from outside the area.
- Members were advised that numerous companies had asked Westcombe for quotes on work and that the biggest concern for the business had been the cost of raw materials which had been dealt with by a review of all prices.
- Members noted and were pleased with the comments on Westcombe Industries.
- Members referred to refuse vehicles and queried if they had been tested for their size and accessibility on the city's roads. Members were advised that there were 11 areas across the city that were an issue but that the new vehicles were the same size as the old ones.
- Members were advised that the concern was the increase in parking across the city rather than the size of the new vehicles.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Consider and scrutinise this report and endorsed the approach being taken under the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene, and Environment.

The Committee also requested that the Head of Environmental Partnerships:

- Provide the Committee with a briefing note on the data from the enforcement team which details the frequency of fly tipping, broken down by area.
- Provide the Committee and wider Councillors with a checklist on how Councillors can promote the waste agenda in their wards.

28. LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the request to endorse the adoption of the Local Area Energy Plan by Council.

The purpose of the report was to present the findings of the Local Area Energy Plan and seek endorsement to adopt the Local Area Energy Plan by Council. The report included the final version of the Local Area Energy Plan and followed a previous report to the Scrutiny Committee which detailed some of the findings.

The Principal Climate Change Officer introduced the report and highlighted key points including:

The Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) considered the current and future energy demands of the city. It looked at the need to retrofit and improve the energy efficiency of buildings, improve low carbon heating and what the future energy demand would be.

The plan had put together the most cost-effective way for decarbonising the city and Peterborough was one of the first to have had a plan of this kind. However, the plan was not set in stone but did present the best piece of evidence available at that time. Future policy developments and behavioural changes of residents could lead to more favourable pathways and the LAEP would be adopted as a piece of evidence to assist decision making in those areas.

The report did state that this plan would require an 8.8-billion-pound investment and the Officer clarified that this would not be from the Council's budget but rather private investment and government grants.

The presentation of the LAEP was to seek endorsement from the Committee for it to be adopted at Full Council.

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

- Members queried how the cost of these plans would be presented to residents. Members were advised that the plan had looked at capital investment across the city, commercial businesses, and public sector organisations. The Officer acknowledged that this would be a lot of money for a household to commit to.
- Members sought further clarification on whether the plan had considered current interest rates. Members were advised it had not but that interest rates would have a negative impact on some payment plans as the payback period would be brought forward.
- Members questioned how low carbon heating systems were considered by the developers of new builds. The Officer advised that in the next fiscal year there would be more stringent conditions on new build requirements, including a carbon infrastructure lifespan.

- Members were advised that the current average EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) rating for the city was B but there would be room for improvements.
- Members referred to the transport section and queried if the plan could be more ambitious to include electric buses and active travel options. Members were advised that the LAEP only reviewed 70% of the city's emissions and buses/active travel options were not in that remit.
- Members queried if there had been a recommendation on how to deal with the on-street parking in the city. The Officer advised that there had been no specific recommendation, but options could include charging points along the streets.
- Members noted that other local authorities had been trailing a gully system in pathways. The Officer advised that if charging cables were to run along pavements, residents would be responsible if there were to be an accident.
- Members queried whether technological improvements would help solve some of the key issues. The Officer advised that the team had gone to procurement on the proposal for an Electric Vehicle (EV) implementation plan.
- Members asked what the plans were for dealing with the ban on petrol and diesel cars from 2030. Members were advised that there would be legislation that would help get people to move to EV's.
- Members referred to their experience of EV's, the short battery life, the time it took to charge them and their price comparability to the petrol and diesel vehicles. The Officer acknowledged Member concerns and advised that the use and development of EV's was a work in progress.
- The Officer updated Members on the progress of the Peterborough Integrated Renewables Infrastructure (PIRI) Project and advised that there had been an application for green heat network funding. The project had finished the detailed project development stage and had been looking at potential delivery partners.
- Members referred to the introduction of the pay charge for charging EV's and how that had worked when they cost more than a diesel car. The Officer appreciated the question and advised that the implementation of the charge had been a financially driven decision.
- Members noted that the typical EV driver would be more affluent than those who own a combustion engine and there had been some questions as to why the Council had been subsidising the more affluent.
- Members sought clarification on the infrastructure and ability of EV charging points. Member were advised that charging points were likely to be placed on residential properties and on street infrastructure would require groundwork.
- The Officer referred to research by the Scottish Government that had highlighted that if your EV networks were rolled out slower, other suppliers would not invest in the area.
- Members referred to the installation of electric pumps and the accessibility of them to low-income families. The Officer advised that the council did not set the prices, they were set by the free market.
- Members referred to 4.2.1 and questioned what efficiency upgrades the council would need to complete to meet net zero targets. The Officer advised that 66,000 homes required retrofitting and improved efficiency would be a low-cost way of reducing emissions in the future.
- Members queried how the plan would work with the electrical capacity of the city. The Officer advised that if all projects were undertaken there would be an increased usage of 47%.
- Members noted that the National Grid had projected to decarbonise by the 2030's which would offer renewable options to connect to the grid.
- Members sought clarification on the use of solar and wind energy sources. The Officer had advised that wind turbine permissions had been included in the LAEP, but that the level of local support would need to be determined.

- Members were advised of the list of low regrets and the work undertaken to deliver a city-wide action plan. Current work streams included the push to maximise insulation across domestic properties and financial energy efficiency upgrades across the city for low-income households.
- Members referred to the use of solar panels and queried if any of PCC's owned assets were viable for solar invest to save schemes. The Officer advised that there had been a project for a business case for roof mounted solar panels on council properties.
- Members followed up and asked if the invest to save schemes would be in the 2023-2024 budget. The Executive Director Place and Economy confirmed they would.
- Members sought clarification on whether Peterborough had been the first to receive a LAEP. The Officer advised that Manchester had been the first to receive and adopt a LAEP. However, Peterborough would be second if adopted at Full Council.
- Members congratulated Officers on leading the way with this kind of work.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Endorse the adoption of the Local Area Energy Plan and recommend that Cabinet endorses the Local Area Energy Plan.

The Committee also requested that the Principal Climate Change Officer provide the Committee with a briefing note on the Scottish Government Research around electrical vehicles and charging points.

29. MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which enabled the committee to monitor and track the progress of recommendations made to the Executive or Officers at previous meetings.

- There were no points raised.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the responses from Cabinet Members and Officers to recommendations made at previous meetings as attached in Appendix 1 to the report.

30. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Democratic Services 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.

- The Chair referred to questions on items 13, 14 and 15, that had been submitted by a co-opted member who had been unable to attend the meeting. Members agreed to request a briefing note on those items.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Committee considered the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and **RESOLVED** to note the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

The Committee also requested that the Transport and Environment Manager provide the Committee with a briefing note on Forward Plan Items

- Approval for contract to be awarded to Milestone to deliver construction of two active travel schemes which will form part of A1260 Junction 3 improvement project - KEY/7NOV22/02
- Approval for contract to be awarded to Milestone to deliver construction of active travel schemes and for payment of C4 utility costs for Fengate Eastern Industries Access improvement scheme - KEY/7NOV22/03
- Approval for contract to be awarded to Milestone to deliver full business case and detailed design for A16 Norwood improvement scheme. - KEY/7NOV22/04

31. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022/2023

The Democratic Services Officer presented the report which looked at the work programme for the municipal year 2022/23 to determine the Committees priorities.

- There were no points raised.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the Work Programme for 2022/2023 and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the Extraordinary Joint Scrutiny Meeting was noted as being 29 November 2022

The date of the next Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting was noted as being 4 January 2023.

CHAIR

Meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8:23pm