

**MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING
HELD AT 7.00PM, ON
WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 2024
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors Day (Chair), Sandford, JA Fox, A Jones, Perkins, Rush, Sharp, Simons, Warren and Independent Co-opted Members Matthew Barber, Stuart Dawks and Dr Esther Norton.

Others Present: Miriam Sellick, Youth Council Representative

Officers Present: Charlotte Palmer, Head of Environment and Climate Change
Amy Nebel, Senior Waste and Recycling Officer
Carole Coe, Commercial Manager, Energy and Environment
Vimal Bhana, Technical Specialist
Hannah Swinburne, Principal Climate Change Officer
Charlotte Cameron, Senior Democratic Services Officer

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

Councillor Alison Jones declared her role as a board member on Peterborough Limited.

**36. MINUTES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2023**

The minutes of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8 November 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

No call ins were received.

38. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Senior 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.

Members referred to decision Award of Bikeability Contract for 2024/25 –

KEY/04DEC23/04 and the level of pupil participation. Members asked Officers to focus promote this as part of the tender process.

AGREED ACTIONS

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

The committee also requested that part of the tender process for the award of the Bikeability Contract considers the promotion of pupil's participation.

39. NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the Governments current plans for Simpler Recycling and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and how these will impact the council.

The Senior Waste and Recycling Officer introduced the report and highlighted key points including:

There were limited impacts to the Council from the National Waste Strategy. The service area had trialled weekly food waste collections within the city. The recent legislation had put more emphasis on producers of the packaging which would make it easier to recycle as a local level.

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

- Members were advised that the trials had been in various areas and had included food waste housing to make it look more attractive. This had been rolled out to 15-20 block of flats and there had been varying degrees of usage.
- There was a lack of education, and some people did not know what it was for.
- Members asked for the list of areas where the flat food waste trial had been.
- The Youth Councillor referred to the engagement with schools on their recycling and Officers advised that they were not always directly involved with the collections and that academics sometimes had national waste contracts.
- Members referred to 4.2 and noted that the data suggested that a smaller residual waste bin would increase the recycling rates. Members raised that they would like to see a trial of that in the city.
- Members followed up and queried what the top 10 Councils had done to increase their recycling rates. Members were advised that all options were considered and that the team would look for ways to improve.
- The service area had trialled a collection of household batteries and vapes and the take up had been low.
- Members raised that the Welsh Councils were there were more containers had higher recycling rates. Officers advised that Welsh Authorities waste collection was fully funded.
- Members highlighted the importance of educating residents on recycling.
- Members referred to South Kesteven's approach and asked Officers to speak with that authority and consider the implications for Peterborough.
- The Education Team had worked to target the significant amounts of food waste in the black bin.

- The team had almost fully recruited and spent time on education programmes, specifically in nurseries and early years settings.
- They had also engaged with collection crews to identify problem areas where they could focus their attention.
- Members noted that feedback had included reference to language barriers to the team had produced new leaflets.
- Members praised the value of work of the education team.
- Members were advised that success was measured through the tonnage from rounds, the success of specific interventions.
- Officers were asked to consider an antilittering competition for primary schools to support increased engagement.
- Members asked Officers to engage with the Cross Keys to produce better signage for residents. Officers assured Members that they were working with Cross Keys to determine what the issues were to put solutions in place.

The following recommendation was proposed by Councillor Sandford and seconded by Councillor Rush, that the committee recommend the council carry out a trial where the size of the residual bins is reduced in an area of the city.

A vote was taken on the recommendation (4 voting for, 4 voting against and 1 abstaining) and the vote was **HUNG**.

The following amended recommendation was proposed by Councillor Sharp and seconded by Councillor Sandford, that Committee recommended that the council investigate the feasibility of carrying out a trial where the size of the residual bins is reduced.

A vote was taken on the amended recommendation from Councillor Sharp and was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee resolved to:

1. Review and provide comment on the impacts of the National Waste Strategy on Peterborough and offer advice, guidance and ideas to support the implementation of the food waste service to all flats in line with the requirements of the Simpler Recycling Plan.
2. Review the work undertaken to date by the council's new Education Team and offer guidance and support as necessary.

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee also requested the list of areas where the flat food waste trial had been.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that the council investigate the feasibility of carrying out a trial where the size of the residual bins is reduced.

40. PETERBOROUGH INTEGRATED RENEWABLES INFRASTRUCTURE (PIRI)

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the progress of the PIRI project and to seek support for a proposed new cross party working group.

The Commercial Manager, Energy & Environment accompanied by the Technical Advisor introduced the report and highlighted key points including:

This was a pioneering scheme that would provide a further heat and power source to the city. A cross party working group had been proposed to allow Councillors to meet with the project team.

Matters would be discussed on an informal basis, with representatives from each of the political parties invited to attend.

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

- There had been a workstream to secure a partner for the project as there was no expertise in house.
- There had been a lot of interest from Members and the working group would allow discussion of commercially sensitive items.
- The Youth Councillor asked if renewable energy generation included solar and wind. Officers advised that as the network expanded, there would be further options considered.
- Members raised that they had been sceptical about the project and queried the governance routes of the working group. Officers advised that a full business case would be developed and that would be brought back to scrutiny and cabinet.
- The group would be informed about the work Officers had undertaken and the Cabinet Member Decision Notice detailed the terms of reference and requirements of the group.
- Members were concerned that the group may be a waste of time and were advised that the group would allow Councillors to help develop the project.
- Members queried whether a task and finish group that reported into scrutiny would be better.
- Officers assured members that it would be an opportunity to discuss the development of the project and to develop the business case.

A vote was taken on recommendation 2 from Officers and was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.**

- Members were advised that vehicle charge points were an asset as they were a benefit to commercial end users.
- Members queried at what point the heat generations would transition to alternatives. Officers advised that they would be a source of heat and power and an alternative at this stage would be a water source heat pump.
- There had been conversations with stakeholders who had offered to provide their excess generated heat.
- The network would enable anything in the future to be connected and would enable further flexibility after the enabling phase.
- The project was reliant on a single source and Officers could not provide a date or timeline at this stage as there were still technical economic assessments to be conducted.
- Members were assured that from day one, the network would be designed to supply and take heat from alternative sources.
- Members referred to the 13.5 million in grant funding and queried whether

that would cover the cost of the pipes. Officers advised that the cost would not be covered, and that the Council were looking for a private sector partner.

- The project lifetime predication was that it would reduce carbon emissions by 75,000 tonnes.
- Officers advised that the claim to deliver a step change in transition towards net zero carbon had come from the source of energy from the incinerator and 42% from the grid from renewable resources.

AGREED ACTIONS

It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee:

1. Reviews the progress made towards delivering the PIRI project and provides comment on the next phases of the project.
2. Support the proposal to establish a cross party working group, as detailed in section 4.4, to inform and guide the progress of PIRI throughout the development of the Full Business Case stage.

41. OUTLINE OF PETERBOROUGH CITY-WIDE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the proposed approach to the development of the city-wide Climate Change Action Plan and for members to consider the recommendation to prepare this plan in line with the aspiration to be a net zero carbon city by 2040, in line with the scenario proposed in the adopted Local Area Energy Plan.

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

The Council had declared a climate emergency in 2019 and the City Council net zero carbon target was 2030.

The report detailed 3 pathways for the city-wide target of 2030, 2040 and 2050. The target of 2040 was proposed as it was ambitious but would reflect more accurately what might be possible. The proposed date would not delay any action.

Officers had a just transition in mind and had submitted a 3.2 million funding bid to help to deliver the net zero projects.

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

- Members queried why aviation had not been included as a primary focus and Officers advised that some elements had been included in an advisory way.
- Members praised Officers on the success of the project.
- Members were advised that the Council were the first to design a Local Area Energy Plan and one of the first to have the evidence of a city-wide decarbonisation pathway for the city.
- The original declaration of 2030 had been admirable and reflected the ambition of the Council. Officers assured Members that the progress would be evidence led and policy stances would adapt to any changes.
- The results of the climate debates had fed into the project and the team were looking out for opportunities to support projects.

- There would need to be different options for different people to reach net-zero.

Members supported recommendation 2 and noted that the city plan was behind target so 2030 would not be credible. There were a number of things that the Council did not have control over and the changes to national legislation meant that a 2030 target would not be achievable.

Members noted that the new plan would be ambitious but credible and were pleased to support the revised 2040 target for the City-Wide Climate Change Action Plan.

AGREED ACTIONS

It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee:

1. Reviews and provides comments on the proposed approach to developing a city-wide Climate Change Action Plan.
2. Supports the recommendation made by officers to prepare the plan in line with the aspiration to be a net zero carbon city by 2040, in line with the scenario proposed in the Local Area Energy Plan.

42. MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The Chair provided a verbal update on from the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change on the progress of the Cycling and Walking Task and Finish Group's recommendations.

The Cabinet had committed to approve all of the group's recommendations with the following amendments:

- Removing the specific reference to Bridge Street because we want to explore all options for a north / south cycle route through the city centre and to ensure it works with other Council plans (such as the expansion of the Market).
- Cabinet will approve the other recommended routes and we will task officers with doing further analysis work on each of the routes to identify the improvements that are needed. We need to consider the benefits the proposals will have for cycling along with any impacts that maybe caused, such as on bus services which are crucial for so many of our residents.
- Cabinet can support the removal of obstacles to cyclists like staggered barriers, in consultation with ward councillors, but this can only be done where it is safe to do so. Officers will discuss this further with relevant ward councillors on a case by case basis.

Members asked for:

- clarity on the north/south route and queried how they would prioritise Officers to look at accessibility in the city centre.
- definitive timelines on the developments of the Station Quarter and Fletton Quays.
- clarity on the work around Bridge Street and how quickly it could be done.

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee accepted the Cabinet Members amendments to the LCWIP routes subject to being provided with a definitive timeline that details the actions and next steps, and prioritisation for the north/south route.

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.

The Committee also accepted the Cabinet Members amendments to the LCWIP routes subject to being provided with a definitive timeline that details the actions and next steps, and prioritisation for the north/south route.

43. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which looked at the work programme for the municipal year 2023-2024 to determine the Committees priorities. Members were invited to make comments and suggestions.

There were no questions.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the Work Programme for 2023/2024 and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

33. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being the 13 March 2024.

CHAIR

Meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8.54pm