



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT  
CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE BOUGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL  
ON 6 NOVEMBER 2014**

**Present:** Councillors N Arculus (Chairman), R Brown, Y Maqbool, JA Fox, N Thulbourn, R Herdman

**Also Present:** Councillor JR Fox, Group Leader, Werrington First  
Councillor N North, Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital

**Officers Present:** Charlotte Palmer, Environment Strategy and Future City Manager  
Richard Godfrey, ICT Strategy, Infrastructure and Programme Manager  
Paulina Ford, Senior Governance Officer

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Iqbal and Councillor Fletcher. Councillor Herdman was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Fletcher. Apologies were also received from Simon Machen, Director for Growth and Regeneration.

**2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations**

There were no declarations of interest or whipping declarations.

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

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

**4. Portfolio Progress Report from Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital**

The report was introduced by the Environment Strategy and Future City Manager which provided the Committee with an update on the progress of items which fall under the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment with particular reference to his Environment Capital responsibilities.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

- Members asked how the silos of the Environment Capital Action Plan (ECAP) interacted with Council policy. *The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital responded that it was important that the plan became part of the everyday workings of the council and that decisions were made within the context of the ECAP. An example of this was the recent bid for the roads where consideration was given to how Green the company was and if they could work to support the ECAP.*
- Members followed-up asking how Members and the public could be informed if the action plan failed to be implemented and asked how organisations could be worked with to ensure they were able to comply with the action plan and remain viable. The Green Backyard was an example of a successful green project but the council was asking them to move from their current site. *The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment*

*Capital responded that the site where the Green Backyard Project was currently sited was only ever meant to be a temporary site. Various alternative options had been offered to the Green Backyard including the facility of buying part of the site and an alternative site. The Environment Strategy and Future City Manager added that the Climate Change team worked with officers in the council in order to assess the environmental impact of day-to-day work. It was also mandatory that the Climate Change team were part of the approval process for any project within the organisation.*

- *Members asked if there was a system in place for exclusion reports for decisions taken which were contrary to the council's environmental aspirations. The Environment Strategy and Future City Manager responded that all projects would have some environmental impact but it could be arranged in future to compile reports whereby decisions which failed to live up to the Council's environmental strategy could be reported. The Cabinet Member further added that he would be happy to facilitate this in future.*
- *Members asked if the group who currently leased the Green Backyard were looking at other areas to lease and if the Rail World site had been considered. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital responded that he was unaware if this had been looked into but agreed that it might be a possible site.*
- *Members asked if there was a way of assessing the impact in terms of cost and benefits of the ECAP. The Cabinet Member responded that this was already done to an extent but it was sometimes hard to express the impact in numbers with any accuracy. The Environment Strategy and Future City Manager responded that this could be looked at in a few key areas in order to see if the information gained was of value.*
- *Members referred to zero waste and asked what additional materials people would be able to put in their green bins. The Environment Strategy and Future City Manager responded that this would include a much wider range of plastics which could be put into recycle bins. The Cabinet Member advised Members that consideration was being given to putting this information on the My Peterborough App.*
- *Members asked for an opinion on the Healthy Living Team and their contribution and what would be lost if they were no longer around. The Cabinet Member responded that he felt they did a relevant and important job but all departments needed to be looked at and considered in the current economic climate.*
- *The Chair put forward a motion to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital prepare an exceptions report of Cabinet Member Decision Notices which were counter to the Environment Capital Action Plan and / or the City's Environment Capital aspirations and to report these to the Committee in all future portfolio progress reports. The motion was put to the vote and unanimously agreed.*

## **ACTION AGREED**

The Committee noted the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment Capital prepare an exceptions report of Cabinet Member Decision Notices which are counter to the Environment Capital Action Plan and / or the City's Environment Capital aspirations and to report these to the Committee in all future portfolio progress reports.

## **5. ICT Strategy 2014-2019**

The report was introduced by the ICT Strategy, Infrastructure and Programme Manager and provided the Committee with an overview of the councils Technology Strategy.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

- Members asked if any other local authorities were implementing similar strategies. *The ICT Strategy, Infrastructure and Programme Manager stated that there were some authorities who were implementing similar smaller strategies. Hounslow were implementing a similar strategy and were about nine months ahead of Peterborough but none had implemented anything along the scale of Peterborough's strategy. Several other authorities were keen to follow Peterborough's lead.*
- Members asked if the changes in the ICT Strategy were inevitable. *The ICT Strategy, Infrastructure and Programme Manager stated that this was largely the case. Many of the previous concerns were around data security but this was being increasingly addressed. The implementation would be a systematic process.*
- Members asked if it would be prudent to see how the new European Data Protection regulations would impact the policy before implementing the strategy. Members also wanted to know if it could be certain that data would not go beyond the European Economic Area. *The ICT Strategy, Infrastructure and Programme Manager responded that data would only go beyond the EEA if there was a specific agreement in place with a country outside the area. This was called the Safe Harbour Agreement. Furthermore, risk assessments would need to take into account all levels of risk for the data in order to have a case-based approach to data protection.*
- Members asked if the strategy would save the Council money in the long-term. *The ICT Strategy, Infrastructure and Programme Manager responded that there would be savings within service areas but the ICT budget would remain static and there would therefore be no further budgetary cost to the Council.*
- Members expressed concern around implementation and asked if it was possible to set up a demonstration of the system which could be shown to Councillors. *Members were advised that a demonstration could be arranged for Councillors.*

#### **ACTIONS AGREED**

The Committee noted the report and requested that the ICT Strategy, Infrastructure and Programme Manager arrange a demonstration of the ICT Strategy to all Councillors at a future All Party Policy briefing.

#### **6. Scrutiny in a Day – One Year On**

The report was introduced by the Senior Governance Officer which informed the Committee about the proposals to review the joint Scrutiny in a Day event held on 17 January 2014 by holding a further joint scrutiny event on 9 January 2015. The purpose of the half day event would be to review the progress made against the recommendations made and lines of enquiry developed since the Scrutiny in a Day event.

Questions and observations were made around the following areas:

- Members asked if more Scrutiny in a Day Events should be scheduled on other subjects. *The Senior Governance Officer responded that there was an appetite for this amongst officers but due to the amount of work involved it would more likely be a bi-annual event.*
- Members asked what sort of progress the Council had made with regards to Scrutiny. *The Senior Governance Officer responded that there had been a great deal of progress made in the past four years. Questioning techniques had improved and more recommendations were being made.*

#### **ACTIONS AGREED**

The Committee noted the report and endorsed the proposal to hold a Scrutiny in a Day follow up event on 9 January 2015.

#### **7. 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 key decision:

- A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvements – KEY14/14NOV14/02

#### **8. Work Programme**

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme for 2014/15 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

The Senior Governance Officer advised the Committee that dates for Joint Scrutiny of the Budget which would be in two phases had now been set for 3 December 2014 and 9 February 2015. Invitations to both meetings would be sent out in due course.

#### **ACTION AGREED**

To confirm the work programme for 2014/15 and the Senior Governance Officer to include any additional items as requested during the meeting.

#### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 13 January 2014

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8.15pm

CHAIRMAN