

**MINUTES OF THE GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY
MEETING
HELD AT 7PM, ON
MONDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Committee Members Present: Councillors C. Harper (Chair), K. Aitken, R. Brown, C Burbage G Casey (Vice-Chair), A. Ellis, Judy Fox, H. Howard, H. Skibsted, C. Wiggin, I Yasin.
Co-opted Member: Parish Councillor Keith Lievesley

Officers Present: Steve Cox – Executive Director, Place and Economy
Charlotte Palmer – Group Manager, Transport and Environment
Dorothy Poulter – Senior Environment and Pollution Officer
Fiona McMillan – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
James Collingridge – Head of Environmental Partnerships
Nick Harding – Head of Planning
David Beauchamp – Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Councillor Nick Sandford – Group Leader, Liberal Democrats
Councillor John Fox – Representing the Group Leader, Werrington First
Tom Hennessey – CEO, Opportunity Peterborough

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

No declarations of interest or whipping declarations were received.

3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON:

3.1. 24 FEBRUARY 2020 – JOINT SCRUTINY OF THE BUDGET

The minutes of the Joint Scrutiny of the Budget meeting held on 24 February 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record, subject to stating that Councillor Aitken was Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee under agenda item 5. Appointment of Chairman.

3.2. 11 MARCH 2020 – GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members requested an update on certain recommendations in the minutes. The Democratic Services Officer advised that these points should be raised under agenda item 10. Review of 2019/2020 and Work Programme for 2020/21.

The minutes of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee held on 11 March 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

In accordance with Standing Orders, Members were asked to determine whether the exempt annex relating to item 13, Opportunity Peterborough, which contained exempt information as defined by Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A, Part 1, Local Government Act 1972, should be exempt and the press and public excluded from the meeting should this annex be discussed, or whether the public interest in disclosing this information outweighed the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

It was UNANIMOUSLY agreed to exclude the press and public for Item 13 should the Exempt Annex be discussed.

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

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

6. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBER

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the appointment of a Co-opted Member in accordance with the Council's Constitution Part 3, Section 4 – Overview and Scrutiny Functions.

The purpose of the report was to seek approval from the Committee to appoint Parish Councillor Keith Lievesley as a non-voting Co-opted Member to represent the rural communities for the municipal year 2020/2021.

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and explained that the Parish Council Co-opted Member had been put forward by the Parish Council Liaison Committee and that the appointment would be reviewed annually.

The Committee agreed unanimously to the appointment of Parish Councillor Keith Lievesley as a non-voting Co-opted Member for the municipal year 2020/21. The Chairman invited Parish Councillor Keith Lievesley to join the meeting.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to appoint Parish Councillor Keith Lievesley as a non-voting co-opted member to represent the rural communities for the municipal year 2020/2021. The appointment would be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.

7. PLACE AND ECONOMY COVID-19 UPDATE

The report was introduced by the Executive Director, Place and Economy accompanied by the Head of Environmental Partnerships and the Group Manager – Transport and Environment. The report updated the Committee on the work undertaken by Place and Economy in response to the Covid-19 crisis and the impact of the crisis on services.

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

- Members asked when bulky waste collection services would restart, after having been re-introduced then stopped after 4 days. Officers responded that the bulky waste service had never been fully suspended with 30 slots per day still

operational. It was the bespoke quoted collections (not general list A) that had stopped and officers would aim to restart these when possible.

- The Prevention and Enforcement team were aiming to deploy the CCTV cameras to tackle fly-tipping as quickly as possible although Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) regulations regarding covert CCTV had to be followed. Sites needed to be assessed on a case by case basis.
- Members asked what was being done to reduce the misuse of bins. Officers responded that Aragon Direct Service would place stickers on the bins, Education Officers would conduct site visits and Officers would have conversations with those who regularly contaminating bins.
- Members enquired about the status of redeployed staff. Officers responded that staff had returned but were being prepared to be redeployed again. If staff were redeployed, Members would be made aware. Aragon were working with the Test and Trace Agency to get staff inducted and were bringing in contingency plans to avoid disruption to services. Key frontline services had been identified.
- Members requested an update on Active Travel Funding, and Crescent Bridge in particular. Officers responded that all Tranche 1 Active Travel schemes were temporary and were being evaluated to see which could be developed as part of Tranche 2 work and wider transport schemes in the City. With regards to Crescent Bridge, the City was still only experiencing 88% of pre-Covid traffic levels and peak periods were not as intense as before the COVID-19 pandemic. Officers were monitoring the use of the scheme by cyclists and the cross-party working group would consider this information and make recommendations on the future development of the schemes.
- Members requested that the Executive Director, Place and Economy ascertains whether any funding awarded from the Combined Authority's Entrepreneurs Panel would need to be spent within the current financial year.
- Members asked when Parish Council bulky waste collection services would be restarted, noting that some people depended on them due to the cost of the Council's bulky waste collection services. Officers responded that there were issues with drivers' working hours to be addressed and would discuss these issues with Aragon Direct Services.
- Members suggested that people could receive money back on recycled cans, noting that this took place in Denmark. Officers responded that they would update Members if such a scheme was introduced by the Government.
- Members referred to page 42 of the reports pack and asked what was being done to address declining recycling performance. Officers responded that there had been an increase in black bin tonnage without a corresponding increase in use of the food waste caddy, which showed that education was needed. Aragon employed an officer to knock on doors to educate people. 18,000 people had re-subscribed to the garden waste collection service which would improve recycling tonnages in the future.
- Members commented that access to green space varied across the City and the Council needed to take account of this. Officers responded that this was being looked at.
- Members commented that although there had been a focus on cycling, the use of public transport had declined with car use increasing. Members requested that the Committee receive a report on the Council's long-term plans for promoting sustainable transport. Officers responded that discussions were underway with the Combined Authority to promote the use of public transport. The CA were leading a campaign to encourage people to use buses where safe and to ensure there were sufficient bus services for children.
- The Committee requested that the Group Manager, Transport and Environment provides the Committee with information on damaged pop-up cycle infrastructure, ensures issues regarding car parking near cycle infrastructure on Priestgate and Bridge Street were dealt with and reviews all measures to ensure they were

working as intended. Officers commented that inspections of infrastructure took place regularly but procuring stock for replacement bollards had taken longer than hoped.

- Members asked what was being done to educate car users regarding safe driving around cyclists. Officers responded that the School Streets initiative was in place to close roads outside schools at pick-up and drop-off times. This was not suitable for all schools and a risk assessment was undertaken for every school that came forward. This was an essential part of educating people about alternative means of travel for commuting by normalising active travel. Officers would investigate what further communication could be done to pursue this goal further.
- Members requested that the Group Manager, Transport and Environment notes their concerns that efforts to restrict parking in the City (e.g. via restrictions on single occupancy vehicles) might cause difficulties for residents of more rural areas where public transport was limited.
- Officers stated that the work being undertaken by Royal Haskoning would take into account supply and demand for parking in Peterborough so the use of alternative modes of transport was factored in to reduce city centre traffic in while allowing people to drive in if they wished. The location of car parks was important. The Royal Haskoning report would be made available in the weeks following the meeting.
- Members commented that there was a cross-party working group underway to investigate the promotion of walking and cycling and encouraged other members to raise any concerns with their group representative.
- Officers reassured members that the Place and Economy directorate was prepared for future local lockdowns and lessons from the first national lockdown had been learnt and would be applied going forward.
- Members requested that the Democratic Services Officer adds a pending agenda item to the Committee's work programme for March 2021 on the Council's long-term plans for encouraging use of sustainable modes of transport.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note and comment on the report and

1. Requested that the Executive Director, Place and Economy ascertains whether any funding awarded from the Combined Authority's Entrepreneurs Panel would need to be spent within the current financial year.
2. Requested that the Democratic Services Officer adds a pending agenda item to the Committee's work programme on the Council's long-term plans for encouraging use of sustainable modes of transport
3. Requested that the Group Manager, Transport and Environment provides the Committee with information on damaged pop-up cycle infrastructure, ensures issues regarding car parking near cycle infrastructure on Priestgate and Bridge Street were dealt with and reviews all measures to ensure they were working as intended.
4. Requested that the Group Manager, Transport and Environment notes Members' concerns that efforts to restrict parking in the City (e.g. via restrictions on single occupancy vehicles) might cause difficulties for residents of more rural areas where public transport was limited.

8. REVIEW – TASK AND FINISH GRUP TO INFORM THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AIR QUALITY AMBITION STATEMENT ACTION PLAN

The report was introduced by the Group Manager – Transport and Environment, accompanied by the Senior Environment and Pollution Officer. The report provided an

opportunity for the Committee to review progress on the outcomes of the Task and Finish Group.

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

- Members asked what the objectives of the Combined Authority's Bus Reform Task Force were, when this would come to and if the documentation of the group would be shared. Officers responded that an outline business case was being produced to examine different options for delivering services going forward, including franchising. Cllr Allen was the Council's representative on this group. It was agreed that the Group Manager, Transport and Environment would ensure that Members' views are taken into account on the Combined Authority's Bus Reform Task Force, ensure that the Committee are kept up to date with the work of the group and ask that the papers of this group are shared with Committee Members.
- Members referred to recommendation 5 and requested an update on Mass Rapid Transit. Officers responded that a discussion on this had taken place with the Combined Authority. Work was progressing, and a paper would be shared among officers on opportunities for schemes to bring forward. It was currently too early to share further details but work was progressing and officers looked forward to bringing forward different options in due course.
- Members referred to recommendation 7 and requested an update on green infrastructure. Officers responded that green infrastructure was included as standard as an agenda item on the Project Board for Highway Schemes. Officers sought opportunities to maximise the use of green infrastructure. There was a balance to achieve between the air quality benefits of green infrastructure and ensuring safe visibility for walking and cycling. There was scope for further work in this area such as providing training to officers on the benefits of green infrastructure and how to develop creative schemes. Updates would be provided in due course. The hedgerows on the segregated cycle way on Bretton Way were an example of good practice.
- Members suggested that the Task and Finish Group could have considered fleet renewals of Aragon vehicles as part of their work. Officers responded that this would be considered as part of the Climate Change working group and work was underway with Aragon Direct services on the Fleet Renewal programme, with the aim of tackling the climate emergency and achieving net zero emissions. Some vehicles would be easier to switch than others.
- Members referred to recommendation 1 in section 4.2 and asked if orbital bus routes were being considered. They could serve the City Hospital to alleviate parking issues. Officers responded that discussions were underway with the Combined Authority regarding establishing an orbital route to connect Hampton with Orton Northgate, via the parkway and to the hospital. Commercial bus operators could choose their own routes so the Combined Authority were investigating alternative models of providing bus services.
- The Committee requested that the Group Manager, Transport and Environment ensures that Members' views are taken into account on the Combined Authority's Bus Reform Task Force, ensures that the Committee are kept up to date with the work of the group, and asks that the papers of this group are shared with Committee Members.
- The Committee requested that the Group Manager, Transport and Environment provides the Committee with information on emission standards for taxis.
- Members commented that the recommendations, if implemented, would achieve good outcomes for both air quality and climate change and noted that Cabinet had agreed that the cross-party climate change group would take forward the recommendations of the Air Quality Task and Finish Group.
- Some members felt that the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough should actively consider introducing bus franchising to gain control of bus services.

- Members commented that recommendation 7 was meant to apply to both existing and new green infrastructure. Air quality benefits could be lost if infrastructure was reduced although a balance had to be struck between air quality and safety.
- Members praised the fact that evidence was being collected before the Air Quality Management area mentioned in recommendation 9 was revoked.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to review and comment on the report and

1. Requested that the Group Manager, Transport and Environment ensures that Members' views are taken into account on the Combined Authority's Bus Reform Task Force, ensures that the Committee are kept up to date with the work of the group, and asks that the papers of this group are shared with Committee Members.
2. Requested that the Group Manager, Transport and Environment provides the Committee with information on emission standards for taxis.

9. SUSPENSION OF AFFIXING COUNCIL SEAL TO LEGAL DOCUMENTATION

The report was introduced by the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer. The report allowed the Committee to note the decision taken by the Chief Executive under Part 4, Section 4.6.1 of the constitution, which permits the Chief Executive to undertake emergency action.

There were no comments by members.

ACTIONS AGREED

1. The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the decision taken by the Chief Executive under Part 4, Section 4.6.1 of the constitution as set out in this report.

10. REVIEW OF 2019/2020 AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020/21

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which considered the 2019/20 year in review and looked at the work programme for the new municipal year 2020/21 to determine the Committees priorities. The report also asked the Committee to consider if further monitoring of recommendations made during 2019/20 was required.

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

- Members requested responses to the recommendations made by the Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny Committees on 24 February 2020. The Democratic Services Officers responded that responses had been received from Cabinet and could be found in Appendix 2.
- Members requested that the Council's Rural Estates be discussed at a future meeting of the Committee. The Democratic Services Officer advised that this item had already been added to the Work Programme.
- Members requested a briefing note on the outcomes of the Car Parking Study mentioned in Section 4.3 of agenda item 8 (Recommendation 2). It was agreed that the Executive Director, Place and Economy would do this.

- Members requested an update on the Council's Towns Fund bid. It was agreed that the Executive Director, Place and Economy would provide an update.
- Members requested that a further COVID-19 update be provided to the Committee for the March 2021 meeting. It was agreed that the Democratic Services Officer would update the Work Programme accordingly.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to

1. Consider items presented to the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20 and make recommendations on the future monitoring of these items where necessary.
2. Determine its priorities and approves the draft work programme for 2020/2021 attached at Appendix 1.
3. Note the Recommendations Monitoring Report attached at Appendix 2 and consider if further monitoring of the recommendations made during the 2019/2020 municipal year was required.
4. Note the Terms of Reference for this Committee as set out in Part 3, Section 4, Overview and Scrutiny Functions and in particular paragraph 2.1 item 4, Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee and paragraph 3.8 Flood Risk Management as attached at Appendix 3.
5. Request that the Executive Director, Place and Economy provides the Committee with an update on the Towns Fund bid.
6. Request that the Executive Director, Place and Economy provides the Committee with a briefing note on the outcomes of the Car Parking Study mentioned in Section 4.3 of agenda item 8 (Recommendation 2).
7. Requested that the Democratic Services Officer adds a further Covid-19 update to the Committee's Work Programme for the March 2021 meeting.

11. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which invited members to consider the most recent version of the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and identify any relevant items for inclusion within the Committee's work programme or to request further information. It was noted that a new version of the Forward Plan (Key Decisions from 26 October 2020) had been published since the agenda for this meeting had been distributed. This new plan had been circulated to committee members via email

Members requested updates on various forward plan items. These are detailed in the actions below.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to consider the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and requested briefing notes on the following items

- Vehicle removal for Parking contravention – KEY/15APR19/02. *Specifically, who will be consulted, e.g. parish councils and residents' organisations etc.*

- Purchase of new Fleet and Plant for Environment Base Services – KEY/31AUG20/04
- Approval of funding for the provision of accommodation to reduce homelessness – KEY/14OCT19/01. *Specifically, whether this relates to hotel crisis accommodation during the Covid-19 pandemic.*
- Sale of the freehold of the London Road Stadium and the Allia Business Centre – KEY/12OCT20/01

A verbal update was requested on the following item, to be provided before the decision is taken.

- Approval for the Council to collaborate with Peterborough Investment Partnership on proposals to develop a new Swimming pool and Leisure Facility (Non-key)

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10 November 2020 – Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee
- 11 November 2020 – Joint Scrutiny of the Budget

13. OPPORTUNITY PETERBOROUGH

The report was introduced by the CEO of Opportunity Peterborough which provided an update on the activities and achievements of Opportunity Peterborough, provided an overview of the opportunities and challenges that face the company in the very near future and provided information to the Committee for its consideration regarding the continued funding of the company.

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

- Members complimented the impact of the current CEO on the work of Opportunity Peterborough and hoped the organisation received the funding it needed.
- Members asked what was being done to attract students and medical professionals to the City during the development of the University. In response, the CEO mentioned a variety of plans including:
 - Place-marketing the City
 - Building on inward investment work
 - Exhibitions and conferences
 - Talent attraction, which would be a new area of work for Opportunity Peterborough and would complement its existing work well by cross-messaging that the city is both a good place to live and a good place for businesses to invest. This would help to attract professionals to the City.

As agreed at agenda item 4, the meeting moved into exempt session.

ACTIONS AGREED:

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to

1. Note the achievements and impact of Opportunity Peterborough with regards to support for the local economy and jobs creation as described in this report and Appendix A.
2. Note the opportunities for enhancing its services, and thus its impact, as laid out in the Business Plan in Appendix B.
3. Note the challenges that the company will face should it be unsuccessful in securing a new contract with the CPCA.

4. Consider the benefits of Opportunity Peterborough as a valued asset, and the potential to share costs and service outcomes with neighbouring authorities such as Cambridgeshire County Council and South Kesteven District Council.

7pm – 8.49pm

CHAIRMAN

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