

**MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING
HELD AT 7.00PM, ON
WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2022
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors N Day (Chair), C Wiggin (Vice-Chair), N Bi, C Burbage, G Casey, M Farooq, JA Fox, M Perkins, M Sabir, L Sharp and H Skibsted and Co-opted Member Parish Councillor June Bull and Independent Co-opted Members Matthew Barber, Stuart Dawks and Dr Esther Norton

Also in attendance: Councillor JR Fox, representing the Group Leader of Peterborough First and Matthew Carr, Youth Council Representative

Officers Present: Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy
Hannah Swinburne, Principal Climate Change Officer
Lewis Banks, Transport and Environment Manager
Nick Greaves Highway Development Control and Drainage Manager
Richard Whelan, Principal Officer, Flood and Water Cambridgeshire County Council
Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Charlotte Cameron, Democratic Services Officer

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

No call ins were received.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS 2022/23

The Climate Change and Environment Committee received a report in relation to the appointment of Co-opted Members 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 Matthew Barber, Dr Esther Norton, Stuart Dawks and Parish Councillor June Bull as Non-Voting Co-opted Members for the municipal year 2022/2023 and to approve the appointment of Parish Councillor Michael Samways as the substitute for Parish Councillor June Bull for

the municipal year 2022/2023 to the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Part 3, Section 4 – Overview and Scrutiny Functions.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report and explained that the nominations for Parish Council Co-opted Members had been put forward by the Parish Council Liaison Committee and that the appointments would be reviewed annually.

The Committee unanimously agreed to the appointments of Matthew Barber, Dr Esther Norton, Stuart Dawks and Parish Councillor June Bull as non-voting Co-opted Members and the appointment of Parish Councillor Michael Samways as substitute for Parish Councillor June Bull for the municipal year 2022/23.

The Chair welcomed the four Co-opted Members who were in attendance and invited them to join the committee for the rest of the meeting.

AGREED ACTIONS

1. Appoint Matthew Barber to the Committee as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights for the municipal year 2022/2023. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.
2. Appoint Dr Esther Norton to the Committee as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights for the municipal year 2022/2023. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.
3. Appoint Stuart Dawks to the Committee as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights for the municipal year 2022/2023. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.
4. Appoint Parish Councillor June Bull as an Independent Co-opted Member with no voting rights to represent the rural area for the municipal year 2022/2023. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.
5. Appoint Parish Councillor Michael Samways as the nominated substitute for Parish Councillor June Bull should she be appointed as the non-voting Co-opted Member representing the rural area. Appointment to be reviewed annually at the beginning of the next municipal year.

5. PETERBOROUGH LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to Peterborough's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The purpose of the report was for the Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council: 2. Flood Risk Management.

The Committee were asked to review the draft Peterborough Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and recommend to Cabinet that a public consultation be undertaken.

The Highway Development Control and Drainage Manager accompanied by the Principal Officer, Flood and Water for Cambridgeshire County Council introduced the report and highlighted key points including:

The report provided an update on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy with a review to consider changes in the industry and wider policies of the Council. The Officers advised that the aim of the report was to gather the Committees feedback and which would be presented to Cabinet with a request to go out to public consultation.

Members were advised that many of the aims and objectives in the plan had remained the same and actions had been carried forward, with the addition of case studies based on environmental and flood risk work. Additional information added to the plan included, the work surrounding community impacts, diversity and inclusion and the responsibilities of organisations.

The flooding events of July 2021 were acknowledged, and details of risk areas, related actions and alternative funding streams were included in the report to highlight the Council's ambitions with a view to be as flexible as possible to deliver outcomes.

The report went through a carbon impact assessment and a strategic environmental assessment with the results incorporated into the report.

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

- Members noted that the report stated that much of the infrastructure in the Fens was reaching the end of its design life and sought clarification on when investments into renewing the infrastructure would happen and when there would be funding available for the upgrades. Members were advised of two regional projects run by Anglian Water and the Environment Agency which would be merging to look at the future of the Fens. Officers commented that this would be a long-term project that officers would be contributing too.
- Members noted that the flooding infrastructure had not been able to cope with the flash flooding which happened in July 2021 and asked if there had been any work around the cost of improving that infrastructure. Officers advised that a flood investigation process had to happen after any flood and that the report was in its final stages.
- The Principal Officer, Flood and Water highlighted that the Senior Drainage Officer had been working with Anglian Water to identify what options there would be. It was noted that older design standards were not up to date and that the replacement of infrastructure would be a large cost. However, pinch points had been identified which enabled the Council to look for national funding that would support the improvements.
- Members sought clarification on whether future developments were being reviewed with the focus on preventing further damage and were advised that there was a Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document which provided guidance on developments. Officers advised the Committee that the document would be updated in 2023 and this was included in the report as an action.
- Members noted that heavy rain had caused issues with some of the drainage under pass pump systems in the City and asked whether there had been any work done to improve or replace them. The Highway Development Control and Drainage Manager advised the Committee that there was a bi-annual maintenance review programme that monitored issues in the local area. Members were advised that a specific area issue could be raised through the Fixmystreet scheme.
- Members acknowledged the Officers response and highlighted that underpass flooding had been an issue in the City and requested that the Highways and Development Control Drainage Manager review the effectiveness of the underpass pumps.
- Members noted that the report mentioned the need to minimise flooding to roads and asked what had been done to prevent this. Officers advised that persistent problems were being caused by various issues which included where the water goes, the amount of water there was and if there was a fault in the system. Work was needed to create more storage or drain the water away, stop the water or invest in the storage.

- Members referred to page 83 and the categorisation of risk to areas in the city and sought clarification on how the level of risk had been identified for each area. Members were advised that there had been an assessment of climate change impacts on each ward. Officers also acknowledged that the data used for this information had changed and would need to be revisited.
- Clarification was sought on how officers would ensure that parish councils were kept informed about flood and water management in their areas. Officers acknowledged that through producing the report they had identified that there was a need to increase inclusion with the rural community. It was highlighted that the OXCAM Property Flood Resilience Programme was aimed at increasing engagement with communities.
- Members referred to the effect new housing developments had on aging conduits and asked what work had been done to remove pressure on the infrastructure and aging conduits. Members were advised that the Flood and Water Management Act was under a national review which could remove the right to connect. It was noted that the Supplementary Planning Document noted that areas with known flood issues were recorded and any planning applications would have to review evidence related to those issues before approval.
- Members acknowledged the Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and their use on new developments but asked whether there were any plans to introduce SuDS to existing sites. The Officer advised that there were bodies called catchment partnerships which aimed to have natural flood risk management schemes within the area. It was also noted that an action had been included within the Flood Risk Management Strategy to reduce the storm water that ended up in Flag Fen through a partnership with Anglian Water.
- Members praised Officers on the success of Werrington Brook improvements and asked if there were plans to monitor them to ensure their effectiveness was maintained. The Officers noted that any improvements made across the city would be monitored.
- Members were concerned that the risk matrix identified that there would be no threat to the city by sea when the local area was significantly below sea level and sought clarification on at what point the risk from the sea would be included in the strategy. Officers advised that the risk from sea was managed in three stages, coastal defence, main rivers and internal drainage board systems (IDBS). It was noted there were options on the table and that long-term plans would lie within the Future Fens work to make sure local priorities were included.
- Members asked about work with other local areas and if an emergency water repository network had been set up. Members were advised of numerous projects where organisations were working together to create a holistic approach and an integrated water management system.
- Members asked if there was a way of identifying where old springs were so that infrastructure could be reviewed and updated if necessary. Members were advised that ground water concerns were included in the strategy and that old springs in the West of the City were well known and any action would be covered by the planned maintenance programme.
- Members referred to the increased rainfall and the subsequent risk of reservoir flooding and sought clarification on the risk status of the reservoirs and if any prevention measures had been put in place. The Officer advised that all reservoirs had a statutory requirement to have a 1 in 10,000-year level of protection. It was highlighted that Rutland and Grafham water have higher protection levels.
- Members referred to the Green Grid Strategy and sought clarification on what areas had been identified as protected green infrastructure and how that had been determined. Members were advised that the Officer did not have this information to hand and would inform the Committee at a later date.

- Members sought clarification on the timescales of the proposed actions included within the appendix. Members were advised that some targets were in place and that further timescales would be included in the strategy going forward.

AGREED ACTIONS

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

1. Review Peterborough's updated Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
2. Endorse the strategy and recommend to Cabinet that a public consultation is undertaken on the Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy ahead of consideration by Council later this year.

The Committee also requested the following:

- That the Highways and Development Control Drainage Manager provide the committee with a review on the effectiveness of underpass pumps and if there is any work needed to improve their functionality.
- That the Principal Officer – Flood and Water provide the committee with a list of the green spaces that have been identified for protection under the Green Grid Strategy, and; include within the Peterborough Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, under Proposed Actions, the timescales for each of the strategies and their proposed completion date.

6. LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the Council's Local Area Energy Plan.

The purpose of the report was to present the findings of the Local Area Energy Plan and seek support of the Committee to use this information to guide the development of the city-wide climate change action plan.

The Principal Climate Officer introduced the report and highlighted that the plan evaluated energy and heating demands so improvements could be identified. The Energy Systems Catapult had developed the local energy planning approach and they had undertaken the research used to build a solid evidence base for this report. This would be used to build the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) and to prioritise feasible projects and investment business cases.

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

- Members sought clarification on whether the capital investment of 8.8 billion referred to the Council's budget or a wider area. The Principal Climate Change Officer advised that the figure was for Peterborough as a whole and not just the City Council. It was noted that this amount would come from multiple sources of income and investments.
- Members referred to the quoted 800 million domestics retrofits needed to reach net zero at a cost of £12,500 per dwelling and asked how that number had been determined. Members were informed that some properties would need expensive heat pumps and that those with better energy efficiency levels would not. A various list of measures had been produced to reflect the various needs of the dwellings, and the numbers were produced as an average.

- Members referred to the low emissions zones highlighted on page 144 and sought clarification on what areas the zones would cover and what the zone would mean. The Principal Climate Change Officer advised that the zone had not been put forward but was a suggestion from the Energy Systems Catapult that would help reach electric vehicle targets. Members were advised that if this suggestion was taken forward, it could be implemented in various ways to meet the right priorities.
- Members queried if the engagement campaigns with rural homeowners around energy efficiency mentioned on page 147 had been started. Members were advised that the campaigns had not started but that information had been shared on the website and that Officers were working on a Parish Council Climate Change Action Plan as a tool for Parish Councils to develop their own guide for rural residents.
- Members asked whether a payback timescale had been considered regarding the £166 million capital investment quoted for domestic rooftop solar. The Officer clarified that the sum was for the whole of Peterborough and that individual project costs would differ. It was noted that the LAEP had various stages and the next step would be to undertake a desktop feasibility assessment where the individual payback costs would be identified.
- Members sought clarification on how the risks identified on page 147 were going to be managed. The Officer advised that as the LAEP progress developed, the risks associated with each project would be identified.
- Members noted that Officer's had quoted an estimated 50,000 unique charging points against the target of 80,000 plug in vehicles and asked for clarification on how that number was determined. Members were advised that the figure was determined by the assumption that if individuals were able to charge the car at home, they would opt for that option as it would be a cheaper alternative.
- The Committee requested that the Principal Climate Change Officer clarify if the costs relating to domestic charging points included the costs for the District Network Operators to upgrade supplies and if that had been included within the estimated capital investment costs of £300 - £400 million.
- The Youth Council Representative acknowledged the information on retrofitting and how there were a high proportion of flats mentioned where retrofitting measures were unlikely to make an impact and sought clarification on whether there were any measures in place to ensure retrofitting would be accessible to those who need it. Members were advised that retrofitting was more difficult to complete in flats as you cannot put in external wall insulation. However, it was noted that the fuel poverty element has been acknowledged and Members were advised of funding that Peterborough had received through a Local Authority Delivered (LAD) Green Homes Grant which would be targeted at supporting low-income residents to improve their energy efficiency.
- The Youth Council Representative asked whether the retrofitting of solar panels had been considered and to what extent they would help the transition to a greener Peterborough. Members were advised that domestic rooftop solar had been looked at and were referred to page 146 where the significant potential of an estimated 157 megawatts solar capacity could be reached but would need to be explored further.
- Members asked what other sustainability work was being done on buses. Members were advised that the LAEP only covered 70% of Peterborough's emissions and that work on electrical bus infrastructure was outside of the scope of the report. The Officer advised that discussions were ongoing with the Combined Authority around the issue of bus franchising.
- Members followed up and noted the lack of public service improvements within the report and asked what work was being undertaken to improve this. Officers advised

that the Local Transport Plan was out for consultation and that Officers would welcome Member views.

- Members referred to electric charging points and sought clarification on how many charging points there were and whether the Council would meet the target of 50,000 charging points by 2030. Members were advised that meeting the target would depend on a variety of factors which included domestic uptake.
- Members asked whether solar panels would be offered to all residents through the LAD scheme. Members were advised that the LAD scheme would only be available to those with an annual income of less than £30,000. It was also noted that solar panels were available on the open market and that they offered a wide range of financial payback plans. The Principal Officer confirmed that the Council were looking at the Solar Together Scheme which had been run across Cambridgeshire successfully.
- Members asked what the modelling of determining the number of electric vehicle owners had been based on. Members were advised that it was based on expected growth across the city and the Combined Authority's ambitions to reduce car mileage by 15%.
- Members referred to the information around the use of hydrogen and asked whether hydrogen and micronuclear energy options were being considered. Officers advised that micronuclear had not been considered and that the assumption on hydrogen was that it would not be available until 2035 and only for large scale industrial use.
- Members asked if night-time solar panels were considered, and the Officer acknowledged the importance of being aware of emerging technologies.
- Members sought clarification on the Peterborough Integrated Renewables Infrastructure (PIRI) Network and whether homes should install heat pumps or wait for the network to become available. The Officer confirmed that the network would be technology agnostic and adaptable to other heat sources. Members were advised that the network would utilise existing energy from the waste plant. It was also noted that there would be no reason to delay if a homeowner wanted and was able to install a heat pump.
- Members sought clarification on the plan to upgrade the energy network and whether conversations had taken place to begin the work. Members were advised that UK Power Network (UKPN) and Western Power Network supply the City's energy, and both had been involved in workshops to develop the LAEP. It was noted that the report recommended to continue that relationship through a stakeholder group.

AGREED ACTIONS

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

1. Note the findings of the Local Area Energy Plan.
2. Support the approach to incorporate findings and recommendations of the Local Area Energy Plan into the development of the City-Wide Climate Change Action Plan.
3. Support the approach to establish a Peterborough wide decarbonisation stakeholder group, hosted by Peterborough City Council, to continue to lead the delivery of the LAEP and progress towards the development of viable business cases to unlock investment.

The Committee also requested the following:

1. The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee requested that the Principal Climate Change Officer clarify if the costs relating to domestic charging

points include the costs for the District Network Operators to upgrade supplies and if that has been included within the estimated capital investment costs of £300 - £400 Million.

2. The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee requested that the Principal Climate Change Officer provide the committee with the modelling of car ownership used to produce the estimation of 80,000 plug in vehicles.

7. **CLOSURE OF CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP**

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the Closure of the Climate Change Working Group.

The purpose of the report was to seek support to close the Climate Change Working Group, to ensure duplication of work did not occur.

The Principal Climate Change Officer introduced the report and highlighted that the recommendation to close the Climate Change Working Group was a result of the creation of the Climate change and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

The Officer commented that it had been great working with the group and highlighted that many of the ideas put forward by Members had helped shape the plans in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

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

- There were no questions raised.

RECOMMENDATION

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet the closure of the existing Climate Change Working Group.

8. **CLOSURE OF CYCLING AND WALKING WORKING GROUP AND FORMATION OF CYCLING AND WALKING TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the Closure of the Cycling and Walking Working Group and the Formation of a Cycling and Walking Task and Finish Group.

The purpose of the report was to present the detail for closing the existing cross-party cycling and walking group and put forward the formation of a cycling and walking task and finish group along with the proposed Terms of Reference.

The Transport and Environment Manager introduced the report and noted that the main aims of the Task and Finish Group would be to review and progress the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and develop a rural strategy. There would also be a need to focus on Urban areas and the prioritisation of key aims within the strategy would enable to Council look for funding opportunities.

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

- Members sought clarification on whether the Rural Cycling Strategy would be part of the LCWIP. Members were advised that it would be developed separately but

that Officers had not made a final decision. It was noted that the preferred plan would be to eventually include the Rural Cycling Strategy in the LCWIP.

- Members asked what the timescale was for the cycling and walking strategies. The Transport and Environment Manager advised that timescales were dependent on how frequent the task and finish group met but that the aim would be to reach a stage of completion within the 2022 calendar year.

RECOMMENDATION

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to Cabinet the closure of the existing cross-party cycling and walking working group.

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee also **RESOLVED** to:

1. Agree to the formation of a time-limited cross-party scrutiny task and finish group.
2. Agree the Terms of Reference for the proposed task and finish group.
3. Agree that the outcomes of the task and finish group should be presented back to the Committee at the relevant meeting.
4. Make any initial nominations from the scrutiny committee members to join the task and finish group

9. REVIEW OF 2021/22 AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2022/23

The Senior Democratic Services Officer presented the report which considered the relevant items presented in 2021/2022 to the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee and looked at the work programme for the new municipal year 2022/23 to determine the Committees priorities. Members also noted the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

- Members commented with regard to the Bretton Oak Tree decision that a review should take place into the decision-making process.
- Members were advised by the Executive Director Place and Economy that a Tree Management Policy would be drawn up and presented to the Committee to scrutinise in two stages. The draft form would be presented in September and the final document would be presented in November.

AGREED ACTIONS

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

1. Consider relevant items which were presented to the former Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee during 2021/2022, which now fall within the remit of this committee, and makes recommendations on the future monitoring of these items where necessary.
2. Determine its priorities and approves the draft work programme for 2022/2023 attached at Appendix 1.
3. Note the Recommendations Monitoring Report attached at Appendix 2 and considers if further monitoring of the relevant recommendations made by the former Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee during the 2021/2022 municipal year, that now fall within the remit of this committee, is required.
4. Note the Terms of Reference for this Committee as set out in Part 3, Section 4, Overview and Scrutiny Functions attached at Appendix 3 and in particular paragraph 2.1 item 4, Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

10. 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 sought clarification on Item 13 of the Forward Plan - Charging residents and developers for new or replacement household waste bins - KEY/9MAY2022/03 and requested to know what the agreement was. The Executive Director Place and Economy agreed to provide Committee Members with a briefing note on the Item.

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 the following:

1. That the Executive Director Place and Economy provide the committee with a briefing note on Forward Plan Item 13 Charging residents and developers for new or replacement household waste bins - KEY/9MAY2022/03

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being 5 September 2022.

CHAIR

Meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 20:37pm