

**EXTRAORDINARY JOINT MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES
HELD AT 6.00PM ON
TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL**

Committee Members Present: Councillors L Robinson (Chair), A Ali, J Allen, S Barkham, N Bi, S Bond, C Burbage, G Casey, S Farooq, JA Fox, JR Fox, C Harper, M Haseeb, S Hemraj, M Jamil, A Jones, D Jones, S Lane, D Over, M Perkins, S Qayyum, R Ray, B Rush, M Sabir, N Sandford, H Skibsted, B Tyler, C Wiggins and I Yasin

Non-Statutory Co-opted Members Present: Parish Councillor Neil Boyce, Sameena Aziz, Matthew Barber, Stuart Dawks and Dr Esther Norton

Also present: Councillor Hogg as Group Leader for the Liberal Democrats and Youth MP Eva Woods.

Officers Present: Matthew Gladstone, Chief Executive
Rochelle Tapping, Director of Law and Governance
Rachel Edwards, Head of Constitutional Services
Ramins Shams, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Charlotte Cameron, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present: Councillor S Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities
Councillor Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills, and University
Councillor Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport
Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene, and the Environment

Councillor Bisby, Cabinet Advisor to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills, and the University
Councillor Gul Nawaz, Cabinet Advisor for Community Cohesion
Councillor Oliver Sainsbury, Cabinet Advisor to the Leader
Councillor Nicolle Moyo, Cabinet Advisor for Law, and Governance

The Senior Democratic Services Officer opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present and those members of the public and press who were watching the livestream of the meeting through the Council's YouTube page.

1. NOMINATION OF CHAIR

The Senior Democratic Services Officer advised the Committee that in accordance with *Part 4, Section 8 – Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, section 13, Joint Meetings of Scrutiny Committees* a Chair would be required to be appointed from among the Chairs of the Committees who were holding the meeting. Nominations were sought from those present who were Councillor Barkham Chair of the Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Robinson Chair of the Children and Education Scrutiny Committee and

Councillor Yasin Chair of the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Robinson was nominated by Councillor D Jones and seconded by Councillor Barkham. There being no further nominations, Councillor Robinson was appointed Chair of this committee.

The Chair welcomed everyone present and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for all members of each Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the Sustainable Future City Council Strategy & Priorities 2022-25.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Day, Elsey, M Farooq, Fenner, Knight, Rangzeb, Shaheed and Sharp.

Councillor S Bond was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Shaheed.

Apologies for absence were also received from Parish Councillors June Bull and Michael Samways, statutory education co-opted member Peter Cantley and co-opted member Sandie Burns.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

No declarations of interest or whipping declarations were received.

4. SUSTAINABLE FUTURE CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY & PRIORITIES 2022-25.

The Chief Executive Matt Gladstone introduced the report and highlighted the following:

The Corporate Strategy had been approved at Full Council and this introduction provided some context for the development of the strategy. The process had started 12 months ago where some initial thoughts for a sustainable council were drawn up alongside the work of the Independent Improvement and Assurance Panel (IIAP). The Corporate Strategy and City Priorities were developed from various data sets, work with the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), the IIAP delivery unit and Members.

The strategy focused on 4 key priorities around the economy, prevention and sustainability, and would set the context for the Budget. This was a document to aid decision making and best practice throughout the organisation. There were plans for a quarterly performance review to be brought back to Cabinet and Scrutiny to assess the Council's performance targets and priorities as there had not been a sufficient level of performance review in the past.

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

Section Of SUSTAINABLE FUTURE CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY & PRIORITIES 2022-25.	Questions / Comment from Members	Response from Relevant Cabinet Member / Executive Director

<p>Cover Report - Introduction to the Sustainable Future City Council Strategy and Priorities 2022-25</p> <p>Cover report pages 3 - 7</p>	<p>Members expressed concerns about the way the document had been developed and queried why the Sustainable Future City Council Director was not present.</p>	<p>The Chief Executive advised that the Sustainable Future City Council Director's had given their apologies for personal reasons.</p>
	<p>Members questioned why the strategy had come to scrutiny after it had been approved at Full Council.</p>	<p>Members were advised that there had been extensive discussions with Group Leaders, the Financial Sustainability Working Group (FSWG) and Members. It had been important to get a strategy in place quickly and had been done on the advice of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. (DLUHC).</p> <p>There would be a DLUHC report presented at the next Full Council which would be a huge positive and the Chief Executive gave thanks to all those involved.</p>
	<p>Members sought clarification on why the strategy had not gone out for public consultation.</p>	<p>Members were advised that the public had been and would continue to be consulted with. The document had been approved quickly to set out some clear priorities but would be developed overtime.</p>
	<p>Members referred to page 5 and sought clarification on who the external organisations the Council had planned to work with were.</p>	<p>The Chief Executive advised that these were partners from the voluntary sector, public sector and businesses.</p>
	<p>Members congratulated the report author and were encouraged by the inclusion of a quarterly review.</p> <p>Members noted that for the reviews to work, there would need to be a clear set of benchmarks to highlight where the Council was and where it should be.</p>	<p>The Chief Executive referred to the Corporate Parenting Committee who had set clear accountability targets which had been used to influence the document.</p> <p>The proposed quarterly report would demonstrate performance across the Council and identify key markers for improvement.</p>
	<p>Members asked if Officers could highlight three things in the report that</p>	<p>Members were advised that the support around the cost of living would be an ongoing</p>

	would excite residents about the future.	<p>challenge, but residents would welcome the work that supported the city's most vulnerable.</p> <p>The Chief Executive referred to the improvements in the city centre, applauded the work on Bridge Street and advised that the Council had performed and survived well through Covid.</p> <p>Members were also advised that there would be a continued focus on revamping the local plan to support more young people and provide a balanced approach to growth.</p>
	Members queried if the public's views on the city centre had been considered.	<p>Members were advised that there were daily operational challenges but the footfall analysis of the city centre showed it at its highest level in recent years.</p> <p>The Chief Executive acknowledged that certain aspects of safety had not been good enough and there was a tolerance issue that needed to be addressed.</p>
	Members referred to their disappointment with the new market and sought clarification on what the long-term plans were.	Members were advised that there were plans to increase the number of traders and pop-up stalls.
	Members referred to the Westgate redevelopment and asked why its progress had fallen behind.	The Chief Executive advised that the station quarter would remain a priority site, however the Council did not own all the land, so improvements would be difficult. Members noted that there had been discussions with national government about how to move forward.

	Members queried how the strategy documents would be used to evaluate performance when no quantitative data had been included.	Members were advised that they would have a collective role in the performance and accountability of the Council. There would be indicative outcomes with key performance indicators (KPIs) in place to track progress which would include service delivery plans across directorates and accountability appraisals for staff.
	Members followed up and asked if there would be a subsequent document that included the performance measures.	The Chief Executive advised that every quarter there would be a performance review brought back to full council, cabinet and scrutiny.
	Members queried if there had been any benchmarking of performance against comparative authorities.	The Chief Executive stated that this was a very good question and that some national context had been built into the report. Members were also advised that Peterborough had been in the top 3 for City Fibre's pilots and was a good example of a benchmark against other authorities.
	Members asked if performance indicators could be shared with Councillors.	Members were advised that the KPIS were in development and once targets were drawn up, they would be presented to Councillors.
The Joint Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED to note this section of the Corporate Strategy and requested that the Chief Executive include quantitative data analysis of key performance targets in the planned quarterly performance reports.		
Appendix A Pages 9- 19 Sections 1. What the future holds for our city and what our response will need to look like 2. The Economy and Inclusive Growth	Members sought clarification on what the plans were for affordable housing.	The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport advised that the Council would be strict on the social housing policy requirement of 30%. The Council had brought in experts who would check the viability documents from developers to ensure that 30% of their development was affordable housing.
	Members queried what plans were in place to ensure that service level agreements were kept up to date and remained at their best value.	Members were advised that there had been a procurement activity to bring Serco back in house and work would continue to step up the capability and calibre of the contracts.

	Members referred to the workforce turnover for carers and queried what plans were in place to deal with it.	Members were advised that in broad terms the employment rate for the Council had been the strongest for a while. However, there were gaps in Childrens Social Care of 20%, Clare Lodge 40% and the Human resources team would conduct a review on the recruitment and retention practices of the Council.
	Members noted the decrease in the number of cyclists and asked what the plans were for improving the existing cycle network in the city.	The Chief Executive praised the active travel network in the city and advised that through the Combined Authority, work had continued to increase funding for active travel.
	Members asked why the documents did not refer to the climate and ecological emergencies.	The Chief Executive acknowledged that these were important issues and highlighted that the themes were intrinsically included in the documents.
	Members referred to unemployment rates among young people 18-24 and questioned what was in place to support this group.	The Chief Executive advised that this reflected some of the illustrative challenges the Council would be facing. It had been recognised that the skill level of the city was low and the new University would help improve this.
The Joint Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED to note this section of the Corporate Strategy and requested that the Chief Executive refer specifically to the climate and ecological emergencies within the Corporate Strategy documents.		
Appendix A Pages 19 – 21 Section 3. Prevention, Independence, and Resilience 4. Our Strategic Corporate Core	Members referred to the rise in childhood obesity to a record 10 year high and asked if the Council could commit to a reduction of 5%. Members noted that the Council cannot control Parents but can influence schools.	Members were advised that this was a challenge, and the Council would look at improvements in areas where they had influence. The role of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthy Scrutiny and ICB would be key forums to tackle this issue.
The Joint Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED to note this section of the Corporate Strategy.		
Appendix A Pages 21 - 24 Sections 5. Our Strategic Framework 6. Our Priorities	There were no questions.	
The Joint Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED to note this section of the Corporate Strategy.		

<p>Appendix B Pages 25 - 31</p> <p>Section 7. The Economy and Inclusive Growth</p>	<p>Members referred to residents in temporary accommodation and queried when they would be housed in suitable accommodation.</p>	<p>The Chief Executive advised that there would be a review of the temporary accommodation provision.</p>
	<p>Members referred to adult social care jobs and asked how the Council would promote those jobs as high-skilled.</p>	<p>Members were advised that this was part of the adult social care reform agenda that had been pushed back by Government, however, work within the Council would continue based on the transformation agenda in this sector.</p>
	<p>Members referred to the increased demand in cycle use and queried what plans were in place to improve and maintain the current cycle paths.</p>	<p>The Chief Executive advised that better quality measures had been factored in and there were bids to the Combined Authority for funding to invest in improvements in places like the Green Wheel.</p>
	<p>The Youth MP referred to well-paid jobs on page 30 and highlighted that most options presented to young people did not offer a living wage. Members asked if there would be a commitment to offer living wage jobs and affordable housing for young people.</p>	<p>The Chief Executive acknowledged that this was a key issue but that the Council did not control all employers. There would be a stronger commitment to improve work experience, apprenticeships and paid placements for young people.</p>
	<p>Members sought clarification on what the Net Zero target for the Council was.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport advised that the Council had been working hard to achieve their targets but that it had determined that the city would be unable to reach net zero by 2030 and the target had been moved to 2040.</p> <p>The Council would continue to work to meet the 2030 target and work had been ongoing to determine the likelihood of this.</p>
	<p>Members noted that the Corporate Strategy did not refer to the Embankment and sought clarification on whether the Embankment</p>	<p>The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities advised that the Embankment Master Plan</p>

	plans would be included in the strategy.	remained a work in progress and that the consultation feedback had been reviewed.
	Members asked what neighbouring and comparator authorities had done in terms of growth.	Members were advised that Officers would present performance data from across the Council to assist in the analysis of growth but comparative data had not been collected.
	Members questioned what plans were in place to tackle fly-tipping and catch persistent offenders.	The Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene and Environment advised that the Council had received funding for six education officers who would be focused on recycling and reducing fly-tipping rates.
	Members noted that the fourth industrial revolution had been mentioned in the report and queried how that applied to the Council's vision for the future.	The Chief Executive used the example that the city had some of the best Fibre capability in country which highlighted the opportunities offered.
The Joint Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED to note this section of the Corporate Strategy.		
Appendix B Pages 32 – 36 Section 8. Our Places and Communities	Members referred to the percentage of adults living independently for longer on page 36 and queried how this would be measured considering factors like long waiting lists.	Members were advised that this reflected the key role of the social care reablement teams. There would be continued discussions on what could be done to improve services in this area.
	Members sought clarification on where the Cultural Strategy would be relevant given the new Corporate Strategy.	The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communication, Culture and Communities advised that the Cultural Strategy was still in development.
The Joint Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED to note this section of the Corporate Strategy.		
Appendix B Pages 37 – 41 Section 9. Prevention, Independence, and Resilience	Members asked how many students were enrolled in the university and how the Council would support the growth of the university.	The Chief Executive advised that there had been two intakes of students enrolled and research plans were in place that would support the universities growth. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education, Skills, and University advised that the university was an opportunity to push Peterborough forward.

		There would be a workshop to deal with directors across departments to discuss the universities growth.
	Members queried how flexible the university would be in recruiting teachers and if there were plans to recruit from in Peterborough.	The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University advised that the curriculum was on the radar and would be a focus for improvement. Members noted that the most important thing was that the children come out of university with the qualifications that Peterborough's businesses need.
	Members asked how the Council could deliver on programmes for young people outside of the classroom.	The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University advised that there was an adult education budget run by the city college. Members noted that lifelong learning was important, and programmes were in place across the city which were delivered through the skills agenda.
The Joint Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED to note this section of the Corporate Strategy.		
Appendix B Pages 42 - 48 Section 10. Sustainable Future City Council	There were no questions.	
The Joint Scrutiny Committee RESOLVED to note this section of the Corporate Strategy.		
General Comments, any overall recommendations and Conclusion	Members queried what had been done to address funding gaps.	The Chief Executive advised that the funding gaps had narrowed and referred to priority 4 where the council would continue to look to a sustainable future city council.

CHAIR

The meeting began at 6.00pm and ended at 7:45pm.

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