

**MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING
HELD AT 7.00PM, ON
WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2023
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors Day (Chair), N Sandford (Vice Chair), J A Fox, J R Fox, A Jones, Khan, Sainsbury, Sharp, Strangward and Independent Co-opted Members 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
Jon Sawyer, Technical Project Lead
Hannah Swinburne, Principal Climate Change Officer
Charlotte Cameron, Senior Democratic Services Officer

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Perkins and Elsey. Councillor John Fox was in attendance as substitute.

Apologies were also received from Parish Councillor Micheal Samways, Independent Co-opted Member Matthew Barber and the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

Councillor Sharp declared his role as Chair of Peterborough Limited.

14. MINUTES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JULY 2023

The minutes of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 12 July 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

No call ins were received.

16. 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 item Charging Residents and Developers for replacement bins KEY/21NOV22/01 and queried how you would know who to charge for a replacement. Officers advised that call centre staff receive the relevant training.
- Crews would have notes to identify damaged bins and the focus would be to repair bins to keep them in use for as long as possible.
- Members were advised that the decision would be sent to the Cabinet Member in the coming weeks.
- Members noted the PIRI plan had been scheduled for the January committee meeting.
- Members queried the length of time taken to take the Cycling and Walking Task and Finish Groups report to Cabinet and requested a briefing note that addressed concerns regarding delayed receipt of funding.

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 a briefing note on whether there had been implications on access to funding caused by the delay in presenting the Cycling and Walking Task and Finish Groups Final report and recommendations to Cabinet.

17. ECO HOMES

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the Eco Homes Project. The purpose of the report was to share the proposed approach to the delivery of the Eco Homes project.

The Head of Environment and Climate Change accompanied by the Technical Project Lead introduced the report and highlighted key points including:

The project would define what eco homes meant for the city and would be support by £2 million in funding. Officers had drafted objectives and next steps, and the Council would take a pioneering approach.

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

- Officers advised that the standards considered would be wrote into the Local Plan and that each Council had a right to develop eco homes in their own way.
- Members noted that there were favoured approaches and that there had been an opportunity to create your own standard. All approached would be weighed up before a route was chosen.
- The funding would be used to define the project and lead to new properties within the city. There would be no specifics until the aspiration for the project had been set.
- Members were advised that 70% of the built environment would require a retrofit and that work separate to this project had been reviewing this.
- Members queried the cost per standard of eco homes and were advised that it could vary from £15,000 to £35,000 in terms of building regulations. There would be a trade-off between the number of homes and the standard of homes.
- The funding would be allocated based on a site and the determination of the number of homes that could be built.
- Officers had identified some sites but would need to wait on the outcome of the Locality Asset Review to conclude before moving forward.

- The Youth Councillor noted that domestic energy generation had not been mentioned and was advised that it had been considered in the plans and the team would review opportunities to include onsite renewable generation.
- Members were advised that there were things that could be done in existing homes, but it would rely on what was practically available.
- Members questioned how ambitious the project would be and were advised Officers were in the process of determining what the standards would be.
- Members requested a briefing note that details the timescales for each of the bullet points identified in the 'next steps' section of the report.
- Members referred to social housing and temporary accommodation, and queried what level of the houses would fall under those categories.
- It would be up to the local authority to decide and while there was not a specific number, Officers confirmed this type of housing would be included in the project.
- Officers would use completed schemes to help develop this project and Members urged them to be ambitious.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee resolved to review and comment on the proposed approach to the delivery of the Eco Homes project.

The Committee also requested a briefing note that details the timescales for each of the bullet points identified in the 'next steps' section of the report.

18. PETERBOROUGH CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION PLAN

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the Peterborough Climate Change Adaption Plan. The purpose of the report was to share a proposed approach to the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

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

In 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency and Officers had worked to develop actions to address carbon emissions in the Council and the City. The plan focused on how to adapt to climate events and set out the proposed approach for delivering the plan to ensure the Council could deliver services in a changing climate environment.

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 business case for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) grant funding had been developed and the plan had been to spend a proportion of the money in year 1.
- The delivery plan would be guided by grant funding and activity would be directed accordingly.
- Members urged Officers to focus on the natural environment as it would help support the adaption plan.
- It was noted that all upper tier authorities were required to have a Nature Recovery Strategy (NRS) and requested the inclusion of the NRS as an item for discussion at the next group representatives meeting.
- Members queried the role of the private sector and were advised that there was a need to be careful with what to commit to external partners but that there were key areas to consider.

- The first stage of the process would be to evaluate evidence of flooding and other key climate events and draft the adaption plan in accordance with various scenarios.
- Different areas had been identified as at risk of various types of flooding events and evidence from authorities like the environment agency would be used to adapt to the increased risk.
- Members referred to the just transition principles and asked what considerations would be included in the plan. Officers advised that there were some things that would have a clear impact like those who were less mobile.
- The plan would ensure that the city dealt with climate change in a fair manner.
- Members requested a briefing note on the business case for the CPCA funding when it is accepted.
- The success of funding meant that the plan would be delivered by March 2025 and would be scrutinised in the process.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee resolved to review and comment on the proposed approach to the development of the Peterborough Climate Adaption Plan.

The Committee also requested that requested:

- The inclusion of the Nature Recovery Strategy as an item for discussion at the next group representatives meeting.
- A briefing note on the business case for the CPCA funding when it is accepted.

19. RECYCLING AND WASTE POLICY GUIDE

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the Recycling and Waste Policy Guide. The purpose of the report was to provide a clear overview of the waste policy and services provided by Peterborough City Council.

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

Approve, nothing new other than chargeable bins. New document to make sure residents are aware and what is expected of them.

Understanding what is required and consolidating current policy and build on level of understanding and improve recycling rates – residents charter.

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 national waste strategy had not been released but Officers were aware that the idea of numerous bins would not be moving forward.
- The ideal recycling method was separation, and the Council would continue to support that.
- Members asked for the National Waste Strategy to be added as an item for discussion at the next group representatives meeting.
- Members referred to residents placing garden waste in the black bin to avoid payment for the brown bin. Members were advised that there were a small number of residents who did not sign up to brown waste bins.
- Members were concerned about the charge for bulky waste and the levels of fly tipping in the city.
- There had been delayed recruitment for Officers into the recycling team.

- The city had 13% contamination levels and an area of focused had been to reduce this, especially in communal areas.
- The Youth Councillor referred to guidance on contamination and were advised that the role of the education team would be improve materials and communication on this guidance.
- Officers had worked with PECT to determine the best methods of communicating these subjects.
- Members noted that there were various bin collection points and if a bin had been damaged on collection, the officers would make note of the damage and let residents know.
- Members questioned whether Officers knew if the waste containers were working and were advised that if residents did not present the bin at collection this was monitored.
- Compliance was measured against service area key performance indicators so that trends could be identified and resolved.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee resolved to endorse, support and make comments as it sees fit to the revised Recycling and Waste Policy Guide.

The Committee requested the inclusion of the National Waste Strategy as an item for discussion at the next group representatives meeting.

20. MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Members referred to the Cycling and Walking Task and Finish Groups recommendation on the removal of obstacles like staggered barriers. Members asked that areas be considered on merit and not a blanket approach.

Members asked whether the procurement service and their use of climate criteria be considered as an item for the Committee's work programme.

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.

21. WORK PROGRAMME

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.

Members asked whether the procurement service and their use of climate criteria be considered as an item for the Committee's work programme.

AGREED ACTIONS

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

The Committee also requested the inclusion of the procurement services and climate criteria as an item for discussion at the next group representatives meeting.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being the 8 November 2023.

CHAIR

Meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8.45pm