

ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT COMMITTEE ROOM III, COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE.

Present:

Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Rosemary Brown, Cllr Nigel Carter (Vice Chairman), Cllr Peter Colmer, Cllr Mollie Groom (Chairman), Cllr George Jeans (Reserve), Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Stephen Oldrieve and Cllr Anthony Trotman (Reserve)

Also Present:

Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Linda Conley, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Toby Sturgis and Cllr Dick Tonge

91. **Apologies and Substitutions**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Alan Hill, Chris Humphries, Leo Randall and Peter Doyle.

Cllrs Tony Trotman and George Jeans were substitutes at the meeting.

92. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 July 2010 were signed and approved as a correct record with the following amendment:

Item 84 (Real Time Passenger Information) – the meeting was temporarily adjourned for approximately 30 minutes due to a fire drill and not 15 minutes as detailed within the minutes.

93. **Declarations of Interests**

Cllr Rosemary Brown declared a personal interest in Item 9 – Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) – as an employee of BLB Solicitors who represented Trapeze.

94. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman confirmed that, as agreed at the last meeting, the focus of the agenda would be Climate Change with further details on the work being undertaken by Cllr Toby Sturgis (Cabinet member for Waste, Property and Environment) and Ariane Crampton (Head of Climate Change).

The agenda for the next meeting in November was not yet finalised. Councillors were reminded to inform the Chairman or Senior Scrutiny Officer of any items that Committee members wished to be included.

The Chairman was minded to invite Stuart Wheeler (Cabinet member for Leisure) to the next Committee in November in advance of the Leisure Services report submission to Cabinet in December following recommendations emerging from the consultation on changes to the service.

95. **Public Participation**

There was no public participation at the meeting.

96. **Climate Change Strategy/Carbon Management Plan**

The Head of Climate Change attended the meeting to present the draft Climate Change Strategy to the Committee prior to the Strategy's submission to the Climate Change Board on 20 September 2010 and provided a presentation on the current position of the Carbon Management Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Waste, Property and Environment and Service Director for Economy and Enterprise were also in attendance to answer any questions arising.

Climate Change Strategy

Discussion commenced with members expressing their support for the strategy and providing acknowledgement of the work that had been undertaken to date.

Members were asked to consider the ambitions of the document and how best these could be achieved. The following points were made:

- Details of monitoring responsibility should be included within the Strategy to ensure that the Strategy was effective (the Climate Change Board was proposed as one such monitoring body).
- Nottingham Declaration and the 10:10 Agreement should be referenced within the Legal and Policy Context section of the Strategy (although it was understood they did not hold legal obligations).

- That there was a need for officers to show commitment to the requirements of the Strategy in order to influence the community around them. (Supporting Stronger Resilient Communities was raised as a way to help implement the strategy within the community).
- That the policy decision regarding Fair Trade should be referenced in the Strategy.
- That the relationship with Wessex Water should be strengthened and that a relationship with Thames Water (which was not currently mentioned within the Strategy) should also be developed and strengthened.
- The Strategy required the support of other public organisations to be truly effective. Acknowledgement was made that a paper would be submitted to the Public Service Board on 15 September where discussion would include public assets, how the council managed it's properties and Climate Change Adaptation. Public services were required to sign up to the contents of the Public Service Board document.
- The Strategy would not be effective without the appropriate financial support and was likely to be influenced by the budgetary details released by central government in October. Details of the financial commitment required should be included.
- That clarification should be provided on the definition of Greenhouse Gas Equivalent data supplied by the University of Exeter.
- That the coordination of adaptation approaches and responses with other public service organisations should be included as a risk within the Strategy.
- Further clarity should be provided on the emissions that the council managed directly and had the power to influence. Examples of the work already undertaken by the council to demonstrate commitment should also be included.
- That although the council had little control over emissions by schools, encouragement should be given for schools to work within their travel plans, this could also be achieved through encouragement via the education programme.
- Indicative targets (and expected timeframes) should be included.
- That resource savings made as a result of the strategy should be reinvested within this area. This would demonstrate a commitment by the Council.
- The use of solar panels on housing stock and alternatives to the current school transport policy were also discussed as areas where the council could help to reduce emissions.

- That more work should be conducted to ensure that the importance of carbon reduction was being communicated across the organisation although acknowledgement was made to the involvement of area boards and community groups and the recent appointment of Green Champions across the organisation to assist in this area.
- The importance of departmental action plans should be clearly stated within the Strategy.

Carbon Management Plan

A presentation by the Head of Climate Change was delivered which provided details of the status of the Carbon Management Plan to date.

The presentation included details on:

- The aims of the Carbon Management Plan
- The general approach
- The Targets
- Council emissions for 2009/10
- Carbon reduction initiatives already identified
- Resources
- Forecasting
- Financial implications of meeting the targets

A copy of the presentation can be found [here](#).

Ensuing discussion included:

- The need for a review of the Plan following the anticipated budgetary reductions imposed by central government in October.
- As a result of the anticipated cuts whether the targets imposed were achievable.
- That schools and childrens centres had an effect on emissions but that little or no investment in these areas over the years would result in little change in emissions.
- That the potential reduction in the budget should not deflect from the importance of the Plan.
- Climate Change objectives should be at the forefront of the council's policies.

Resolved:

- 1) **To note the draft Climate Change Strategy and request that the Cabinet Member incorporate the comments made by the Committee prior to finalisation of the Strategy.**
- 2) **To note the progress made in developing the Carbon Management Plan.**
- 3) **That the Committee receives a 6 month update on implementation of the Carbon Management Plan.**

97. **Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI)**

An update report, which provided further information on the financial implications of converting the RTPI system to GPRS, was presented by the Service Director, Strategic Services following a request by the Committee in July 2010.

The Portfolio Holder for Transport was also in attendance to answer questions.

Clarification was provided that the implementation of the new GPRS system was expected to be completed by March 2011 and would result in an anticipated 93% coverage rate.

The Committee acknowledged the need for the RTPI system to be effective in order to encourage maximum use of the public transport system and that the GPRS system would provide this.

Resolved:

That the Committee:

- 1) **Supported the performance and financial reasons for converting the RTPI system from its existing communications platform of Private Mobile Radio to GPRS technology.**
- 2) **To receive an update report on the GPRS system in 18 months to provide clarity on the effectiveness of the new system.**

98. **Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programmes provided with the following comments:

It was understood that the maintenance and cleansing of **public conveniences** was to become the responsibility of Parish and Town councils. Further research would be conducted to clarify this.

That the proposed harmonised **waste collection service** would be based on 2 weekly collections of free garden waste, plastic bottles and cardboard, the retention of the black box for glass, paper, cans and textiles and a 2 weekly collection of residual waste and would be implemented as soon as possible subject to approval by Cabinet on 19 October.

Ensuing discussion followed regarding the council's consultation process. Members of the Committee considered the need for the process to be reviewed and, accordingly, proposed that the subject be raised at the Organisation & Resources Liaison Board for further discussion.

Members also noted that no further information had been received by the Committee following the **Gypsy and Traveller** Consultation process. Cllr Jose Green, as the Committee's appointed representative on the Gypsy and Traveller Strategy Project Group, would be asked to provide the Committee with an update.

It was also noted that no further updates had been received by the Committee on the **Housing PFI** project. The Senior Scrutiny Officer confirmed that he would contact the Cabinet Member responsible for Housing for an update accordingly.

Leisure Facility Review would be added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme for consideration in November 2010.

99. **Date of next Meeting**

2 November 2010.

100. **Urgent Items**

No urgent items were considered.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.45 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Sharon Smith, of Democratic & Members' Services, direct line (01225) 718378, e-mail sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

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