



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

6 June 2019

7.00 pm – 9.33 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

3

Minutes

Membership

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	P
Councillor George James (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Dave Mossman	P
Councillor Chris Brine	P	Councillor Skeena Rathor	A
Councillor Paul Denney	P	Councillor Haydn Sutton	P
Councillor Jim Dewey	P	Councillor Jessica Tomblin	A
Councillor Trevor Hall	P	Councillor Tim Williams	A

P = Present A = Absent

Other Member(s) Present

Councillor Cornell

Officers in Attendance

Chief Executive
Head of Community Services
Director of Development Services

Democratic Services & Elections Officer
Democratic Services & Elections Manager

EC.001 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Williams, Councillor Tomblin and Councillor Rathor.

EC.002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EC.003 MINUTES

RESOLVED **That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2019 are accepted as a correct record.**

EC.004 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Public questions were submitted. They were answered by Councillor Pickering. Supplementary questions were also answered. (Refer to the Council's webcast and [Agenda Item 4](#)).

EC.005 **PETITION: SAVE STROUD & SAVE RURAL ENGLAND!**

Lee Sibley presented a petition that highlighted the growing concerns for the environment and the amount of development in the constituency. He advised that the population of the United Kingdom would increase by 10 million in 25 years and as a result of this 340,000 new homes would need to be built each year until 2031. He advised that as a young person he felt voiceless and that the younger generation would have to take responsibility for the mistakes caused by previous generations. He called on the Committee to grant legislation to stop all planned building works in the Stroud Constituency.

The Director of Development Services responded to the comments made with a brief presentation. He advised that housing numbers are no longer set by the District Council but are now set nationally and based on current figures, space for at least 5,700 new homes needs to be found in the Stroud District. A graph was also used to show the Components of Change in the District, which showed that the biggest proportion of migration into the Stroud District were from other parts of the United Kingdom. In terms of international migration, the graph showed less migration in than out, therefore more people are leaving Stroud District for other countries than there are entering the District from other countries. It was also advised that the majority of growth is focused on existing towns and that house building in villages is likely to be similar to past rates.

The Chair of the Committee responded to part of the petition which referred to the population of hedgehogs declining, he confirmed that hedgehog populations are declining, however, the latest figures show that populations appear to be increasing in more urbanised areas. He also referred to Stroud Valley School and the Hedgehog Republic which had been helping to open up residents' gardens to allow hedgehogs to go through them rather than travel long distances on roads.

Councillors congratulated the petitioner on engaging with the Committee and bringing the petition to the Council.

EC.006 **PROGRESSING CARBON NEUTRAL 2030**

The Director of Development Services presented the report and stressed that the report is not meant to be a step by step response to how the key changes or outcomes are to be achieved, but the report's purpose is to describe the initial pathways and processes that will be engaged in order to achieve the outcomes.

Councillor Denney questioned whether we would be looking to work with other Councils and Government Bodies in order to create a credible methodology for measuring our baseline carbon figure. The Director of Development Services confirmed that as outlined in recommendation d) we would commission work to define the District's baseline carbon emissions. It was also stated that there will soon be further clarity in terms of the approach that other Councils have taken to define

what that baseline will be and hopefully a standardised methodology will be created that authorities can adopt.

Councillor Dewey referred to the retrofit section of the report and in particular the existing HRA stock. He questioned whether there was any scope to retrofit our existing housing stock and whether we could achieve this by using economies of scale. He advised he would be interested in seeing a pilot scheme created. The Director of Development Services confirmed that we would be looking to identify what technologies would be needed and what the cost would be of applying those technologies to our existing stock. He also advised that the economies of scale issue would be significant.

The Director of Development Services spoke regarding the governance section in the report, it was stated that that section describes the hopeful relationship they will have with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), which is intended to provide the umbrella between Severn Wye Energy Agency, the Transition Stroud movement and a Council Officer.

Councillor Pickering advised that Town/Parish Councils are beginning to form a network of their own and are contacting each other regarding the plan to become Carbon Neutral by 2030, it may be that one of the roles of the LSP will be to help coordinate this network.

Councillor Mossman proposed 3 amendments to the report. The first amendment was to page 19, paragraph 35, recommended action O “Consider joint commissioning EV charging points with GCC at suitable SDC owned locations.” To add to the end “we should also take action on an urgent basis to ensure that in our budget discussions for 2020/2021 our Officers will include the necessary costs to fund the installation of multiple and also superfast charging points in our car parks and Council owned land”.

Councillor Mossman advised that this could potentially be funded from the surplus in the business rates as per paragraph 45 on page 21 of the report.

The amendment was seconded by Haydn Jones.

Councillor Cornell advised the Committee that a report was being taken to the Strategy and Resources Committee in June that was recommending the purchase of a new low carbon fleet which also includes funds for installing electrical charge points in the District.

Upon the vote the amendment was carried.

Councillor Mossman proposed his second amendment. To add the words “and smart energy systems” to the first bullet point in the decision box at the end of “Monitoring the national policy position in respect of energy standards”.

The amendment was seconded by Haydn Jones.

Upon the vote the amendment was carried.

Councillor Mossman proposed his third amendment. To add a new paragraph under paragraph 31 on page 19 which states “The Council will put maximum political

pressure and otherwise that we can on Western Power to upgrade the grid so that it does not become a limiting factor in our area.”

The amendment was seconded by Haydn Jones

Upon the vote the amendment was carried.

The Chair summed up stating that it is a highly ambitious target, however, it is technically possible. He advised that there may be potential regulatory, political and planning constraints but if the Committee, the Council and the communities are in support of it then it is something that can lead to better lives for everyone and set an example.

Upon the vote the motion with 3 amendments laid out in the minutes above was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED a) Set up a cross-party member-officer group to coordinate the actions set out in this report and to ensure actions undertaken to achieve CN2030 are embedded across the Council. This will include:

- **Monitoring the national policy position in respect of energy standards and new energy systems for new homes to ensure that the Local Plan, when examined, reflects the latest national policy.**
- **Commissioning work to inform the review of the Local Plan that identifies the potential contribution that could be achieved from the further roll out of renewable technologies and low carbon heat, including district heating, from across the district.**
- **Responding to the consultation on LTP4 requesting that GCC maintain a focus on schemes that encourage modal shift to low carbon transport options and which support both existing and future communities.**
- **Implementing the Council’s Capital programme for investment in cycle paths/ greenways and integrate provision from new housing schemes.**
- **Contributing to work at county level to achieve zero carbon standards for new developments, including lobbying of Government as appropriate.**
- **Engaging the services of an energy agency to provide community retrofit advice and support.**

b) Work with the Stroud District Local Strategic Partnership to take a cross sector lead in supporting the delivery of CN2030. This will include:

- **Creating and recruiting to a new CN2030 sub group/Board.**
- **Establishing the capacity and resource needs of the Transition Towns and other voluntary sector groups to contribute to community engagement to achieve delivery of CN2030 across the whole District.**

- **Working with the Transition Towns and other key partners to run a seminar/ working conference and draw in a wider section of public and commercial partners.**
- c) **Recommend recruitment of a new post within the District Council to support both the LSP and SDC in co-ordinating the CN2030 work.**
- d) **Commission work to define the District's baseline carbon emissions.**
- e) **Work with GFirst/LEP to establish sources of funding to support the implementation of the Gloucestershire Sustainable Energy Strategy.**

Councillor Brine left the meeting

EC.007 UBICO BUSINESS PLAN & 5 YEAR VISION 2019/2020

The Head of Community Services presented the report. He stated that the business plan in the past has not come before Members, it has been agreed that the next business plan draft will be brought to Committee in December so that it can be discussed and suggestions can be taken back to the shareholders board by the Chief Executive. It was advised that this would be an improvement as the business plan is not currently brought to the Committee.

Councillor Pickering stated he thought this was a good move and that it was important that the report did come before Committee.

Upon the vote the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED To note the business plan and AGREE to change the sign off progress for the business plan in subsequent years.

EC.008 APPOINTMENTS

- a) Performance Monitoring Representatives – Councillor Dewey advised that he would be willing to take on this role dependent on Councillor Tomblin's and Councillor Brine's agreement at the next Committee meeting.
- b) The following annual appointments to outside bodies were made:-

Organisation	Representatives 2019/20
Berkeley Nuclear Stakeholders	Councillor Lindsey Green Councillor Brian Tipper
Cotswold AONB	Councillor Norman Kay
Lower Severn Drainage Board	Councillor John Jones
Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee	Councillor George James
Stroud Concordat	Councillor Simon Pickering
Stroud Valleys Project Board	Councillor Haydn Jones
Rural SUDS Steering Group	Councillor Simon Pickering Councillor Dave Mossman

EC.009 **MEMBER REPORTS**

- a) Planning Review Panel - A verbal summary was provided by Councillor Jones and Councillor Mossman. They advised that cross party agreement had been excellent and there were only a few things left to be finalised.

- b) Stroud Concordat – Councillor Pickering advised that there had not been a formal meeting since the last Committee meeting but there had been some interim meetings looking at car parking in Stroud. He advised that the Chamber of Trade was in favour of charging for car parking in Stroud. The meetings were to review whether parking could be provided in a different way, e.g short stay and long stay in different areas.

EC.010 **WORK PROGRAMME**

It was advised that Carbon Neutral 2030 updates will need to be added to future meetings on the Work Programme.

Councillor Pickering also questioned which meeting the Local Plan would need to go to, the Director of Development Services advised that a date hadn't been set yet.

RESOLVED **To note the work programme.**

EC.0013 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 9.33 pm.

Chair