



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

5 December 2019

# 3

7.00 pm – 9.10pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

### Minutes

#### Membership

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

P = Present                      A = Absent

#### Other Members in Attendance

Councillor Doina Cornell  
Councillor Mattie Ross

#### Officers in Attendance

Chief Executive	Accountant
Carbon Neutral Officer	Commercial Services Manager
Principal Projects Officer	Community Services Manager
Environmental Protection Manager	Head of Community Services
Principal Environmental Health Officer	Democratic Services & Elections Officer

#### Others in Attendance

Grant McCoubrey, Head of Strategy and Business Intelligence at Ubico

#### EC.032

#### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hurst, Sutton and Dewey.

#### EC.033

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

#### EC.034

#### MINUTES

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2019 are accepted as a correct record.**

**EC.035**                      **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

Councillor Pickering, the Chair, advised that there would be a change to the order of Agenda Items, Agenda Item 11 would be taken before Agenda Item 10.

**EC.036**                      **UBICO BUSINESS PLAN 2020/21 ENGAGEMENT**

The Head of Strategy and Business Intelligence at Ubico gave a presentation which provided an overview of Ubico's 2020/2021 business plan themes and commitments. The four key themes referred to were; people, operations, value for money and commercial.

Councillor Denney advised that he had previously tested fuel injection control systems and that a limited number of these were made for compressed natural gas waste collection vehicles in Sweden. He asked whether Ubico had considered this or hybrid technologies as an option for their vehicles. The Head of Strategy and Business Intelligence at Ubico advised that they were looking into fleet options and that he would be happy to ask the Head of Fleet to update Members on the options they had considered.

Councillor Pickering asked what the best avenue to follow would be to provide additional income for the Council. The Head of Strategy and Business Intelligence at Ubico stated that the progression to trade waste had potential to provide additional income however to allow this they would need to invest in new technology, such as on board weighing. He also advised that providing consultancy work and advising other Local Authorities on the Teckal Model could also be an avenue to explore in terms of income generation.

Councillor Pickering asked if collecting Trade Waste in a town centre would be difficult. The Head of Strategy and Business Intelligence at Ubico advised that higher density collections would be better, more efficient and that it could allow for the use of smaller electric collection vehicles.

The Chair thanked the Head of Strategy and Business Intelligence at Ubico for presenting and advised that a report would be brought to the next Committee in February 2020.

**RESOLVED**                      **To note the presentation.**

**EC.037**                      **CARBON NEUTRAL 2030 – GENERAL UPDATE**

The Carbon Neutral Officer introduced the above report which provided an update from the Carbon Neutral 2030 (CN2030) report presented to Committee in June 2019.

Councillor Brine stated that the round table discussion group needed to involve the appropriate Members who would be able to engage with the public. The Carbon Neutral Officer agreed with Councillor Brine and confirmed that it would be up to the Members and Officers at the first meeting of the round table to discuss its terms of reference and decide how it wished to operate.

Councillor Denney raised the Friends of the Earth recommendations and the target they had introduced to double tree covering by 2045, he asked if it was something that Stroud

District Council could help achieve. Councillor Pickering advised that finding suitable locations was difficult because of the price of the land but options would be looked at, he warned that it was also about getting the right trees in the right places. The Carbon Neutral Officer advised that they needed to prioritise the work plan so that projects could be actioned. Councillor Jones confirmed that he had witnessed the effects of the wrong trees in the wrong location and highlighted an example of 40 oak trees being felled at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. The Carbon Neutral Officer advised that there was a bigger work piece that needed to be undertaken mapping the Stroud District showing the best use of the land and the species that could be found there.

The Chair advised that he had received an email from Councillor Hurst who wished to ask questions. The questions asked were regarding the impact of the CN2030 agreement on housing delivery, it was asked whether certain building materials would be banned and if the insistence on Carbon Zero homes in our local plan would mean that developers would push to reduce the amount of social housing they would have to provide. Councillor Pickering advised that he had spoken at the UK Homes Exhibition recently on behalf of the Council and that there had been lots of conversations about offsite fabrication of housing being the way forward. He also advised that SGS Berkeley Green UTC are very keen on establishing training and a modular housing factory and that the Council could think about whether it wished to help support this.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. To note the CN2030 general update report.**
- 2. To define base lining requirements and priorities in line with a CN2030 work plan.**
- 3. To agree the annual timeline for CN2030 reporting.**

#### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

**That a CN2030 round table discussion group be formed on a cross party basis with members to be nominated by each political group.**

#### **EC.038**

#### **ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2019**

The Principal Projects Officer gave a brief history of the Environment Strategies adopted by Stroud District Council to this point, she advised that the first Environment Strategy had been adopted in 1998, and a 20 year Strategy had been adopted in 2007. The 20 year Strategy included an embedded action plan and it had since been decided that it was important to separate the Strategy and the action plan. The Principal Projects Officer drew the Committee's attention to the diagram on page 29 of the Environment Strategy which showed how the Environment Strategy contributed to the Council's Corporate Plan. She also advised that they were currently developing the cross cutting plan and a report would be brought back to Committee in February 2020.

Councillor Denney advised that the Task and Finish Group had spent a large amount of time looking at the 4 priorities in an attempt to get the wording right. He asked if the wording to Priority 4, Sustainable Communities, could be altered slightly to remove the word 'long'. The Chair confirmed that the if the Committee were happy with this they would remove it as it was a minor textual amendment. The Committee agreed and the Principal Projects Officer confirmed that they would remove the word 'long' from Priority 4.

Councillor Denney affirmed that this was another example of where cross-party Members had all worked together to produce a really good document. He confirmed that he thought it was a good idea to remove the action plan from the Strategy.

Councillor Pickering stated that this was a strategic document which set a very strong message for the Council and that it would be a key document that everyone would need to consider.

Councillor Denney thanked the Principal Projects Officer and the former Director of Development Services for their work on this Strategy.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously

**RESOLVED To adopt the Environment Strategy 2019.**

**EC.039 UPDATE ON AIR QUALITY IN STROUD DISTRICT**

The Environmental Protection Manager introduced the above report which took account of the latest annual status report that was submitted to DEFRA in July 2019. He asked the Committee to note that there was a lag in some of the data and that most of the report referred to data collected in 2018. He advised that it also provided updates on readings taken from areas near to the Javelin Park incinerator.

Councillor Denney asked for further information on paragraph 2.3 and if Officers were sure that the increase had been caused by analytical methodology. The Environmental Protection Manager advised that they believed that the bias adjustment factor provided by the labs that supply the diffusion tubes had slightly inflated the figures for the levels of NO<sub>2</sub> and that DEFRA had agreed with this assumption. He advised that the bias adjustment factor they had received in previous years was approximately 0.7 or 0.8 however this year they had been given a factor of 0.89.

Councillor Jones asked why the air quality monitoring had only been carried out in the north of the District. The Environmental Protection Manager advised that in previous years locations had been reviewed in the South of the District and that they were always open to suggestions of other suitable sites.

Councillor Denney stated that the report had provided a really good baseline for air quality around Javelin Park and that it would be interesting to see if the figures are any different next year. The Environmental Protection Manager advised there wasn't any lag with the particulate data so as more data is collected they would be able to see any effect that Javelin Park is having on air quality.

Councillor Pickering advised that he was alarmed that pollution levels were remaining the same. He stated that if the District was to achieve its target of CN2030 they needed to reduce pollution levels by 8% every year.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED To endorse the approach taken with respect to Local Air Quality Management as set out in the Report.**

**EC.040****EXTENSION OF PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS  
RELATED TO CONTROL OF DOGS**

The Environmental Protection Manager advised that Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) were previously known as Dog Control Orders. He advised that Officers were proposing to extend the PSPOs for 3 years with one minor amendment to allow dogs off of leads on cycle tracks and canal towpaths.

Councillor Denney asked how many enforcements had been made since PSPOs came into place. The Environmental Protection Manager confirmed that there had not been many but recently a gentleman in Dursley had been taken to court and had been fined £1,100. He advised that for an enforcement to take place an Officer would need to witness the action or they would need credible witness statements which many witnesses are unwilling to provide.

The Chair asked the Committee to consider whether dogs should be on or off a lead on a towpath. The Environmental Protection Manager advised that the proposal contained within the report was to remove the requirement for dogs to be on leads on cycle routes and the canal towpath. Councillor Denney advised that he was not sure whether he supported removing the requirement for dogs to be on leads on cycle routes and the canal towpath. The Environmental Protection Manager advised that the proposals would be put out for consultation prior to making a decision.

The Chair asked who Officers would be contacting for a consultation response. The Environmental Protection Manager confirmed that they would be advertising the Consultation on the social media pages, the website and they would also contact the Police and Parish and Town Councils. Councillor Pickering asked if local organisations e.g. running clubs, the Cotswold Canal Trust and angling clubs could also be contacted. The Environmental Protection Manager advised that they would be happy to contact these groups during the consultation.

In a response to Members questions the Environmental Protection Manager advised that they were proposing to remove the restriction as they had only had approximately 5 complaints in 5 years and that PSPOs could only be retained when there is a need to do so.

Councillor Jones stated that this was a pragmatic proposal and that he would be interested to see the results of the consultation.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. To endorse the proposal for the extension of the existing four Public Spaces Protection Orders relating to dog control for a further period of 3 years from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020; and**
- 2. To authorise officers to undertake the necessary consultation in respect of the proposal prior to a final report to be submitted to the Committee for consideration post-consultation.**

**EC.041**                      **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REVENUE ESTIMATES –  
REVISED 2019/20 AND ORIGINAL 2020/21**

The Accountant introduced the above report and brought the Committee's attention to Table 1, which set out the base budget and the changes, and Table 2 which set out the budget pressures.

Councillor Pickering advised that the budget pressure listed in Table 2 as 'reduced contribution from GCC' was due to the changes to the Gloucestershire County Council food waste incentives and that negotiations were still ongoing. He advised that they were originally set to lose more than was now being proposed and he thanked Officers for their hard work in negotiating this.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDED TO STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**      **1. The revised Environment Committee budget for 2019/20 and original 2020/21 revenue budget are approved.**  
**2. The Fees and Charges list as shown in Appendix B is approved.**

**EC.042**                      **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2019/20 Q2**

The Accountant introduced the above report and brought the Committee's attention to Table 1 and Table 2. Table 1 showed the original and revised revenue budgets and the forecast outturn of where budget holders think they were going to be. Table 2 showed the budget variances that were plus or minus £20,000.

Councillor Denney advised that he was concerned about the saving in Statutory Building Control and that we need to ensure that we are staffing departments adequately, he asked whether Officers could keep a close eye on it. The Chief Executive advised that there was a national shortage in this field and in particular Building Control Surveyors.

The Community Services Manager provided further information on Paragraph 12 and the volatile paper crisis, he advised that at the moment they were receiving a good return from Suez and that commodities have done very well. He did advise that there was a slight downturn in the paper market and there could be a drop in the value of the paper and cardboard we are sending for recycling. He also stated that with the wet weather we had experienced recently the amount of moisture in the paper and cardboard being sent for recycling was affecting its value.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**                      **To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital programme for this Committee.**

**EC.043**                      **ADOPTION OF NEW BYELAWS FOR THE REGULATION OF  
COSMETIC PIERCING AND SKIN-COLOURING BUSINESSES**

The Commercial Services Manager introduced the above report which sought authority to adopt new byelaws.

Councillor Brine asked if Officers knew how many businesses were not registered. The Commercial Services Manager advised that they didn't know how many businesses were not registered but advised they had seen an increase in activity on Social Media from people who were carrying out these activities within their home. He advised that the non-registered businesses would be hard to find but that they wanted to be in a position to take legal action should they find one.

Councillor Denney asked if a consultation would be carried out before the byelaws were adopted. The Commercial Services Managed confirmed that part of the process does involve advertising using local media to give people the opportunity to make objections however they would not expect to receive any objections from the businesses that are already registered.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

- RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**
- 1. To authorise the Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer to affix the common seal to new Byelaws for the regulation of businesses that carry out acupuncture, tattooing cosmetic piercing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, and electrolysis and carry out the necessary procedure and apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation; and**
  - 2. Subject to the confirmation of the proposed new Byelaws, take such steps necessary to revoke the Council's existing Byelaws relating to acupuncture, tattooing, ear piercing and electrolysis that came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1986.**

#### **EC.044**

#### **MEMBER REPORTS**

- a) Planning Review Panel - Councillor Jones advised that the Planning Review Panel had come to an agreement to allow the Local Plan to go forward for consultation and thanked Councillor Studdert-Kennedy for his work in Chairing the panel.
- b) Stroud Concordat – Councillor Pickering advised that there had not been any meetings of the Stroud Concordat since the last Committee.
- c) Performance Monitoring – a report had been circulated prior to the meeting and copies were made available at the meeting. Councillor Brine advised that they were going to do some work around making the data easier to understand but that they were pleased with the progress so far.

#### **EC.045**

#### **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair advised that a further Ubico report would be brought to February's Environment Committee. Councillor Denney suggested that an item is added to the Work Programme regarding the provision of charge points for electric vehicles. The Chair advised that charge points were being looked at by the County Council Highways Authority and confirmed that there was a group at the GFirst LEP also looking into this.

**EC.046**

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.

Chair