

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

31 October 2013

7.00 pm – 10.05 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

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Minutes

Membership:

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	P
Councillor Paul Smith (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Graham Littleton	P
Councillor Liz Ashton	P	Councillor Stephen Moore	P
Councillor Paul Denney	A	Councillor Roger Sanders	P
Councillor Chas Fellows	A	Councillor Brian Tipper	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	P	Councillor Martin Whiteside	P

P = Present

A = Absent

Others Present:

Stephen McNally	Site Director, Berkeley Site
Ben Bridgewater	Waste Strategy Engineer, Berkeley Site
Steve Read	Head of Service, Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor June Cordwell	Councillor Keith Pearson
Councillor Penny Wride	

Officers Present:

Strategic Head (Development Services)	Public Space Manager
Planning Strategy Manager	Solicitor
Head of Cultural Services	Senior Planning Strategy Officer
Canal Project Manager	Democratic Services and Elections Officer
Accountancy Manager	

EC.022

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chas Fellows and Paul Denney.

EC.023

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

EC.024 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED **That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 2013 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

EC.025 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

EC.026 **DECOMMISSIONING OF BERKELEY POWER STATION**

Members received a power point presentation from Stephen McNally who explained Magnox was the management and operations contractor responsible for decommissioning 10 nuclear sites on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, which included Berkeley.

The decommissioning timelines were:-

- Defuelling 1989 – 1992
- Care and maintenance preparations 1993 – 2012
- Care and maintenance 2021 – 2074
- Final site clearance 2074 - 2079

He outlined the implications of storing intermediate level waste and transporting this in robust transport approved containers to Berkeley. Consultation was currently being undertaken. In reply to questions he confirmed the following:-

- There would not be a conflict of the storage of waste in the ground and fracking.
- Transportation in the yellow containers met international economic regulations and security arrangements would be provided by the office of civil nuclear security.
- The cast iron yellow containers were duck tailed and 150m thick and could withstand being dropped from 6 metres.

RESOLVED **To note the update.**

The Chair confirmed that he would be taking agenda items out of the sequence as shown on the published Agenda.

EC.027 **SUPPORTING THE STROUD FOOD ECONOMY**

The Canal Project Manager outlined the above report which sought approval for the implementation of a grant scheme to support the Stroud Food Economy. Confirmation was given that there were high levels of ambitions for the project which would assist the local economy. Consideration would only be given to applicants if their project met the criteria, as set out in paragraphs 2.1. and 2.2 of the report. Value for money would be demonstrated on the delivery of the scheme and the grant would only be offered to those projects that were achievable. The grants would be paid in arrears after satisfactory delivery of the scheme. Clarification was given that grant schemes were administered differently, by either payment being

made in advance or in arrears. The timetable was tight to enable the Council to commit to this project.

Councillor Martin Whiteside moved a Motion to accept the Officer's advice and it was seconded by Councillor Paul Smith.

Councillor Stephen Moore proposed to make three amendments to paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of the decision which were taken separately, and were seconded by Councillor Roger Sanders.

1. Agree that the aim of the scheme is to link up producers and consumers in order to stimulate the local economy.

Members debated the amendment and upon the vote, it was CARRIED.

3. Delegate the preparation of the application, assessment and monitoring process to a Task and Finish Group supported by the Canal Manager.

The proposer confirmed that he thought that a Task and Finish Group could take this scheme forward, as there were a number of suggested operational principles to be confirmed. The Task and Finish Group should be able to consult and seek the advice of the report author.

Members debated the amendment and upon the vote, it was CARRIED.

4. Delegate the joint approval of grants to the Strategic Head of Development Services and the Chair of the Environment Committee, in consultation with the Canal Manager.

The Solicitor clarified that she did not recommend that the Canal Manager, as consultant be added. The proposer and seconder agreed to delete the wording "in consultation with the Canal Manager" from their amendment.

Councillor Hayden Jones proposed a further amendment which was seconded by Councillor Nick Hurst, that Committee deferred making a decision and sought advice. Clarification was given that decisions on the process of giving core grants to voluntary bodies was a Member decision but the actual decisions of who would receive the grants would be an officer decision.

On being put to the vote the amendment to defer making a decision was LOST.

During debate members expressed their differing views. On being put to the vote the amendment was LOST.

On being put to the vote the fourth recommendation to the original report was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

- 1. Agree that the aim of the scheme is to link up producers and consumers in order to stimulate the local economy;**
- 2. Approve the implementation of a £100,000 grant scheme offering one off grants to qualifying organisations;**

3. Delegate the preparation of the application, assessment and monitoring process to a Task and Finish Group supported by the Canal Manager;
4. Delegate the approval of grants to the Strategic Head of Development Services in consultation with the Chair of the Environment Committee.

EC.028**BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2013-14**

The Accountancy Manager presented the second monitoring report of the financial year, detailing a forecast of the outturn position against revenue budgets and the capital programme for 2013/14. Further breakdowns of individual budgets to Committee outside of the meeting would be provided to Members under separate cover.

Confirmation was given that the Carbon Management budget covered a broad range of projects, staff costs and also the contribution to SWAYE. The figure of £173,000 (Table 2 and paragraph 6) was the estimated underspend figure up to 31 March 2014.

RESOLVED To note the outturn forecast for the General Fund Revenue budget and the Capital Programme for 2013/14.

RECOMMENDED That the Strategy and Resources Committee approves the proposed transfer from earmarked reserves as set out in paragraph 8 (page 4).

EC.029**MULTI SERVICES CONTRACT**

The Public Spaces Officer introduced the above report which gave an overview of the present contract, noted the achievements to date and to consider the future of the service post July 2016. Preparations for a new contract were commencing very early with the formation of a cross-party Task and Finish Group.

Mr Stephen Read, Head of Service representing Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee (GJWC) outlined the roles of the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership (GWP) and Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee. He hoped in the future that the Council would be joining the GJWC who would be able to offer their help and support through the process.

It was clarified that the different partners of the GJWC did not run their services in complete harmonisation and had different Constitutions. Different models were running, whereby one authority could undertake their collections weekly, another fortnightly. Members debated the topic and confirmation was given that three meetings of the Task and Finish Group would need to take place prior to Christmas to enable an update report to be debated at February's meeting.

The Chair paid tribute to Ray Figg, Head of Cultural Services who would soon be leaving the authority after 6 years to work for the London Borough of Sutton. He thanked him for all of his support that he had given to members.

- RESOLVED**
1. To recognise the achievements and performance to date.
 2. To set up a task and finish group to look at different options of service design/delivery, service packaging, procurement route(s) and financial implications post July 2016.

EC.030 **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)**

The Planning Strategy Manager provided background and progress to date on the setting of a Community Infrastructure Levy. He further clarified that the Government was intending to extend the deadline for limiting the use of planning obligations to April 2015. A full report, together with the preliminary draft charging schedule would be presented to Committee on 4 February 2014, requiring the dates contained within the table on page 6 of the report, from January 2014 onwards to slip by a month.

In response to questions clarification was given that it was possible that CIL monies collected from one area within the district could be used in another area, subject to the agreed priorities for the area, which would be a Council decision. The CIL charging schedule would set the rates that would apply and identify the rules for how that money would be spent, which will be agreed by Council, subject to legal requirements.

- RESOLVED** **To support the preparation of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Stroud District in accordance with the timetable set out in the report.**

EC.031 **CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN FUTURE PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Head of Development Services outlined the above report confirming that if the hydro scheme was not achievable a list of proposed projects was shown at Appendix A to the report. However members could equally decide to fund the projects in addition to the hydro scheme. The Asset Management Group would be meeting next week and the pros and cons of these growth items would be discussed and reported back to Council within the budget process. Confirmation was given that carbon savings from investments in the Council's housing stock could be included within the Council's carbon savings calculations. Members were updated on the hydro scheme by the Canal Project Manager.

- RESOLVED** **To support the programme of projects as set out in Appendix A as part of the wider discussion regarding budget setting for 2014/15.**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution Members voted to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, to conclude the meeting by 10.15 pm.

EC.032 **MEMBER REPRESENTATION AT OTHER MEETINGS/**
EVENTS

RESOLVED **To make appointments as set out below for the remainder of the civic year:-**

- a. The Gloucestershire Waste Partnership – Councillor Simon Pickering**
- b. Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee – Councillor Simon Pickering**
- c. The Cotswold Canals Partnership – Councillor Martin Whiteside**

EC.033 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair requested that any Members contact him to discuss any future agenda items. Members agreed to move the Work Programme to the beginning of future agendas.

RESOLVED **To note the Work Programme and in future move the item to the beginning of the agenda.**

EC.034 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

None received.

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

Chair