

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

13 December 2018

7.00 pm – 9.55 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

3**Minutes****Membership**

| | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|---|
| Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair) | P | Councillor Gary Powell | P |
| Councillor George Butcher (Vice-Chair) | P | Councillor Tom Skinner | A |
| Councillor Chris Brine | P | Councillor Haydn Sutton | P |
| Councillor Paul Denney | P | Councillor Brian Tipper | P |
| Councillor Jim Dewey | P | Councillor Jessica Tomblin | P |
| Councillor Trevor Hall | P | Councillor Tim Williams | P |

P = Present**A = Absent****Other Member(s) Present**

Councillors Braun, Cooper, Cornell, Edmunds, John Jones, Marjoram, Rathor and Whiteside.

Officers in Attendance

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Director of Development Services | Policy Implementation Manager |
| Principal Planning Officer | Accountant |
| Principal Projects Officer | Democratic Services Officer |
| Head of Community Services | |

The Chair paid tribute to Councillor Penny Wride and requested all present to stand for a minute's silence in her memory.

The Chair requested that agenda item 14 - the motion was brought forward after agenda item 6 - member reports, all of the committee members agreed.

EC.031**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Skinner.

EC.032**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

EC.033 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED **That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 October 2018 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

EC.034 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A question was submitted by Wotton-under-Edge Town Council who were represented by Councillor R Claydon OBE and answered by the Chair, Councillor Pickering. A supplementary question was also answered. (Refer to the Council's [webcast](#) and agenda item 9).

EC.035 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members agreed to add the following items to their work programme:-

February – The Village Design Statement for Chalford

March – Multi-Service Contract Review

September – UBICO – Annual performance presentation

RESOLVED **To add the above items to the work programme.**

EC.036 **MEMBER REPORTS**

- a) Planning Review Panel (PRP) – there was no report.
- b) Stroud Concordat - Councillor Pickering had circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November and gave a verbal update on the meeting held on 10 December.
- c) Performance Monitoring – the Director of Development Services confirmed that a meeting had not taken place and there had been little change.
- d) Waste and Recycling Task and Finish Group – the Chair confirmed that the group had met from 2015-2018 and had now completed its work. A report had been circulated to members with 50 suggested recommendations to improve the service. He confirmed that the Council were getting value for money and a good service. There was currently a trial of 300 new style food waste bins, that are cheaper than the existing ones. Committee would receive feedback on the trial.

EC.037 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

A motion regarding Achieving Stroud District Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment had been proposed by Councillor Pickering and seconded by Councillor Butcher.

Councillor Pickering outlined the reasons for submitting the motion which was a direct response to the leaders of the cooperative alliance issuing a joint statement declaring a climate emergency following the recent IPCC report. It was an opportunity for this Council to move with the government and nations of the world, taking a lead and to access government funding.

Councillors Rathor, Braun and Whiteside commended the motion and gave their reasons for support.

In reply to members' questions the following was confirmed:-

- The future use of electric vehicles by the Council was discussed and was being explored.
- Solar panels were still a viable option even after the removal of FITs.
- The Council worked closely with Severn Wye Energy Agency, the county and other organisations in relation to saving energy through the well established Warm and Well programme.
- At nil cost to the Council, plans to install a water turbine to generate electricity from the weir by Ebley Mill would shortly be considered. The project was at consenting stage.

Councillor Denny fully supported the motion but proposed an amendment that was seconded by Councillor Brine.

Remove bullet point 2 under "The committee resolves:" and replace it with:-

"Environment committee requests S&R to consider setting aside initial funds via the normal budgeting process in order to fund the scoping and delivery of the "Stroud Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment". Further the commitment will be added as a piece of work to the committees work program and that work will include the items listed below from 1 to 7."

This would enable the proposed motion to go through the budget setting process and the volume of work could be scoped out and also costed. This would be added to the committee's work programme and reviewed at each meeting and also at Council.

The seconder, requested that the amendment was agreed by committee so that it could properly be discussed, a budget allocated, added into the committees' work programme and receive regular progress reports.

During debate members discussed at length the amended motion which removed the figure of £200k, and proposed scoping and costings are undertaken. This may be more or less than the suggested £200k. It was very important that there was cross-party commitment.

The Head of Finance confirmed that it would be at the end of the current financial year that the figure from the Gloucestershire Business Rates Retention Pilot would be known. The Strategy and Resources Committee would be looking at the allocation of these funds at their meeting on 7 March 2019. The Environment Committee would like Strategy and Resources Committee to have monies ring fenced for this project.

Councillor Denney confirmed that until the project had been scoped out and the cost known. The cost may be more or less than £200k.

Councillor Butcher stated that the commitment of £200k should stay within the original motion.

The Head of Finance explained that we currently do not know how much money the Council would get from the business rates retention pilot.

Councillor Brine confirmed that the motion should go through the full budget process.

Upon the vote the amendment was carried.

Members debated the substantive motion.

Councillor Dewey moved an amendment to insert £200k into initial funds. The Chair confirmed that this was contrary to the amendment.

The Chair summed up stating that there had been a very interesting debate and a helpful compromise.

Upon the vote the motion was carried unanimously.

- RESOLVED** To ask Stroud District Council to endorse the ‘Climate Emergency’ announced by the administration on 16 November 2018 and pledge to do everything within the Council’s power to make Stroud District carbon neutral by 2030.
- RECOMMENDED TO STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE** Environment Committee requests Strategy and Resources Committee to consider setting aside initial funds via the normal budgeting process in order to fund the scoping and delivery of the “Stroud Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment”. Further the commitment will be added as a piece of work to this committee’s work programme and that work will include the items listed below from 1 to 7.
1. To set out a Plan of Action, including clear targets and transparent reporting, to develop District wide Locally Determined Contributions to complement National Determined Contributions in line with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5C.
 2. To include planning and support in the District for adaptation to the climate change that is already happening.
 3. To develop a strategy for Stroud District Council to play a leadership role in promoting community, public and business partnerships for this Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment throughout the District, County and region.
 4. To work with partner bodies across the county to ensure that the climate emergency is adequately reflected in the development and implementation of all county wide strategies and plans, including Gloucestershire 2050, the Gloucestershire Industrial Strategy, Gloucestershire Energy Strategy and Gloucestershire Transport Plans.
 5. To investigate all possible sources of external funding and match funding to support this commitment.
 6. To work with key partner organisations within the County and region to secure external funding.
 7. To report back on an annual basis to Council on progress made.

At 8.40 pm the meeting adjourned and reconvened at 8.45 pm.

APPOINTMENT OF PERFORMANCE MONITOR

Councillor Tomblin stood down as Performance Monitor and Councillors Brine and Sutton were appointed.

RESOLVED To appoint Councillors Brine and Sutton as Performance Monitors.

EC.038 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) GOVERNANCE AND SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Policy Implementation Manager outlined the above report. In reply to questions she confirmed that the CIL money was not time limited and explained the difference between CIL monies (strategic projects that impact on more than one community) and Section 106 Agreements (where monies were tied to a particular site and used for eg play areas).

RECOMMENDED TO STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

1. Bids from strategic infrastructure providers are invited subject to completion of the form attached at Appendix A; and
2. Funding commitments are agreed according to performance against the criteria set out in the matrix attached at Appendix B.

EC.039 MARKET TOWNS CENTRES INITIATIVE FUND

The Policy Implementation Manager outlined the above report and confirmed that officers had talked to the Town Councils and had anticipated that they would then speak to their District Councillors.

RECOMMENDED TO STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE That the Market Towns Initiative Capital fund is allocated to individual town councils as identified at Appendix A.

EC.040 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REVENUE ESTIMATES – REVISED 2018/19 AND ORIGINAL 2019/20

The Accountant gave a detailed overview of the above report, drawing attention to paragraphs 6 and 8. Officers were thanked for the report which was easy to follow.

RECOMMENDED TO STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE The revised Environment budget for 2018/19 and original 2019/20 revenue budget are approved.

EC.041 ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

The Principal Projects Officer outlined the above report. The priorities had been agreed at a Task and Finish Group in June and consultation had taken place.

The Chair confirmed that there was a budget allocation to heat the water in the outdoor pool at Stratford Park. Because of the prolonged hot summer there had been the highest footfall for years.

- RESOLVED**
- 1. To agree the Priorities for the revised Environment Strategy, and**
 - 2. To agree the draft Environment Strategy work programme.**

EC.042

FRAMPTON COMMUNITY DESIGN STATEMENT

The Principal Planning Officer presented the Frampton Community Design Statement that had been produced by local people. He thanked the community for their input which had resulted in a thorough appraisal.

Councillor Joy Greenwood, the Chair of Frampton-on-Severn Parish Council read out a statement.

Councillor John Jones, District Councillor praised this unique village in the vale that had two major constants, conservation areas and flooding. There was also a lot of tourism.

- RESOLVED**
- To adopt the Frampton Design Statement as Supplementary Planning Advice (SPA).**

EC.043

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were none.

The meeting ended at 9.55 pm.