

## **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY AND SERVICE COMMITTEE: MINUTES**

Date: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Time: 10:00am – 11:50am

Present: Councillors A Bradnam, L Dupre, I Gardener, J Gowing, P Hudson, J Schumann (Chairman), J Scutt, M Shuter, G Wilson and T Wotherspoon (Vice-Chairman).

Apologies: None

### **1. NOTIFICATION OF CHAIRMAN/WOMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN/WOMAN.**

It was resolved to note that the Council had appointed Councillor Schumann as the Chairman and Councillor Wotherspoon as the Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2020-21.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no apologies for absence

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no petitions.

Three public questions had been received, and these were read out by the Democratic Services Officer Trainee. The Chairman read out the responses to these questions. (The public questions and their responses, can be found at **Appendix 1**).

### **4. CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

The Chairman reported that officers had been asked to bring a report on the Covid-19 response to date for those services for which each Policy and Service Committee was responsible. A similar report would be brought to each future meeting until further notice.

Given the rapidly changing situation and the need to provide the committee and the public with the most up to date information possible, the Chairman reported that he had accepted this as a late report on the following grounds:

1. Reason for lateness: To allow the report to contain the most up to date information possible.
2. Reason for urgency: To enable the committee to be briefed on the current situation in relation to the Council's response to Covid-19 for those services for which it was responsible.

Introducing the report, the Service Director for Highways and Transport drew the Committee's attention to the information found within the report and highlighted the actions taken by Place and Economy (P&E) to respond to Covid-19. He explained that the key highlights in activity within P&E were intertwined between the remit of this Committee and the Highways and Transport Committee. Therefore, in section 3.1 of the report, the bullet points highlighted in bold were the P&E activities relating to the Highways and Transport Committee, and the bullet points not highlighted in bold were the P&E activities that specifically related to this Committee.

Members of the Committee congratulated officers on the successful reopening of the Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). It was noted that the traffic management and social distancing measures put in place had been working effectively.

Individual Members raised the following issues in relation to the report:

- Sought clarification regarding whether any further guidance had been received in relation to the Council's role in tracking and tracing. The Service Director for Highways and Transport stated that he was not aware that any further guidance had been received. He confirmed that he would take this away and check. **(Action required)**
- Suggested that the key highlights in the activity within P&E were difficult to distinguish whether they were relevant to this Committee or the Highways and Transport Committee.
- Queried whether Pop Up cycle lanes and The Busway fell within the remit of the Committee. The Service Director for Highways and Transport suggested that initiatives encouraging modal shift, such as Pop Up cycle lanes and public transport were linked to the objectives of this Committee. However, he confirmed that these areas did also fall within the remit of the Highways and Transport Committee. A report would be presented to the Highways and Transport Committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 outlining the Council's plans for the implementation of Pop Up cycle lanes and recovery actions to allow social distancing measures to be achieved by utilising highways space in centres across Cambridgeshire.
- Sought greater clarity regarding the cross cutting nature of the Committee's work. The Chairman explained that the work of the Committee underpinned the majority of the Council's business and would add significant value to it. Commenting further, he explained that although the Committee and its vision were in its infancy, it was important that its work did not impinge on other Policy and Service Committees.
- Stated that it was important to maintain a clear distinction between the remits of the various Policy and Service Committees at the Council. The Member commented that work should not be replicated by multiple committees and drew attention to the vast remit of the Committee.

- Commented that there had been significant opposition from residents to the Pop Up cycle lane on Milton High Street. The Service Director for Highways and Transport explained that a number of Pop Up cycle lanes had already been implemented across the Cambridge area, with more planned as part of a rolling programme. He acknowledged the concerns raised in Milton and stated that he had been communicating with Local Members and Camcycle regarding this. He commented that officers had identified locations where Pop Up cycle lane schemes would be beneficial and could be implemented quickly. He explained that officers had provided the maximum amount of space for cyclists in the Pop Up cycle lane on Milton High Street. He stated that more Pop Up cycle lanes would be implemented in the future.
- Commented that it was important to engage with residents to provide them with confidence that the Pop Up cycle lanes being implemented would have a transformative change.
- Supported the fact that pedestrians and cyclists in Cambridge City were receiving more attention. However, the Member stated that greater consultation with Local Members was needed when implementing Pop Up cycle lanes. The Service Director for Highways and Transport agreed that consultation was important. He explained that the Pop Up cycle lanes were temporary schemes and therefore officers were not expecting the schemes to go through the normal consultation processes. He confirmed that officers would work with Local Members and residents when implementing future schemes.
- Raised concerns regarding the fact that parts of Cambridge Road, Milton were narrow and the introduction of the south bound Pop Up cycle lane had reduced the amount of road space for cars, caused confusion for car users and had created parking issues.
- Suggested it would be beneficial if the Pop Up cycle lanes were installed in rural areas to allow residents to cycle into nearby town centres.
- Requested that the Covid-19 report presented to the Committee next month contained more information regarding the impact of officer redeployment on the completion of environment and sustainability projects. The Service Director for Highways and Transport stated that the officers who had been redeployed via the Covid-19 Coordination Hub were performing important work. A programme had begun to return officers to their original posts over the next 2-4 weeks. Once this had happened, the service would be back to full strength. He confirmed that he would provide the Committee with more information regarding which teams the P&E officers had been redeployed from. He also confirmed that more detail would be provided in the next Covid-19 report regarding the impact of this redeployment on the completion of environment and sustainability projects. **(Actions required)**
- Supported the relaxation of parking restrictions in resident permit parking areas in Cambridge City to facilitate NHS staff and social care workers providing essential support to Covid-19 patients. However, the Member had received information that in a particular resident parking area, this relaxation in restrictions was being abused as cars were parking for long

periods of time. She emphasised the importance of reinstating the parking enforcement service. The Service Director for Highways and Transport confirmed that this was being closely monitored. The Parking Operations Manager had produced a parking enforcement reinstatement plan to be implemented when the time was right. He suggested that officers were estimating that this service would resume no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. It was noted that officers had been working with Cambridge City Council in order for the reinstatement plan to coincide with the reinstatement of car parking charges

- Supported the installment of the social distancing signs at Jesus Lock and Mill Lock Bridge. However, residents had expressed concerns that these signs were too small. The Service Director for Highways and Transport undertook to discuss with the Member outside the meeting with regards to this issue.
- Suggested that the Council should provide support to Whippet Coaches and Stagecoach to ensure that social distancing measures could be achieved for public transport users. The Member stated that this would encourage individuals to return to using public transport. The Chairman explained that this issue had been raised at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's (CPCA) Bus Reform Taskforce.
- Informed the Committee that she had received concerns from a large number of residents regarding the fact that they had received a text message stating that they no longer needed to be shielding. She suggested that this notification had been received without any assurance from their medical practitioner. These individuals were now concerned about how they would receive food deliveries. The Chairman stated that if any individual did have any concerns regarding Covid-19, they could find more information at, [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus) or contact the Council's Coordination Hub on 03450455219.
- Informed the Committee that she had received concerns regarding the amount of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provided to care homes. The Service Director for Highways and Transport commented that there was a large amount of PPE in the system and that the Council were working with care home providers. He stated that Skanska had their own source of PPE and assured the Committee that the Council and Skanska were rigorous in ensuring that their workers had the appropriate levels of PPE. It was noted that the FFP3 face masks transferred from Skanska to the health sector had now been returned.
- Expressed concerns regarding the ability for care homes to obtain PPE. The Member requested that these concerns be raised with the appropriate officers at the Council.
- Stated that it was important that the Council closely monitored the expected rise in referrals to children's services.
- Raised concerns regarding the reopening of schools on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. The Member suggested that the Council must ensure the health and safety of children and all staff members when they returned to school.

- Commented that the information stating that over 220,000 people in the UK has been infected by the Covid-19 virus might not be accurate.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) note the progress made to date in responding to the impact of the Coronavirus; and
- b) note the creation of the Covid 19 Environment Sub Group and the work that it is doing.

## 5. **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN, TRAINING PLAN AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES.**

The following items were requested to be added onto the Agenda Plan:

- COVID Recovery – Environment Sub-Group’s draft action plan. Officers undertook to confirm when a report would be presented. **(Action required)**

The following items were requested to be added onto the training plan:

- How to respond to a consultation response.

Whilst considering its appointments to Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups, the following issues were raised:

- Informed the Committee that the substitute for Councillor Connor on the Anglian (Northern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee was Councillor Gowing.
- Commented that the Huntingdonshire Growth & Infrastructure Group had not met in the last 12 months and queried whether there was a need to appoint representatives. It was agreed that the Chairman would report back to the Committee regarding whether this group still existed.
- Queried whether it was possible to increase the membership of the Cambridgeshire Waste PFI Member Steering Group from three to four representatives. The Chairman agreed to take this away to confirm.
- Informed the Committee that the Uttlesford Garden Community Local Delivery Board had not met since he was appointed to it. The Chairman stated that this would be monitored.
- Queried whether Councillor Whitehead would remain as the Council’s representative on the Cambridge Airport Consultative Committee. Councillor Scutt stated that she would take this away.

The agreed changes to the membership of the Committee’s Outside Bodies and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels can be found at **Appendix 2**.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Review its agenda plan attached at Appendix 1 of the report;
- b) Review its training plan attached at Appendix 2 of the report;
- c) Agree the appointments to outside bodies as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, subject to the appointment of Councillor Schumann as the Council's representative on the RECAP Board and Councillor Wotherspoon as substitute and the appointment of Councillor Schumann to replace Councillor Shuter on the Anglian (Great Ouse) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
- d) Agree the appointments to Internal Advisory Groups and Panels as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report, subject to the appointment of Councillor Schumann to replace Councillor Shuter on the Cambridgeshire Waste PFI Steering Group and the appointment of Councillor Schumann to replace Councillor King on the Climate Change and Environment Strategy Working Group.
- e) Delegate, on a permanent basis between meetings, the appointment of representatives to any outstanding outside bodies and internal advisory groups and panels, within the remit of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, to the Executive Director: Place and Economy, in consultation with the Chairman of Environment and Sustainability Committee. The Chairman to also report back to the Committee regarding whether an increase in membership on the Cambridgeshire Waste PFI Member Steering Group was possible and whether the Huntingdonshire Growth & Infrastructure Group still existed.

Chairman