

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

14 September 2017

7.00 pm – 8.50 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

# 3

### Minutes

#### Membership:

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)	P	Councillor Skeena Rathor	P
Councillor Paul Denney (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Haydn Sutton	P
Councillor Chris Brine	P	Councillor Brian Tipper	A
Councillor Jim Dewey	P	Councillor Jessica Tomblin	P
Councillor Chas Fellows	A	Councillor Ken Tucker	P
Councillor Alison Hayward	P	Councillor Tim Williams	P

P = Present                      A = Absent

#### Officers in Attendance

Director of Development Services	Democratic Services Officer
Accountant	Public Spaces Officer
Public Space Manager	Neighbourhood Planning Officer
Planning Strategy Manager	Principal Projects Officer

Before the meeting started Members and Officers stood for 1 minute silence in remembrance of Councillor Liz Peters, who passed away recently.

Committee agreed that Item 12 on the agenda (Minute No. EC.021) could be moved forward in the meeting.

#### EC.015

#### APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy who was attending to give an update on Minute No. EC.020 – Member Reports.

#### EC.016

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### EC.017

#### MINUTES

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 June 2017 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**EC.018**                      **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Questions were received from Mr. Richard Lupo and were answered by Councillor Pickering. They are published on the Council's Website using the following link: [Item 4 – Public Question Time.](#)

**EC.019**                      **WORK PROGRAMME**

The matters to be considered in December 2017 will be adjusted in line with the item to be agreed on the Local Development Scheme.

**RESOLVED**                      **To note the work programme.**

**EC.020**                      **MEMBER REPORTS**

- a) Performance Monitoring Representatives – a report will be presented to the meeting in December 2017.
- b) Stroud Concordat – Councillor Pickering highlighted key points, such as, Town Centre Retail Study, enforcement of vehicles in pedestrian areas in Stroud, key projects at the railway station, business waste and highway matters.
- c) Planning Review Panel – an update was given by the Director of Development Services on planning appeals and their implications and DC validation checklist.

**EC.021**                      **FUTURE OF TOWN CENTRES REPORT**

The Planning Strategy Manager and Principal Planning Officer gave an update on the report which had now been finalised following discussions with town councils during the summer.

Councillor Neil Gibbs of Stonehouse Town Council spoke on behalf of the Town Council, explaining that the Council welcomed the report although signage to the town should also be prominent from the canal where there were opportunities for new moorings and facilities for walkers. He also mentioned the possibility of funding for a Town Centre Manager. He commented that this is an opportunity for tourists to visit Stonehouse and the Canal.

Councillor Pickering mentioned a letter received from Stroud Town Council and that the feedback was welcome. The letters would be considered alongside all representations to inform future policy.

Members discussed the report and highlighted a range of issues and opportunities, such as: access to town centres from the Canal and public highways, tourist signs, possible future water taxis from Stonehouse to Stroud, charging electric cars from town centre car parks, improved footpaths and cycle trails.

**RESOLVED**                      **a) To note the contents of the Future of Town Centre report.**  
**b) To support further discussions with town councils and key stakeholders to take forward its recommendations and related projects designed to improve our town centres.**

**EC.022**                      **CAPITAL PROJECT MONITORING**

The Director of Development Services updated Committee on the following projects:

- Wallbridge Gateway Site
- Stroud District Cycling and Walking Plan
- Canal Regeneration (C2C)
- Market Town Centres Initiative Fund
- Multi-Service Contract Vehicle Replacement.

**EC.023**                      **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2017-18 Q1**

The Accountant presented the report and explained that this report was the first of the financial year. It focussed on each budget holder's estimates.

Members discussed the increase in cost of bulky and green waste.

**RECOMMENDED**            **to Strategy and Resources Committee:**  
 a) **The Capital Budget for the Ebley Mill Hydro scheme and the Stroud Valleys Initiative are removed.**  
 b) **The re-profiled capital budget for the Multi Service Vehicles is approved.**

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

**EC.024**                      **LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – ISSUES AND OPTIONS PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Planning Strategy Manager presented the report and explained that the timetable envisages the adoption of a new Local Plan in Winter 2021. Until this time full weight will continue to be given to the current Local Plan. The first stage of the review will be an Issues and Options consultation to stimulate debate within local communities on the main planning related issues and local needs relating to where people live, work and visit within the District.

**RESOLVED**                a) **To approve the timetable for the review of the Local Plan set out in the Local Development Scheme (Appendix A).**  
 b) **To approve the Issues and Options Consultation Paper for public consultation commencing October 2017 (Appendix B).**

**EC.025**                      **STONEHOUSE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Neighbourhood Planning Officer and Planning Strategy Manager presented this item. Following public examination, officers had carefully assessed the draft plan as modified by the Examiner's recommendations to consider whether it could progress to referendum on 23 November 2017.

**RESOLVED**                a) **To accept all recommended modifications of the Examiner's Report (Appendix A).**  
 b) **That the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan, as modified, meets the basic conditions, is**

compatible with the Convention rights, complies with the definition of a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) and the provisions that can be made by a NDP.

- c) To take all appropriate actions to progress the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan to referendum on the 23rd of November 2017.

#### **EC.026      ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY OUTCOMES**

The Director of Development Services and Principal Projects Officer informed Committee of the outcomes from the Strategy. Targets in the strategy have been met although it is now time for a review.

#### **RESOLVED**

- a) To recognise the achievements made by the District Council in implementing the strategy.
- b) To agree that work on revising the Strategy is commenced and that an updated version is brought back to the Environment Committee for approval.

#### **EC.027      MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

Chair