

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

28 March 2019

7.00 pm – 8.54 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

# 3

### Minutes

#### Membership

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)	P	Councillor Haydn Jones	P
Councillor George Butcher (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Dave Mossman	P
Councillor Chris Brine	P	Councillor Gary Powell	A
Councillor Paul Denney	P	Councillor Haydn Sutton	A
Councillor Jim Dewey	P	Councillor Jessica Tomblin	P
Councillor Trevor Hall	P	Councillor Tim Williams	P

**P = Present**

**A = Absent**

#### Other Member(s) Present

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy

#### Officers in Attendance

Director of Development Services	Planning Strategy Manager
Principal Planning Officer	Accountant
Principal Projects Officer	Neighbourhood Planning Officer
Head of Community Services	Democratic Services Officer

#### EC.044 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Powell and Sutton.

#### EC.045 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

#### EC.046 MINUTES

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 December 2018 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### EC.047 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were none.

**EC.048      WORK PROGRAMME**

Members agreed their work programme.

Councillor Brine expressed disappointment that the County Council had indicated its intention to withdraw its subsidy in respect of the collection of food waste. The Chair advised Members that further meetings with the County were planned.

**RESOLVED To approve the work programme.**

**EC.049      MEMBER REPORTS**

- a) Planning Review Panel (PRP) – Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy reported that the main consideration for the Panel was the Emerging Local Plan 2020 – 2040. The responses from the consultation events were being considered.

In response to a question about the role of the panel, Members were informed that the Planning Review Panel was set up in 2014 as a cross party panel to review planning arrangements. Any recommendations are presented to the Committee.

- b) Stroud Concordat - the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2018 had been circulated to Committee prior to the meeting. The main discussions had been about parking in the town centre and a range of mechanisms were being explored.
- c) Performance Monitoring – Councillor Brine referred to the notes which had been circulated asking members to drive the agenda and to identify areas for review.

**EC.050      BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2018/19 Q3**

The Accountant presented the budget report for quarter three which identified areas where there was a variance of plus or minus £20k. The projection was for a net overspend of £73k.

Members raised a number of questions around the budget and contract for refuse and recycling. It was confirmed that UBICO had looked at many potential issues relating to Brexit and companies handling recycling. It was noted that recyclates were going to companies in Birmingham and Norfolk.

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

**EC.051      DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY TO 2050**

The Planning Strategy Manager introduced the report which was being presented to each district council in Gloucestershire. The Framework would provide for a coordinated approach to planning across the County and would assist the Duty to Co-operate. A Statement of Common Ground would be developed which would set out the long term vision for development across Gloucestershire through to 2050.

Members asked about the role of the Strategic Planning Coordinator for the County. The role was to provide better coordination between districts and to help districts to plan for any identified unmet needs across boundaries. This strategic approach would provide a process to tackle the challenge of cross border issues. The coordinator would make recommendations on such issues and the Statement of Common Ground would be reported to Committee and Council if required.

The Chair noted that Members had some concerns but acknowledged that it was important for the Council to have a voice on strategic planning matters.

**RESOLVED Support the development of a broad Strategic Planning Framework for Gloucestershire to 2050 and beyond, through the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground, to be prepared by the six local planning authorities, Gloucestershire County Council and the GFirst LEP.**

### **EC.052      CHALFORD COMMUNITY DESIGN STATEMENT**

The Principal Planning Officer advised Members that community design statements, with guidelines, commenced in 1985 and had developed over time. The Local Plan contains policies which refer to design statements and the NPPF (July 2018) paragraphs 124-127 sets out clearly the role that design statements and guidance can have.

The Chalford Design Statement, once subject to formal consultation and adopted by the District Council, would become a 'supplementary planning document' which would have weight in decisions to ensure that the design of new buildings better complements the existing parish characteristics.

The Statement would be subject to a six week period of public consultation commencing in April, in accordance with the 2012 Regulations. The results of the public consultation and a final Chalford Design Statement would be considered at a future meeting of Committee.

In response to questions, the officer advised that design statements can be easier to progress and adopt than neighbourhood plans, but they still need to comply with the policies within the Local Plan and the NPPF.

**RESOLVED To approve the draft Chalford Design Statement for the purposes of public consultation.**

### **EC.053      STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)**

The Planning Strategy Manager stated that a draft SCI had been approved by Committee in September 2018 and had been subject to a period of consultation. The report summarised the responses that had been received and set out revisions which had been made to the SCI in response to suggestions.

Councillor Brine asked if the planning IT system could produce a list of planning applications by ward so that Councillors could monitor the applications for their area. The Director of Development Services acknowledged that this point had been raised on a number of occasions but the software package did not provide this facility.

In response to a Member's question, the Planning Strategy Manager confirmed that trade unions came within the definition of the service sector under paragraph 2.6 of the Statement.

- RESOLVED** 1. To approve and adopt the final Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix A).  
2. To approve the responses to consultees (Appendix B).

**EC.054**      **MINCHINHAMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Neighbourhood Planning Officer presented the Examiner's report and recommendations to the Minchinhampton Neighbourhood Development Plan. If accepted the Plan would then move to a referendum which would be held within 56 days of agreement to take the Plan forward.

The Chair congratulated everyone who had been involved in developing the Plan.

- RESOLVED** 1. To accept all recommended modifications of the Examiner's Report (Appendix A);  
2. That the Minchinhampton 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;  
3. To take all appropriate actions to progress the Minchinhampton Neighbourhood Development Plan to referendum in May 2019.

**EC.055**      **MULTI SERVICE CONTRACT RENEWAL**

The Head of Community Services gave a verbal update and confirmed that there had been improvements in the running of the contracts, there were regular finance meetings being held with UBICO. There had been some issues around the replacement of Green Recycling Bins. Arrangements had been made for Councillors to collect replacement bins for residents in their area.

In response to questions the Head of Community Services confirmed that Councils' were promoting more education on recycling. The Chair informed the Committee that Stroud was performing better than other districts in its levels of recycling.

**RESOLVED** To note the verbal update.

**EC.056**      **ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

The Director of Development Services presented the report, setting out that the Environmental Policy was a statement of the Council's environmental commitments, including the commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. It was intended that the policy would not just be an internal document but also for external organisations that the Council does business with. The Chair added that the policy was one of the outstanding aspects of the Council and showed its commitment to environmental issues.

In response to questions, the Director of Development Services advised Members that details of the Council's use of natural resources were on the Council's website as part of the former EMAS monitoring system. In respect of the move to ISO 14001 accreditation, an internal assessment would be undertaken by officers from Bristol City Council prior to being externally audited as part of the accreditation.

The Chair confirmed that he would be pleased to visit parish and town councils to talk about the Council's approach to CN2030 and the role that those bodies could play.

**RESOLVED To adopt the Environment Policy as set out in Appendix 1.**

**EC.057      MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

There were none.

The meeting ended at 8.54 pm.

Chair