



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

16 June 2022

7.00 pm - 8.05 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf

### Minutes

#### Membership

##### **Councillor Chloe Turner (Chair)**

Councillor Natalie Bennett  
 Councillor Martin Brown  
 Councillor Christopher Evans  
 Councillor George James  
 Councillor Haydn Jones  
 Councillor Dave Mossman\*

\*= Absent

##### **Councillor Robin Layfield (Vice-Chair)**

Councillor Norman Kay  
 Councillor Ashley Smith\*  
 Councillor Haydn Sutton  
 Councillor Brian Tipper  
 Councillor Tricia Watson

#### Officers in Attendance

Strategic Director of Place  
 Community Services Manager

Housing Renewal Manager  
 Democracy & Information Governance  
 Officer

#### EC.001 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mossman and Smith.

#### EC.002 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

#### EC.003 Minutes

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2022 are approved as a correct record

#### EC.004 Public Question Time

There were none.

The Chair invited Councillor Kay to speak on Baroness Jones' Clean Air Human Rights Bill. Central Government had invited District Councillors to comment as part of the consultation taking place on the proposed policies regarding air pollution that was closing on the 27 June. Councillor Kay would email Members the consultation link and advised that Environmental Health Managers were in favour of the policies. Councillor Layfield thanked Councillor Kay and informed Committee the hills in Rodborough were a pollution hotspot.

#### EC.005 Flood Risk Management Plan

The Housing Renewal Manager advised the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 placed a legal duty on the Environment Agency to produce a Flood Risk Management Plan that must be reviewed every six years. The plan was prepared in conjunction with the Lead Local Flood Authority (Gloucestershire County Council (GCC)) and they consulted with Stroud District Council (SDC). The plan must be published by the end of June 2022 and there wouldn't be a further opportunity to change the desired measures included in Appendix A. If Committee chose not to agree the decision, the Stroud measures would not be included in the plan and they could miss out on any potential future funding relating to the measures.

Councillor Tipper asked if every six years was sufficient and if collaboration had taken place between GCC and SDC on the management of the River Severn. The Housing Renewal Manager advised six years was the legislative set timeframe and aligned with the Environment Agencies funding cycle. GCC and SDC Officers were part of a Severn Estuary Coastal Group and SDC had inputted and attended workshops relating to the plan production.

Councillor Kay asked whether SDC Officers had considered the implications on householders in light of the recently published research on water level rises and whether clarification from the Environment Agency was required before agreeing the plan. The Housing Renewal Manager advised it hadn't been considered however SDC were aware of the erosion of the estuary banks and were taking part in discussions with the Environment Agency to resolve this issue.

Councillor Hadyn Jones sought clarification whether the plan would be linked to the Shoreline Management Plan, and which plan the estuary erosion would come under. The Housing Renewal Manager advised there wasn't a direct link, and the Flood Risk Management Plan was linked to fluvial flooding. The erosion of the estuary came under the Shoreline Management Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Turner and seconded by Councillor Brown.

Councillor Kay proposed an amendment to include 'and to Officers clarifying with the Environment Agency whether any changes are required in light of recent information' at the end of the decision. The Chair, Councillor Turner asked if Committee would accept the amendment as friendly. There were no objections.

The friendly amendment was proposed by Councillor Kay and seconded by Councillor Tipper.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

**RESOLVED**            **To accept and agree to the inclusion of the measures identified in Appendix A in the Flood Risk Management Plan and to Officers clarifying with the Environment Agency whether any changes are required in light of recent information.**

### **EC.006            Litter Bin Policy**

The Community Services Manager introduced the report and advised the policy would aid transparency on how the need for new litter bins in the district are assessed and decided to ensure resources would be appropriately distributed. Litter control volunteers had been

consulted in the production of the plan including Mr Torrington who had previously asked a public question at the December 2021 Committee.

The Community Services Manager responded to Members questions with the following answers:

- Sometimes SDC ask litter control volunteers to place collected waste by litter bins for the street cleansing teams to collect. However, there is an ongoing issue of residual waste being left by householders. Trials are to be undertaken on the A38, where wheelie bin covers will be used to limit the material size that could be placed through the lid.
- Councillors and public needed to report to SDC where there was persistent overflowing of litter bins to allow for street cleansing rounds and frequency to be re-evaluated based on resource need.
- New recycling bins being introduced into market towns that incorporated general waste, paper and card and dry mix recycling. There were increased costs with these bin types and collection is not easy due to the needs to keep waste and recycling separate on the vehicle.
- SDC have a statutory duty to keep public highway and SDC controlled land free of litter. One measure is the use of litter bins. Currently a small number of historic arrangements for litter bin collections, exist outside of these parameters. However, going forward SDC would look to align all decisions, as per the policy.
- Continuation of engagement with national coffee chains and supermarkets would be fundamental.

Proposed by Councillor Layfield and seconded by Councillor Sutton.

Cllr Kay shared his appreciation and gave thanks for the inclusion of an equality impact assessment as part of the report. Councillor Layfield echoed Councillor Kays comments.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried unanimously.

- RESOLVED**
- a. **To approve the Litter Bin Policy for adoption.**
  - b. **To delegate authority to the Community Services Manager to finalise any minor alterations to design and formatting.**

### **Appointments**

- a) Performance Monitoring Representatives for 2022-2023

The Chair, Councillor Turner gave thanks to Councillor Bennett and James for their work in 2021/2022. The Chair, Councillor Turner was nominated and appointed, however no further nominations were received and therefore the second appointment would remain vacant for the interim. The Chair, Councillor Turner reiterated the importance of the role and asked for Members to contact Democratic Services if they were interested.

- b) Outside Bodies for 2022-2023

The below nominations and appointments were approved.

Berkeley Nuclear Stakeholders	Councillor Norman Kay and Brian Tipper
Cotswold National Landscape Board (AONB)	Councillor Martin Brown
Lower Severn Drainage Board	Councillor John Jones

Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons Advisory Board	Councillor Chloe Turner
Stroud Regeneration Committee	Councillor Robin Layfield
Stroud Valley Project Board	Councillor Martin Brown
Rural SUDS Steering Group	Councillor Chloe Turner

### **Member/Officer Reports (to note)**

#### a) Strategic Planning Advisory Board

The Chair, Councillor Turner advised:

- The Local Plan would be going to the inspector in October 2022.
- Actions were agreed in relation to the three Mitigation Strategies (Rodborough Commons, Severn Estuary and Cotswold Beechwoods) including a meeting in September for Members to input into the Strategies.
- Planning aspects highlighted that would have relevance to the District Council as part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.
- The final Stroud Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan had been published.
- The canal Strategy Consultation had closed and would come to Committee in September.

Councillor Brown queried when the final Local Plan would be presented at Committee. The Chair, Councillor Turner, advised the finer details included in the Statement of Common Ground needed to be resolved and a potential decision ready for Spring 2023 Committee.

#### b) Stroud Regeneration Committee

A report was circulated prior to Committee. There were no further questions.

#### c) Performance Monitoring

A report was circulated prior to Committee. Councillor James informed Committee there were 21 indicators on target and 2 indicators below target on the Natural Flood Management Project. The first related to the number of interventions installed and the second related to the number of landowners engaged with, however a new Project Officer had made progress on these. Councillor James advised the amount of household waste had also increased as a result of individuals working from home.

Councillor Layfield spoke on the walking and cycling targets and advised that Officers were examining the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group with a potential report in September.

### **EC.009 Work Programme**

Councillor Kay asked for an air quality monitoring report to be added for Summer/early Autumn after consultation with Environmental Health Managers. The Chair, Councillor Turner, suggested an exploratory informal meeting in Autumn to consider the additional monitoring options available and an information report in December.

Councillor Tipper asked for consideration to be made on the conditions of public footpaths and alternative land put aside for dog walkers specifically. The Chair, Councillor Turner, advised both were discussed at the Strategic Planning Advisory Board and were being considered under the Mitigation Strategies.

Councillor James advised he would be interested to receive an update on progress made on a recycling sorting centre before waste is sent to the incinerator. The Chair, Councillor Turner, responded that there were no current plans as the Gossington site still had capacity. The Strategic Director of Resources would speak to the Community Services Manager and provide Councillor James an update outside of Committee.

**RESOLVED** To note the above update to the Work Programme.  
**EC.010** **Member Questions**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Chair