

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environmental Excellence Panel** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Thursday 5 March 2020** at **6pm** when there were present:

Mrs J Leggett – Chairman

Mr D J Britcher

Mr K S Kelly

Mr G K Nurden

Mrs B Cook

Miss S Lawn

Mrs S M Prutton

Mr J F Fisher

Dr K E Lawrence

Also in attendance were the Director Place, Director of People and Communities, Assistant Director Regulatory, Housing Standards Senior Manager, Environmental Management Officer (AO), Environmental Management Officer (DB-M) and the Committee Officer (JO).

23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Walker and Mr Ward.

24 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2020 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

25 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

The Panel were asked to consider and recommend to Cabinet approval of the Environmental Strategy and the implementation of the associated Action Plan.

The Panel went through the Environmental Strategy and made the following comments and amendments:

A number of typos were identified throughout the Strategy, but Members were reassured that the Communications Team would be proofreading and reformatting the Strategy before it was presented to Cabinet for final approval.

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- The Strategic Approach for Sustainable Communities in respect of resilience should refer to 'communities' rather than residents.

What are we going to do?

Additional actions

- Promote the use of sustainable drainage systems for new developments, which help to reduce downstream flooding.
- Ensure we have sufficient capacity to deliver measures to mitigate climate change.

Pages 7/8

- Reference the connection of green corridors (grass, woodland and green infrastructure) under Strategic Approach.

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- It was noted that improved air quality monitoring equipment was not currently budgeted for, but it was likely that Government legislation would be introduced to make this a requirement.

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Additional Strategic Approach:

- To take full advantage of Government initiatives and funding to assist residents who were off the gas grid and/or had solid wall housing to improve their energy efficiency.

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Additional Strategic Approach's:

- To work with partners to improve rural transport.
- To increase footpaths, cycle paths and bridleway connectivity to electric vehicle charging points.

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What are we going to do?

- Encourage the use of greener vehicles using a range of technologies and fuels.

Staff travel

- To encourage all forms of greener transport options.

Strategic Approach

- Promote car sharing for communities across the districts.

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Strategic Approach

- Ensure that as a first preference services that we commission and procure were certified as sustainable.

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- Thorpe Woods to be included under Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

The Panel was advised that the Environmental Action Plan would be delivering against the measures in the Delivery Plan that had been approved by Council on 20 February 2020.

It was emphasised that the Action Plan was a living document that Members would see on a regular basis and have the opportunity to develop going forward.

The Assistant Director Regulatory advised the Panel that, due to their varied nature, the initiatives in the Action Plan would develop over different frequencies. He suggested that a timeframe be drafted to illustrate this for the next meeting.

A Member also suggested that a map would be useful to show themes such as green infrastructure, biodiversity, transport and energy.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan would be taken to South Norfolk's Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee on 20 March 2020 for their comments. The Strategy and Action Plan would then be circulated to the Panel with any changes highlighted, before going to Cabinet in April.

Recommended to Cabinet:

- (1) To approve the content of the new Environmental Strategy, subject to discussions with South Norfolk Members, as set out in Appendix A; and
- (2) Approve implementation of the Action Plan associated with the new Strategy.

26 COMMUNITY PROTECTION INTEGRATED APPROACH

The Assistant Director Regulatory advised Members that there was a lot of overlap between anti-social behaviour being reported to the Council and to the Police. To address this it was proposed that the Council and the Police should take a more integrated approach to Community Protection, which would allow for a more rapid, coordinated and effective response.

It was, therefore, proposed to invite Members from Broadland and South Norfolk to an informal facilitated one hour session to explore the concerns being raised in their Wards.

In advance of this session information would be circulated to Members to assist them in formulating ideas and to get the best out of the meeting. He

emphasised that it would not be necessary to identify specific incidents, but more the type of anti-social behaviour that was occurring in their areas.

Elsewhere an integrated approach had led to diversionary activities being launched for young people, which had significantly reduced anti-social behaviour. Members were advised that there were no County Lines stop and start points in Broadland or South Norfolk this was the type of initiative that could help to prevent them from being established.

Members were advised that in order to progress with an integrated approach as soon as possible the session would be arranged for a date within the next four weeks.

27 WASTE REVIEW

Members were given an update on the activities of the Joint Waste Working Group and the progress it was making in exploring a joint commissioning model for both authorities.

It had been intended to bring a full business case to Members in the spring, but it was likely now that this would be delayed until early July. This would still allow for procurement to commence by the September 2020 deadline.

It was anticipated that the draft business case would be brought to the Panel in late May/early June 2020 for consideration.

28 NORSE JVC CONTRACT

The Panel was advised that the Operational Director of the JVC had recently returned from long-term sickness. The information requested regarding the contract had been requested and was awaited.

29 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel noted the Work Programme.

A timeframe for the Environmental Action Plan would be brought to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.