

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

MINUTES OF COMMUNITIES, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Monday, 12th March, 2018

Present:- **Councillors** John Bull, Brian Simmons, Neil Butters, Richard Samuel, Peter Turner, Patrick Anketell-Jones, Ian Gilchrist and Michael Evans

Apologies for absence: Councillors:

69 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

70 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Alan Hale gave his apologies and was substituted by Councillor Colin Barrett

72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

73 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

74 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

The following people made statements to the Panel:

Adam Reynolds made a statement on 'City of Bath Community Congestion Charge and Workplace Parking Levy Proposal'. *A copy of this statement is attached to these minutes.*

Councillor Turner queried the statement regarding deaths from pollution, Mr Reynolds confirmed that this referred pollution *related* deaths. Councillor Evans queried whether Nottingham was a good comparison with Bath, Mr Reynolds explained that it was about creating modal shift. Councillor Bull thanked Mr Reynolds and explained that the Panel were intrigued by his proposals but that there was no

money to carry out a feasibility study at present. Mr Reynolds explained that he had contacted DEFRA.

Rosemary Naish made a statement regarding the Parish Charter, she explained that the parishes were happy with the review and wished to recognise the work of Councillor Myers and senior officers.

Nicolette Boater made a statement regarding Bath governance and the Parish Charter. *A copy of this statement is attached to these minutes.*

In response to a question from Councillor Barrett regarding the cost of a governance review, Ms Boater explained that she did not have figures for this. Councillor Butters mentioned that Swindon had gone through a similar exercise which appears successful.

The Panel noted a question from Mr Hal Macfie and the answer circulated. *A copy of this document is attached to these minutes.*

Statements

75 MINUTES

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

Note: Councillor Samuel raised the issue of the Air Quality Action Plan and the fact that the Scrutiny Panel would not get to see the outline business case before the 31st March 2018 deadline. He wished to register his disappointment at this. The Chairman suggested that the Panel be briefed on the issue before the end of March and asked the Democratic Services Officer to ask the relevant officers to set this up.

76 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment Councillor Mark Shelford updated the Panel on the following:

- Public Transport – work continues with WECA including the development of a bus strategy.
- Parking Services – The Parking Strategy has been approved by Cabinet, comments are welcome.
- The ANPR Camera upgrade is being worked on for bus lane enforcement. Discussions are underway with Central Government via the Traffic Penalty Tribunal as currently private car parks can use ANPR for enforcement but not public car parks. This does not make sense and needs to be challenged.
- Oddown Coach park work will commence over the next period.
- Passenger Transport – there is an update on the agenda
- Highways/Traffic – during the severe weather the team worked incredibly well, we were well prepared and covered 3, 500 miles with 530 tonnes of grit. The Parks and cleansing team shovelled snow, the emergency contingency plans worked well. Some lessons were learned but a huge thanks to all.

- Somerdale, Keynsham – work on a new junction had started which would finish at the end of May.
- The Highways maintenance contract expires at the end of March 2019 and the energy supply contract expires in September 2018 – both contracts would go through the re tendering process.

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following points:

The Chairman Councillor Bull asked that the Panel's thanks also be sent to the teams who worked hard during the severe weather period.

Councillor Gilchrist explained that there were some issues in his ward during the severe weather period and some residents could not get to the RUH. He also asked about an update on the subway in his ward. Councillor Shelford said he would report back on this.

Councillor Evans asked for an update on the snow warden scheme. Councillor Shelford explained that he was waiting for a response on the scheme and was always looking for volunteers.

Councillor Anketell Jones asked about Park and Ride prices in relation to daily parking charges, Chris Major (Group Manager Transport and Planning) explained that a Park and Ride daily ticket was £3.40 per person and city centre parking charges for the day was £12.50 in Avon Street and £8.50 in Charlotte Street. He explained that there were options to increase daily parking charges to £15 in the parking strategy.

Councillor Butters asked about 20mph zones and pointed to the differing views on the benefits of this. He explained that a past report to this Panel had outlined some dis benefits but the recent report from Bristol was positive. Councillor Shelford explained that the government report was delayed and agreed there were differing views.

Councillor Barrett explained that some Weston residents were isolated for 4 days during the severe weather period and there were no snow ploughs in the area, he expressed concern especially regarding elderly people being isolated. Councillor Shelford explained that all 'A' roads were gritted and ploughed and 'B' roads were also treated by the end of the Friday night. He asked Councillor Barrett to email him the details of his concerns which he would look at.

Councillor Samuel raised his concern over the fact that the Scrutiny Panel will not see the business plan on Air Quality. Councillor Shelford explained that the officers are working very hard, he explained that Bristol were higher up the list and that is why they approved their plan before this authority.

The Cabinet Member for Development and Neighbourhoods Councillor Karen Warrington updated the Panel on the following:

- Bath Library – the first round of engagement was complete and there would be two more rounds.

- Branch Libraries – Saltford Community Association have agreed to take on Saltford Library from April and also open a Post Office facility in the Library. Meetings regarding Weston were positive and Paulton Parish Council were moving towards consultation with residents. She added that in Radstock there was likely to be a small provision in the new healthy living centre and in Moorland Road there was engagement with volunteers. She explained that there were also potentially 4 new libraries in Bishop Sutton, Timsbury, Chew Valley School and Peasedown St John.
- Mobile Library – the service had been restricted by an aging vehicle and the fact that there is only 1 qualified member of staff – options are being considered on this and users will be consulted.

The Panel asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Samuel asked how many days in this financial year had the mobile library been unavailable. Councillor Warrington agreed to send this information to the Panel members.

Councillor Bull asked if Saltford Library was being given financial help and professional advice. Councillor Warrington explained that they would receive help with their business plan; professional advice and book rotation. Saltford would also get assistance with rent as it was early to take this on.

Councillor Bull asked if the others would get this support. Councillor Warrington explained that they would get professional advice, services and book rotation. She explained that rent assistance was dependant on how early the groups take over.

The Panel noted the written update from the Cabinet Member for Development and Neighbourhoods, Councillor Bob Goodman. *A copy of this update is attached to these minutes.*

77 GETTING FROM A TO B PROJECT

Chris Major, Group Manager Transport and Planning, introduced the item to the Panel and gave a presentation on 'Getting from A to B – Strategic Transport Review' which covered the following:

- Purpose
- Approach
- Outcomes
- Barriers
- Supported bus funding
- Review – Home to School Transport
- HTST – Hazardous routes review
- SEND – Personal budgets
- Fleet utilisation and back office
- Still to do's...
- Next Steps

Panel members made the following points and asked the following questions:

Councillor Butters asked how much SEN provision was provided when pupils came from other authorities. The officer stated that he would ask for a response from the Education Department. Councillor Butters asked if drivers had DBS checks for school buses, the officer explained that they did on contracted services but not on public buses.

Councillor Gilchrist explained that a Scrutiny Panel had done a lot of work on home to school transport and hazardous routes 5 years ago which recommended that more children be encouraged to walk to school – he asked if this review is the first time this has been actioned. The officer explained that this review represented the second stage and added that there is now more online information for parents.

Councillor Anketell Jones asked if prioritising digital ways to gain information was the best way to save money, the officer explained that it was really important to get information and work with software providers is being done to help with costs.

Councillor Bull asked how it had been to work with WECA. The officer explained that there were a number of opportunities and challenges but work was being done with WECA to ensure the best outcomes.

The Chair thanked the officer for the update and asked that this issue be reported back to the Panel in 6 months.

78 PARISH CHARTER REVIEW

The Cabinet Member for Economic and Community Regeneration – Councillor Paul Myers, Parish Councillor Rosemary Naish and Andy Thomas, Strategic Manager Communities gave a presentation to the Panel which covered the following:

- Overview
- Revised Draft Parish Charter
- Consultation Summary
- Common Issues Raised
- Implementation
- Decision making process
- Web page

Panel members made the following points and asked the following questions:

Councillor Butters expressed his thanks for all the work that had been done. He asked about the Parish Sweeper Scheme, Councillor Myers explained that he would ask Councillor Goodman to give specific advice to the Panel on this but that he hoped to invoke the spirit of the Parish Charter. He explained that the working group will present to the Parish Liaison Committee.

Councillor Butters asked about issues that cross parish borders. Councillor Myers explained that his role was to liaise with other bodies such as towns and parishes on

the borders. Rosemary Naish explained that this issue could be raised at the next review meeting.

Councillor Butters asked if officers had regard for Parish Council views and asked if some education was needed for staff on this issue. Councillor Myers explained that this was about mutual respect and understanding on both sides. The officer explained that staff will be involved which will help as sometimes there can be a lack of knowledge on both sides.

Councillor Gilchrist asked about the role of the Council Chairman chairing the Parish Liaison Committee. Councillor Myers suggested that it might be an idea to consider rotating the Chair but also acknowledged that it was good to have a Chair who was neutral. Rosemary Naish added that the layout of the Parish Liaison meeting has now been changed so that groups sit together.

Councillor Anketell Jones stated that employment in rural areas has grown 5 times faster than predicted in the core strategy which was making Parish Council's more important.

Councillor Bull stated that there was a need to monitor the Parish Charter especially with regard to devolved services such as libraries.

Councillor Simmons asked about the roles of the Parish Council and Community Forums. Rosemary Naish explained that some groups such as Julian House come along to Community Forums but may not attend Parish Liaison meetings as the meetings had a very different flavour.

The Chairman thanked members of the working group for updating the Panel and answering questions.

79 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Panel noted the workplan with the following suggested updates (subject to confirmation):

21st May meeting:

- Air Quality in relation to the A37
- Waste Collection Review
- ESP (Environment Sustainability Panel) Joint Vision Statement

16th July 2018 meeting:

- Anti-social behaviour policy (Police representative to be invited)
- Bathscape Project – Update on Progress

17th September 2018 meeting:

- Transport Strategy – Getting from A to B (Update)

The meeting ended at 6.15 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

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Communities, Transport and Environment Panel – 12th March 2018
Public & Councillors Speaking List

	Name	Subject	
1	Adam Reynolds	Transport matters	
2	Rosemary Naish	Parish Charter	
3	Nicolette Boater	Bath governance/Parish Charter	
	Hal Macfie – 1 question (see Q & A below)		

Question from Mr Macfie

Traffic arrangements on the Wellsway.

1. Revised speed limits on the Wellsway from Manor Road junction to Burnett. Councillor Mark Shelford visited the Wellsway in September 2017 with Councillor Brian Organ and proposed a revised speed limit arrangement which I understand to be the following:

Manor Road Junction to Uplands farm Wellsway 30mph

Uplands Farm to Burnett 40mph

Can the CTE committee confirm that this proposal is accepted and, if so, confirm that the date of implementation.

Answer provided

The speed limit has been included in the Council 2018/ 2019 capital programme. At this stage the detailed timescales have not been agreed for the programme but the speed limit will be reviewed and amended by March 2019.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A combined Workplace Parking Levy and Community Congestion Charge scheme would generate **£11.3M** yearly hypothecated transport revenue stream for the council while reducing congestion by over 20%. This revenue provides the council with the autonomy to deliver an integrated transport solution without relying on handouts from the West Of England Combined Authority.

28,000 people commute by car to work in Bath. Of those 8,700 are Bath residents. Congestion costs businesses £10.4M and commuters £43.2M per year. A total congestion cost of £53.6M per year. On top of that around 100 people die in BaNES from Air Pollution and Transport Related Obesity each year.

A combined Community Congestion Charge (CCC) and Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) would significantly reduce car commuting by around 20% within the city, shifting commuters into other modes of transport. A similar impact to the effect the school holidays have on Bath traffic levels.

Park and Ride car parks and long stay car parks within the city are currently under utilised with only 2,141 out of the 6,013 spaces on average being taken by 9am on a weekday. Introduction of the CCC and WPL would significantly increase the use of those car parks potentially requiring expansion.

Assuming no change in behaviour and a WPL/CCC charge of £404 per year (Nottingham WPL), revenue from the scheme is estimated to be at **£11.3M** with an operational cost of around 10%. A 20% modal shift from the car to other forms of transport would reduce the income to £9M per year but this lost income would still be primarily spent on public transport services by those commuters.

Revenue would be invested in making Bus ticket prices throughout Bath and surrounding areas price equivalent to the Park and Ride bus services. Bus pass cost would be less than the WPL/CCC charge at £360 per year or £30 per month. The message should be clear, using the Park and Ride or catching your local bus is cheaper than driving your car into the city. Note that the current price for a Bath Outer Pass is £960 per year.

Revenue must also be used to redesign the bus network to provide good connections from rural and urban communities directly to areas of the city with high employment. That is, RUH, Locksbrook, City Centre, and University of Bath, and not simply to the city centre, as is the current situation. Park and Ride sites must become transport interchanges. Modern Dial-A-Ride (BAXI/BUXI) services should be developed to provide door to door on-demand rural bus networks.

Revenue should be leveraged, similar to Nottingham, to enable building of Saltford and Corsham railway stations. It should be noted that on a WPL income of £12M a year, Nottingham has been able to borrow £600M and build train stations and develop it's tram network.

Revenue also provides the long term funds to tackle Air Pollution and Obesity caused by our poorly designed road network, enabling the building of good cycling networks, connecting schools and centres of employment to communities, while delivering Bath "mini-holland" public realm schemes.

With the School Run being measured at 30% of our rush hour traffic on some roads, revenue from this proposal should be used to deliver free bus travel for all school age

children as well as the implementation of “school street” schemes to discourage the school run significantly.

Statement to the 12.3.18 meeting of B&NES Council CTE PDS Panel

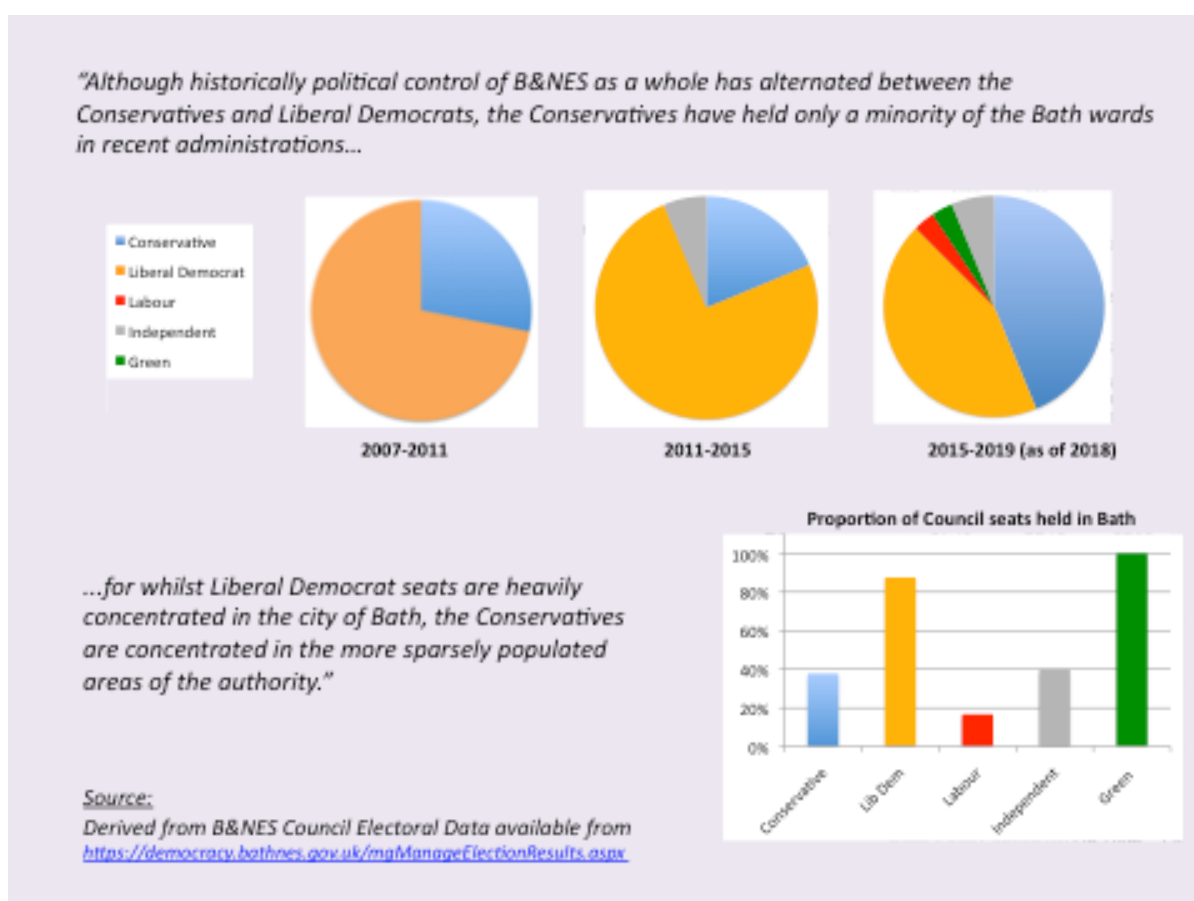
Thank you Chair.

Seeing your discussion today of the revised Parish Charter, and the realignment of responsibilities and resource accompanying this, I was struck by the contrast to the governance of the unparished Bath wards in this authority - home to 48% of the Council's electorate.

So, as a community-minded (but non-party political) Bath resident, I would like to share my growing concerns about what has long been known as "the Bath governance deficit" problem.

There are several interrelated aspects to this:

1. Unlike Bath residents, residents of parished wards, via their Parish councilors, can exercise direct control over how services in their ward are delivered. They are also statutory consultees on planning applications and regular consultees on other areas of Council business;
2. There is a marked difference in the party political make-up of the parished and unparished areas. Although historically political control of the Council as a whole has alternated between the Conservatives and Lib Dems, the Conservatives have held only a minority of the Bath wards. Furthermore, Lib Dem seats are heavily concentrated in the city of Bath, whilst the Conservatives dominate in the more sparsely populated areas of the authority.



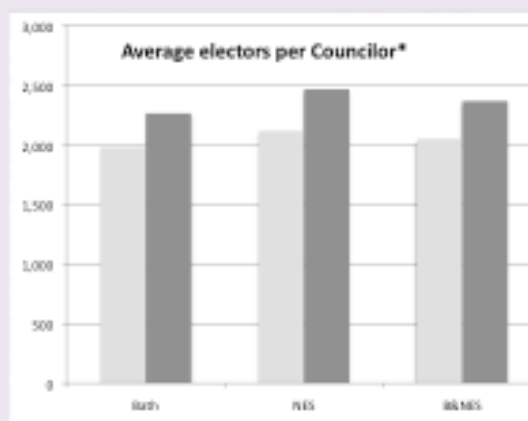
With the first-past-the-post electoral system enabling an overall majority of Council seats without an overall majority of the votes cast, it is thus unsurprising that currently only 2 out of 8 Cabinet members represent Bath wards.

3. Although the Bath City Forum, now into its third year of existence (and of which I am delighted to be a co-opted member), has been a significant step forward in regard to enhancing

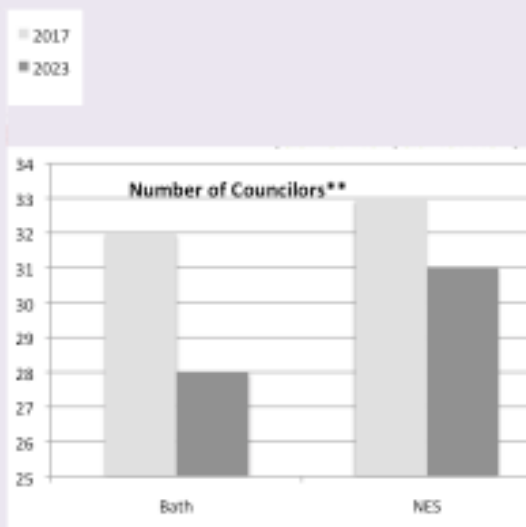
communication with and participation of the Bath community, its influence on how services are delivered has been more modest. Critically, because in large part it is an advisory rather than decision-making body, but also because it is not directly representative of its constituent wards, and is more focused on Bath wide issues than ward level ones.

4. This Bath governance deficit is likely to increase from May 2019. Given the planned 10% reduction in Councilors and the current overrepresentation of Bath wards relative to those of North East Somerset, it is likely that the Local Government Boundary Commission will reduce the number of councilors representing Bath wards by around twice as much as it will reduce those representing North East Somerset.

"This Bath governance deficit is likely to increase from May 2019..."



*Assumes uniform 10% increase in all wards in 2023



**Assumes all councilors represent around the same number of electors in 2023

Source:

Derived from LGBC Electoral Data downloaded from

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-west/somerset/bath-and-north-east-somerset>

I'm going to finish with a question:

In view of the changing context and evidence I have described, what, if anything, will be or is being done, about parishing Bath so as to address its governance deficit?

Nicolette Boater, M.A., M.Phil.

Independent Adviser, Researcher and Contributor

Policy ♦ Strategy ♦ Governance ♦ Sustainable Development ♦ Environmental Management ♦ Infrastructure Investment

