

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

MINUTES OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Monday, 7th June, 2021

Present:- **Councillors** Karen Walker, Shelley Bromley, Paul Crossley, Joel Hirst, Lisa O'Brien, Grant Johnson, Dr Kumar and Ryan Wills

Apologies for absence: Councillors:

91 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

92 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

93 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

There were none.

94 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

95 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

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

There were none.

97 MINUTES

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record.

98 CLIMATE EMERGENCY: AREA CARBON FOOTPRINT UPDATE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel (& Deputy Leader), Councillor Sarah Warren introduced the report. Jane Wildblood, Corporate & Community Sustainability Manager, gave a presentation which covered the following:

- Key facts

- Modelling issues
- Leadership and influencing
- CCC on local authorities
- A new approach to annual reporting
- Annual Emissions and Action Report Proposal
- Annual Emissions and Action Report

Panel members raised the following point and asked the following questions:
(Officer responses shown in italics)

Councillor Hirst stated that he had hoped that it would be clear where we are now in relation to our target of net zero carbon by 2030 and what was still left to do. *The officer responded that it cannot be presented that simply and that modellers are being honest in that, at local level, there are limitations partly due to this work being in its infancy, the changing nature of the data and assumptions and partly due to the scope of local authority powers*

Councillor Hirst asked if there is a timeline for the developing the KPIs for the three indicators. *The officer explained that this is a huge piece of work and it is being developed as rapidly as possible across all services as part of the development of the new Integrated Reporting Framework . Information on the climate and ecological emergency element of the new Framework will be reported in the next annual report.*

Councillor Hirst stated that there was public perception that we are not doing enough – how can the Panel help. *The officer explained that the new performance framework will help with monitoring which will be reported by the end of the year. She also explained that there is a difference between quantitative and qualitative measuring.*

Councillor Hirst stated that he was keen to see a rating system for employers/university's etc. *The officer explained the report in November will include information on specific partners.*

Councillor O'Brien asked if there could be some measures regarding the things we do have local control over such as buildings and homes eg. Amount of Curo properties retrofitted. She added that this Panel should see the report before it goes to Council in November. Councillor Walker agreed. *The officer explained that there is a survey of Council buildings, funding has been obtained to retrofit a care home (this was covered in the January report to the Panel). In response to a query from Councillor O'Brien on the cost of modelling, she explained that was not a high cost.*

Councillor Crossley asked the Cabinet Member what leadership role she is taking to move forward. He stated that we should not blame the Government. *The Cabinet Member explained that she had been leading public engagement events and also changing policies that underline all Council activities. She gave examples of the Clean Air Zone, Active Travel Plans and Liveable Neighbourhoods along with updating the Local Plan with the primary purpose of addressing the Climate Emergency. She stated that it is a priority that underlies every area of work but that there is clearly more work to do.*

Councillor Wright asked which Cabinet Members had received the relevant training to date, including the Leader. *The Cabinet Member explained that she did not have that information with her.*

Councillor Wright asked what number of trees were the Council aiming to plant by 2023 and how 61% acreage was going to be achieved. *The Cabinet Member explained that tree planting is a normal part of the Council's work but the aim was 100,000. She added that educating people was also important.*

Councillor Wright raised the following points (*officer and Cabinet Member responses are shown in italics*)

- In this rural area, carbon sequestration can be achieved through farming, not just tree planting. *The Cabinet Member stated that nobody has suggested that tree planting is the whole answer.*
- There is a mismatch between the messaging and what we are doing, we need to recognise the magnitude of what needs to be done. *The officer explained that a lot of webinars were conducted during the pandemic and that we are doing as much as we can and that we are engaging with our communities. eg. Through Parish Councils. Councillor Wright stated that Bath does not have Parish Councils. The Cabinet Member stated that Bath residents are able to join webinars and information events.*
- What are the KPIs and will the dashboard be available in November. *The officer explained that the performance dashboard will be available in November.*
- What is the involvement of WECA. *The Cabinet Member stated that she did not have that information.*

Councillor Johnson stated that members represent residents who want to see direct action on Climate Change and it is disappointing that we haven't achieved anything. In business, KPI's are developed twice a year. *The Cabinet Member explained that it was an incredibly complex area and we are pioneers in trying to do some of these things for the first time. The officer stated that the Panel might wish to look at the report to the January Council meeting, which was the annual progress report and contained updates on action against all the Climate Emergency Declaration commitments, as the report today was focused on one aspect, is the carbon footprint and trajectory, that couldn't be reported in January. and to explain the scope of the Council's influence.*

Councillor Johnson asked why we only had 2017 data. *The officer explained that this is the information available from the Government and that this year, the Government will give the data for 2018.*

Councillor Dr Kumar wished to state on record that this is a pandemic crisis and that it is not true that we have not done anything. He stated that we should be proud that Councillors and officers are working hard and not attack. He gave one example of the Clean Air Zone – the first to be implemented after London.

Councillor O'Brien stated that it is the role of the Panel to scrutinize and be a critical friend and that nobody would suggest that officers are not working hard. She added

that she is not a great believer in modelling as there can be flaws and inconsistencies. She also suggested that we make a practical list of things we can do as a Council (such as renewable energy and solar on buildings).

It was **RESOLVED** that the Panel:

1. Note the action taken against the 2019 commitments, summarised in the January Special Council report, attached, as well as the development of a new Climate and Ecological Emergency Performance Monitor, embedded into the Council's mainstream Integrated Reporting Framework.
2. Note the Council's leadership role across a range of spheres of influence in Bath and North East Somerset to enable action by others in achieving the 2030 goal
3. Ask the Cabinet Member to come back to the Panel with some specific goals and target dates.
4. Note the limitations of local authority carbon footprint and pathway modelling, which we have learnt as a pioneer council in this work, and the development of alternative methods.
5. Note that for future annual progress reports, the focus will be on measuring action to reduce area carbon emissions through improved energy efficiency in buildings (including net zero new build), renewable energy development and the shift to sustainable transport (the priority areas for action), using a combination of in-house quantitative and qualitative monitoring and reporting tools, including the emerging Climate and Ecological Emergency Performance Monitor, through the following lenses:
 - a) Council's direct and Bath and North East Somerset area-wide emissions reporting/monitoring;
 - b) Action from within key Council services;
 - c) Action as a result of place-based partnership working, action planning and delivery;
 - d) Action as a result community engagement and facilitation.

99 CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT STRATEGY - CONSULTATION

The Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel (& Deputy Leader), Councillor Sarah Warren introduced the report. Richard Howroyd, Head of Strategic Procurement and Commissioning, gave a presentation to the Panel and covered the following points:

- Context and Procurement's Strategic Role in achieving CNZ and Sustainability ambitions
- National Procurement Policy Statement (05/21)
- Procurement Framework and Operating Model
- Local Authority Role
- Structure of Climate Emergency Procurement Strategy
- Core Policy One – Objectives 1 to 4
- Core Policy Two – Giving People a Bigger Say
- Principle One – Preparing for the Future
- Principle Two – Deliver for Local Residents
- Principle Three – Focus on Prevention
- What's in a Name?
- Sample Outcomes of Strategy
- Initial responses to consultation (internal)
- Background publications

Panel members raised the following point and asked the following questions:
(Officer responses shown in italics)

Councillor Walker asked for an example of how the Council can influence the market. *The officer explained that this can be done through supplier engagement events. An example would be the locally produced food strategy – we developed this and it is now going national. Also social, residential and care home contracts have clauses around the Climate Emergency.*

Councillor Johnson mentioned the NFU 'Back British Farming' campaign and asked what communication/consultation had been done with local farmers in BANES and in the South West. *The officer explained that the South West Food Hub had been used for supplier/producer and buyer engagement. There are regular events which are shown on their website. We have had good engagement with the NFU and Soil Association – there has been an issue during the pandemic, the Crown Commercial Services (CCC) backlog is getting back on track*

Councillor Johnson asked if we have leverage to change contracts that are already in place and if we can track the effects of the changes (for Climate Emergency purposes). *The officer explained that many suppliers are already working towards this. It can be difficult to change depending on the details of the specification.*

Councillor Wright raised the following points:

- Procurement is part of state capitalism, there are competing values – Climate Emergency as a baseline is a distraction. *The officer explained that the Council can use its influence, sometimes affordability is an issue but sustainability is key.*
- What are the next steps? *The officer explained that there had been officer consultation, this Panel and then Senior Leadership Team. Next month the item is on the workplan for the Corporate PDS Panel and will then go to Cabinet.*
- Has this been to the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing PDS Panel. *The officer explained that there is a separate piece of work regarding Adult and*

Child care but it could go to the Panel if that would be valuable. Councillor Walker stated that she would raise this at the PDS Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting next week.

Councillor O'Brien stated that some retailers had already started making local connections. She mentioned that the Planning Committee had refused an application for an allotment. She added that other local authorities and WECA could be a large buying group. *The officer agreed that collaborative working was useful.*

Councillor Dr Kumar asked how people will have their say regarding procurement. He added that the policy should be about thinking and acting local. He asked how local enterprises are supported. *The officer commented that we need to think globally and make the right decision in who we buy from.*

Councillor Hirst mentioned 'Think Climate' and stated that this is an important piece of work, he asked the following:

- Why do you want to move from £50k to £75/£100k? *The officer explained that this would depend on our risk appetite, balancing with value for money and also how we define local. We are waiting for the new regulations from the Government which we hope will give more flexibility.*
- What are the opportunities for us to drive down journey times? *The officer that much of the area is rural so this is difficult, we are reviewing the use of technology but carers need to drive to see people.*
- Opportunities around influencing waste and packaging? *Yes, we give this consideration. An example would be that we stopped using a stationary supplier that had next day delivery.*
- Could we use an accreditation scheme?

Councillor Johnson asked if the procurement strategy could carry over the community wealth strategy. *The officer stated that he supported the Cleveland model and that we need to be innovative.*

The Chair confirmed that the officer had noted the Panel's input on this item.

100 CLEAN AIR ZONE UPDATE

It was agreed that this item would be postponed until the next meeting on 21st June 2021.

101 LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel (& Deputy Leader), Councillor Sarah Warren introduced the report. Nick Helps, Sustainable Transport Manager, gave a presentation to the Panel and covered the following points:

- Change in Road Traffic GB 1949-2020
- Cars are getting longer, wider, taller and heavier
- School Travel
- Previous schemes in Bath

- Liveable Neighborhoods in Bath
- Timeline
- Consultation – key principles 1 and 2
- Comparison with national data
- Concerns Expressed
- Opportunities identified
- ‘We will give people a bigger say in shaping our services’
- Summary of applications (February and May 2021)
- LTN and SRTS Applications: Bath and Batheaston
- LTN and SRTS Applications: Rest of NE Somerset
- LTN prioritization: Key assessment criteria
- Proposed next steps

Panel members raised the following point and asked the following questions:
(Officer responses shown in italics)

Councillor O Brien raised the following:

- The feedback from similar schemes in London mentioned that emergency vehicles had been hindered. *The officer explained that the fire brigade had been positive in programming in areas where there are LTNs. The main thing that delays emergency vehicles is traffic. Also there are some issues with data coding.*
- Mitigations will be done while designing the new scheme – how will this work? *The officer explained that use of ANPR enforcement cameras will maintain emergency vehicle access.*
- What are the implications for residents parking schemes for areas of deprivation? *The officer explained that while some people have older cars, if we do not take action, we will not get the benefits. Some elements of plans could be phased. The benefits of LTNs are cleaner air and less traffic on streets which will benefit everyone. The Cabinet Member added that residents parking zones will only come forward in areas that request it.*
- Some people may need cars to get to work. The London Road will get more traffic if there is an LTN north of the area. *The officer explained that LTNs are not about pushing traffic from one area to another, they are about reducing the overall number of vehicles on the network.*

Councillor Bromley asked if other traffic calming measures could be used in areas where a scheme is not successful at the consultation stage. *The officer confirmed this.*

Dr Kumar asked if there was still time to apply. *The officer explained that the next application deadline is 5th August.*

Councillor Hirst stating that it was an exciting and ambitious programme. He raised the following:

- Will there be monitoring and evaluation of unintended consequences and how quickly can we tune in on any issues. *The officer explained that traffic*

monitoring will be carried out before the scheme and also once it is in operation.

- How confident are you are delivery? *The officer stated that we should be ambitious, even if it takes time to come to fruition.*

Councillor Wright raised the following points:

- Who is responsible for TRO's? *The Cabinet Member stated that she would ask an officer to check this.*
- The issue affects public health, is the relevant Cabinet Member and PDS Panel being involved? *The Cabinet Member stated that she would be delighted with any involvement where appropriate.*
- Have you visited Waltham Forest? *The Cabinet Member stated that she had not.*
- Councillors are talking about their own areas; how will you deal with this political element? *The officer explained that ward members were asked to come forward and many have submitted proposals.*
- Where will you get the data regarding the through traffic? *The officer explained that ANPR cameras would be used where necessary and that there will be data from the CAZ.*
- Some areas do not have residents' associations – will you make this fair and seek community voices where there are no established groups? *The officer explained that input is sought from community groups and members of the public as well as residents' associations.*

Councillor Johnson raised the following points:

- This strategy will mainly affect the city, what will happen to funding for NE Somerset? *The Cabinet Member explained that Councillors from NE Somerset have been encouraged to put in bids. They can suggest other measures, not just LTNs.*
- If a scheme does not work and is cancelled, this will cause a lot of frustration with residents. *The officer explained that he understands that cancelled schemes cause frustration.*

Councillor O'Brien asked if the 1,900 liveable neighbourhoods consultation sample had been analysed for postcodes. *The officer explained that the consultation did not collect postcodes. Post meeting note: The survey response was 1,600.*

Councillor Crossley asked what work had been done on analysing displacement traffic because people won't get rid of cars in large numbers. *The officer explained that there will be traffic monitoring in areas adjacent to schemes to look at levels of car use.*

Councillor Johnson asked if the Council would influence schemes that have been put forward or just action what has been suggested. *The officer explained that it would be hard to take an LTN scheme forward if it was not supported by the local ward members.*

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the report and presentation.

102 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Panel noted the workplan with the following agreed changes:

21st June meeting

- CAZ Update
- Local Plan Partial Update
- Investment in Neighbourhood Services

27th July meeting

- Update on Western Gateway
- Charging Points Update
- Final Strategy for Planting Trees in BANES

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services