

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

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

Thursday, 14th November, 2024

Present:- **Councillors** Andy Wait, Grant Johnson, Alex Beaumont, Anna Box, Jess David, John Leach, Deborah Collins, June Player and Joanna Wright (in place of Saskia Heijltjes)

#### **98 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **99 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

#### **100 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies from Councillor Saskia Heijltjes who was substituted by Councillor Joanna Wright.

#### **101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Johnson declared an (other/non-pecuniary) interest regarding item 9 due to his work area.

Councillor Leach declared an (other/non-pecuniary) interest in item 8 as a resident of Sydney Road.

#### **102 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There was none.

#### **103 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING**

Councillor Saskia Heijltjes made a statement regarding Vision Zero. The statement is attached to these minutes.

#### **104 MINUTES**

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

#### **105 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE**

The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel, Councillor Sarah Warren gave an update that covered the following (the full statement is attached to these minutes):

#### Climate & Engagement

- Climate and nature conversations across the Bath and North East Somerset area.
- The launch event for Climate Hub BANES in the Old Ticket Office of Bath Bus Station – the Hub will open to the public on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November.

#### Energy

- Green Open Homes
- Retrofit West
- Net Zero Council

#### Nature

- The West of England Local Nature Recovery Strategy launched on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.
- BNG Pathfinder Project
- Landscape City Project
- Somer Valley Rediscovered. Nextdoor Nature project and Active Way project
- The Chew Valley Reconnected Partnership
- The WaterSpace program

#### Green Infrastructure

- Green infrastructure delivery partnership programs – Somer Valley Rediscovered, Bathscape and Chew Valley Reconnected
- Green infrastructure mapping tools
- Providing evidence to support new and revised Local Plan policy
- GI training program

#### Additional Info - Energy

- Green Heritage Homes project
- Mission Net Zero
- Heat from mines

#### Panel member questions:

Councillor Johnson asked about the true figure in terms of carbon reduction. The Cabinet Member stated that she would check and provide the answer.

Councillor David asked if the Cabinet Member would support a site visit to the Charlcombe biodiversity site. The Cabinet Member agreed.

Councillor Leach asked if there were any other areas in local planning policy that can drive us forward in terms of biodiversity. The Cabinet Member stated that we are looking to raise our target on biodiversity net gain from 10% to 20% and to update the policy and bring in more rigor on sustainable drainage systems.

Councillor Box asked how biodiversity net gain funding is being used to support community groups. The Cabinet Member stated that we look at developments onsite or close by, we are also hoping we can use the funding elsewhere.

Councillor Box asked if the West of England could be brought in in terms of regional planning. The Cabinet Member stated that yes, there is space for the Mayor (West of England/WECA) to step in the special strategy area.

Councillor Collins asked how officers are working with community groups in terms of retrofitting (groups such as Go Green Widcombe). The Cabinet Member stated that support from groups such as Go Green Widcombe is appreciated and officers work with them. Councillor Wright stated that there is no written document for this, so it is difficult for residents to access.

Councillor Wright asked about social prescribing. The Cabinet Member stated she would circulate an update on this. She explained that it is an area led jointly with public health and that she could bring a full update to a future meeting of the Panel. Councillor Wait confirmed that he is in contact with the Chair of the Panel (Children, Adult Health and Wellbeing PDS Panel) that covers this area.

Councillor Wait stated that he is a River Advocate and the area is extremely complicated. He asked if the Water Space Project extends to a wider area. The Cabinet Member stated that a lot of work is being done and she will get a full update from the officer and circulate.

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The Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Manda Rigby gave an update that covered the following (the full statement is attached to these minutes):

- **General update**
  - **Local Active Travel & Safety Programme**
  - **City Centre Security**
  - **Highway Maintenance**
  - **Parking**
  - **Liveable Neighbourhoods programme delivery**
    - **Future Timeline**
    - **Lansdown ETRO (experimental traffic regulation order)**
    - **Sydney Road ETRO**

- **Safe Systems**
  - Winter Maintenance Program.
- Forward plan of work for next period
  - Traffic Management, Network Management, Road Safety
  - Highway Maintenance Program
  - Parking
  - Livable Neighborhoods Program
  - Park and Ride

Panel member questions:

Councillor Wright spoke about the pavements in Lambridge and the criteria for improvements. She asked what data the Council has on walking routes in BANES. The Cabinet Member stated that she would find out and circulate the information.

In response to a question from Councillor Collins, the Cabinet Member explained that the Western Gateway Structure is a regional body that sits above WECA (West of England Combined Authority). She is Chair of the Transport section.

Councillor Box stated that she had had positive feedback regarding the drainage in her area which had improved flooding issues. She asked what will be done to continue consideration of rural areas. The Cabinet Member explained that the scoring for prioritization is authority wide, all areas are equally as important.

Councillor Beaumont asked if a cycling officer would meet with him to walk around the area in Keynsham. The Cabinet Member agreed.

Councillor Leach asked about LED street lights and how often we replace them. The Cabinet Member explained that there is 20 year replacement cycle, she acknowledged the point about the rapid development in standards.

Councillor David asked what the best way is to report issues with road markings. She also asked if road markings updates could be tied in with new street layouts. The Cabinet Member explained that 'Fix My Street' app is a good way to report or an email to the team. In terms of tying this in with the TRO process, she stated that this is not always the case but work is being done to achieve this.

Councillor Player stated that pavements and roads in Westmoreland ward can get overlooked if they are not on a bus route. She explained that it is not just pot holes in terms of damage but gravel and dips as well. She asked if the Cabinet Member would walk around the ward. The Cabinet Member stated that it would be more appropriate for officers to walk around but explained that the work has to be on the prioritization matrix.

Councillor Johnson stated that, during the resurfacing work in Paulton, the drains were covered and it took some time to rectify. He also mentioned the solar lighting

project at the memorial park and asked what the Council costs are with regarding to improving bus stops. He reminded the Panel that the Mayor did ask about taking over the bus stops. The Cabinet Member stated that it was not the case that handing things over to WECA means more money will be spent.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Members.

## 106 WASTE UPDATE

The Panel viewed a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Tim Ball and Waste Services officers which covered the following:

- Keynsham Recycling Hub – Waste and Recycling Update
- Fleet
- Fleet transition plan
- Climate emergency highlights
- Current key workstreams
- Waste reforms – legislation changes
- Bath Recycling Centre (maps)
- Bath Recycling Centre Update
- Bath Recycling Centre – example of a similar construction
- Bath Recycling Centre – next steps

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

Councillor Johnson commented that there are no waste statistics in the report and no idea of the tonnage going to landfill. He stated that it would also be useful to know the numbers on recycling rates and also on vehicles/EV (electric vehicles). The officer stated that she could circulate full details.

Councillor Johnson asked about behavioural initiatives regarding the existing fleet eg. Driving styles/anti idling etc. The Cabinet Member stated that the aim is to have the fleet electrified by 2027. Some diesel trucks will be retained to ensure continuation of service.

Councillor Player stated that she had viewed the application online but it was difficult to access. She asked why the Fullers Earth works site was not suitable and also why is the proposed new site so near to the Keynsham facility. The officer explained that there is a statement on this with the planning application. The Cabinet Member stated that the site mentioned above was not suitable due to excess traffic. The proposed new site will have a booking system so traffic will not be queuing so there will be no more traffic than there is now. Councillor Player asked if this response could be sent to her.

Councillor David asked what the Council can do to reduce the amount of waste in black bin bags. The officer stated that food waste is a key target, she will send a full

written response. The Cabinet Member stated that there will be a trial of recycling bags and a push to make sure all resident properties have a food waste recycling option.

Councillor Box stated that food waste recycling is not high in her area and asked about the scope for providing waste bags. The officer explained that in the new contract, any containers/bags can be used. In response to a question from Councillor Collins, the officer explained that bags (compostable or otherwise) are pulled out anyway, the liners go to energy from waste.

Councillor Wright stated that recycling is a two way process, residents want to take part. Community visits to waste sites helps. She asked what engagement there had been with the Environment Agency to date. The officer explained that the Environment Agency response is on the website, the Council is working with them and this is separate from the planning application.

Councillor Johnson asked when clothes recycling will be available again. The officer explained that they are looking at a new provider for this service. The officer also agreed to let the Panel know the figure on the regulations.

Councillor Player asked if 3 staff would be adequate for all of the responsibilities such as administration, gull control and helping people with access. The officer stated that she would get a written statement to members.

Councillor David asked about planning in terms of 16 homes being given approval in her ward which would mean bins on the pavement. The officer confirmed that the departments works closely with highways.

Councillor Wright asked about plans for recycling material such as batteries/computer monitors etc. The officer stated that these items are taken at Welton and Pixash Lane.

Councillor Player asked how the Council ensures that residents are recycling as much as they can and in the right way. The officer stated that they can give a further detailed response. She explained that there are two waste education officers covering the district. The Cabinet Member added that there is a door knocking scheme.

Councillor Wait stated that Bristol (City Council) and others are moving to monthly black bag collections. Do we have plans for this? The Cabinet Member stated that there were no plans here.

Councillor Box asked if the Cabinet Member will put the department forward for any awards as they are outstanding. The Cabinet Member stated that this was a good idea.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member and officers.

## **107 PANEL WORKPLAN**

The Panel noted the future workplan and also noted further suggested items below:

- Housing Plan Update
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Progress on renewables – Council Estate
- Water quality/river system
- Annual Homelessness Update
- Movement Strategy
- School Streets
- Vision Zero

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**