

# Climate Advisory Committee

Notes of a Meeting of the Climate Advisory Committee held on the **6<sup>th</sup> February 2020**.

## Present:

### Borough Councillors

Cllr. Howard (Chairman);  
Cllr. Feacey (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Anckorn, Blanford, Campkin, Mulholland.

## Apologies:

Cllr. Wright

Project Manager (Environmental)

## Also Present:

Head of Corporate Policy, Economic Development and Communications, Head of Environment and Land Management, Member Services Officer.

## 1. Declaration of Interest

- 1.1 Cllr. Feacey made a Voluntary Announcement as he was on the Management Committee of UK LPG.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 2.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were agreed as an accurate record.

## 3. Draft Carbon Neutral Strategy

- 3.1 The Head of Corporate Policy, Economic Development and Communications introduced this item and explained to Members that the Leader had reviewed and supported the strategy and was keen for the Committee to begin working on it. The first step for the Committee would be to identify any gaps and priorities within the strategy. The Project Manager (Environmental) had produced a list of Actions for the Committee to scrutinise.
- 3.2 The discussion was then opened up to the Committee and the following questions/comments were raised:
  - A request was made and agreed for a glossary of abbreviations.

- A Member asked what consideration would be given to rural parishes as it was imperative that they 'bought in' to the strategy. The Chairman explained that the Council would be working alongside all partners including Parish Councils, and said that raising awareness was a key factor. He went on to say that the Borough Council could directly influence up to 41% of the Borough's total emissions, but inevitably there were significant factors outside of the Council's control such as aviation and national infrastructure. The Head of Corporate Policy, Economic Development and Communications added that the Strategy was based upon the SCATTER (Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction) Model.
- A Member commented that the target of installing 100 electric vehicle charging points by 2023 had already nearly been met, therefore it seemed logical to be more ambitious with this target. Members agreed and spoke about the technology now available to assist with selecting the best times for charging electrical vehicles.
- The need to explore government grants accessible to the Council for undertaking the work included in the strategy was discussed.
- In response to a question asking whether there were plans to replace the windows at the Civic Centre, the Head of Corporate Policy, Economic Development and Communications confirmed that this was contained within the Action Plan. She added that although costly, lighting and heating were a priority.
- The Committee discussed the tree survey that was currently being undertaken in and around the Borough. The Head of Environment and Land Management confirmed that Aspire were carrying out the survey on behalf of the Council, and it was easier at this time of year since the trees were not in leaf. The aim was to establish a baseline figure and gain awareness of what tree stock the Council had, before carrying out risk assessments. A Member enquired whether Google Earth could be used to assist with the survey; this would be followed up with the Grounds Maintenance Operations Manager.
- A Member asked about wastage from tree pruning. The Head of Environment and Land Management explained that core wood was recycled by Aspire, whilst mulch was generally left to soak into the soil. However, there were occasions where it was necessary to transfer waste off site for use at other locations. Although this did carry some carbon emission, it was not burnt or sent to landfill.
- The Action regarding promotion of lower carbon parking ratios was discussed by the Committee. A Member pointed out that it would not

be wise for the Council to penalise people for using their cars, but instead should concentrate on improving and promoting public transport. Members agreed that they would prefer to see any parking ratios or charges introduced later down the line, and at that point, it would be prudent for the Council to specify where the extra funds gained from parking charges would be spent. Improvements to rural networks were necessary also to enable greater connectivity.

- A Member asked about the Council initiative of purchasing residential properties close to the Town Centre to rent to Council tenants, and if there were any plans to make those houses more energy efficient. The Head of Environment and Land Management advised that she would seek more information from the Head of Housing.
- There was discussion about veganism and Members agreed that its popularity was increasing at local and national levels through its own momentum. They agreed it was wise to include vegan options wherever possible, and the positive impact would be felt not just at an environmental level, but also on the NHS.

3.3 The Chairman went onto explain that the Leader had expressed his full support and backing to this Committee and confirmed that it would be able to make suggestions and proposals concerning policies to the Cabinet and directly to the Leader. Members were asked to feedback any ideas and suggestions before the Strategy was submitted to Cabinet in April.

**Action: Members to forward any final ideas regarding the draft strategy to the Chairman.**

## **4. Draft Terms of Reference**

4.1 The Chairman distributed draft Terms of Reference for Members to review. He explained that since the focus of the Committee had changed and was now about formulating and implementing the Carbon Neutral Strategy, this consequently meant that external representatives would no longer be invited to attend the Committee Meetings. The Head of Environment and Land Management had already written to the external representatives informing them of this decision. It was hoped that in the future, they would be invited to participate in an alternative Task Group Meeting, and therefore the Council would retain its connection to the work undertaken by the external partners.

**Action: The Committee agreed the draft Terms of Reference with an amendment to Term 1.3 to remove ‘...and it’s biodiversity together with the Borough’s heritage rich historical architecture’**

## **5. Date of Next Meeting**

- 5.1 The Date of the next Meeting was expected to be at the end of March. This would be confirmed and circulated to Members.

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