

Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 9 October 2012

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
9 October 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Mark Anderson - Chairman; Councillor Chris Wakefield - Vice-Chairman; Councillors Eddie Coope, Dennis Gritt, Michael Weinhonig, Ron Whittaker and John Wilson.

APOLOGIES: - Councillors Sue Anderson and David d'Orton-Gibson

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor John Beesley - Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources;
Councillor Michael Filer - Cabinet Member for Transport, Cleaning and Waste;
Councillor David Smith - Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment;
Councillor Roger West

ALSO ATTENDING:

Bill Cotton - Executive Director, Environment & Economic Services
Mike Holmes - Service Director, Planning & Transport
Lee Green - Environmental Strategy & Sustainability Manager
Paul Ambrose - Principle Engineer - Projects
Geoff Turnbull - Engineering Services Manager
Greg Pienaar - Sembcorp Bournemouth Water, Water Strategy Manager
David Harrison - Sembcorp Bournemouth Water,
Matt Boon - Environment Agency, Partnership & Strategic Overview Team Leader

The meeting commenced at 6.04 p.m.

Note: To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Panel at this meeting please visit:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocracy/Councillors/BoardsPanels/EnvironmentTransportOverviewScrutinyPanel.aspx>

SECTION I - BUSINESS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL

No Items

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SECTION II - BUSINESS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

33. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor Weinhonig replaced Councillor David d'Orton-Gibson for this meeting of the Panel.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

35. SIGNING OF MINUTES

DECISION MADE:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2012 be agreed for signing by the Chairman.

36. PUBLIC ISSUES

A. Public Questions

A question was received from Mrs Susan Chapman regarding the Council's approach to changing over-consumptive behaviour.

DECISION MADE: That the question be received under procedure rule

The Chairman of the Panel provided a verbal response to the question. To see a copy of the question and response please visit:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocracy/AllaboutyourCouncil/Documents/Question-EnvTrans-091012.pdf>

DECISION MADE: That a written copy of the Panel's Response be provide to Mrs Chapman.

B. Deputations

A deputation request was received from Mr Roger Hurt regarding the use of electric cars and car sharing. The Democratic Services Officer advised the Panel that there were two related issues the Panel should be aware of before agreeing to hear the deputation. The first was that Mr. Hurt had an outstanding Planning Application which was partially related to the deputation and that the Council has invited expressions of interest in a car club.

A second deputation request was received from Mrs. Susan Chapman related to extreme weather conditions and the importance of developing clean and reliable forms of energy.

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DECISION MADE:

a) That both deputations be received under Procedure Rule 37 of the Council's Constitution but it was stipulated that no reference should be made to the planning application and that the deputation would be heard without prejudice to any future decisions on the operation of a car club.

b) That officers report back to the Panel on the issues raised in both of the deputations.

37. UPDATES FROM CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

A. Portfolio Holder for Planning and Environment

Councillor Smith provided an update to the Panel which included the following issues:

- The recent Coastal Protection conference
- An Earth Charter Visit from a city in Hungary
- The Dorset Wildlife Trust
- The Dorset Waste Partnership
- Reducing Energy Consumption
- A Visit to London to view designs for street scenes - providing ideas to implement in Bournemouth - Members were asked to contact the Council's Cycling Officer for further information.
- A visit to Piddle Hinton new anaerobic waste digestion plant.

B. Portfolio Holder for Transport, Cleaning and Waste

Councillor Filer provided an update to the Panel which included the following issues:-

- Three Town Corridor - It was noted that this would improve the road network for cycling and public transport
- Car sharing - The Portfolio holder welcomed ideas which were touched on in the earlier deputation and that the Council was moving in that direction.
- Removing double yellow lines - 33 requests were received for removal were received and 11 of these were granted
- A possible scheme for preferential parking rates for residents

It was confirmed by the portfolio holder that he did not intend to install any more parking meters with the exception of those areas already designated.

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DECISION MADE: That the reports of the Cabinet Members be noted and that Members be provided with the time and date of the visit to the Eco Anaerobic digestion plant.

Note: It was subsequently confirmed that the visit was only open to the Waste Steering group Members who had been previously notified.

38. WATER CONSERVATION AND REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN BOURNEMOUTH

The Panel received a presentation from Sembcorp Bournemouth Water. Greg Pienaar, Water Strategy Manager and David Harrison provided the Panel with some insight into the management of water resources. The areas highlighted during the presentation included:

- The Water Resource 25 Year plan.
- The limit on the amount of water abstraction combined with the limited availability of water storage
- Ways to reduce water wastage
- Water metering - approximately 60% of properties on water meters
- Changing attitudes and behaviour
- Water efficiency and water leakage

Sembcorp indicated that the population of Bournemouth was expected to grow over the coming years and in order to continue to supply everyone with water per capita consumption would need to be reduced in order for overall consumption to remain within the limits of water abstraction. In response to a query about school pupils access to the water meter readings for their school Sembcorp officers advised that all schools had access to this information electronically and that children in schools were leading the way in conserving water usage.

It was suggested that Sembcorp could work with the Council's Housing Landlords Services to retro fit water saving devices in Council properties. It was noted that this would link well with the Council's objectives of reducing carbon emissions as heating water accounts for approximately 25% of carbon emissions in a domestic household.

Members asked about water wastage and it was noted that Sembcorp's water leakage had been reduced by approximately 15% since the industry was privatised and now has one of the best records in the industry. The cost to further reduce leakage significantly was disproportionately more than the cost of the leaks and therefore could not be justified as it would require increasing customers' willingness to pay increased bills.

Sembcorp also advised that it would be interested in becoming more involved in information days and community events or contributing to the brochure

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produced for Council tenants. The Chair asked officers to pick up on the issues raised in the presentation.

DECISION MADE: That the presentation by Sembcorp be noted.

39. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY PRESENTATION

The Panel considered a presentation from Matt Boon, Partnership and Strategic Overview Team Leader from the Environment Agency. The presentation focused on the Flood and Water management Act 2010 and Bournemouth's role as a lead local flood authority (LLFA). The Presentation included information on:

- National and Local flooding risks and who is responsible for what under the Act
- The flood warning service and the evacuation of the parks homes at Iford.
- 4000 properties in Bournemouth were at risk of surface water flooding, the LLFA's responsibility and approximately 200 properties were at risk of coastal or river flooding which fell under the the EA.
- The progress that Bournemouth has made against the requirements of the Act. The environment agency reported that this had been very positive overall.

The Panel asked for further detail on the areas within Bournemouth that were at risk from main river flooding. It was noted that these were the areas close to the River Stour. Issues concerning capacity and resources in relation to possible joint working with the Borough of Poole and the Environment Agency were discussed. The Service Director for Planning and Transport advised that following restructuring at Poole the two authorities' structures were now more closely aligned and joint working was under discussion.

The Chair advised that although the Flooding Task and Finish group established by Council had reported back on the issues following the August 2011 flooding it would continue to monitor flooding issues within a Flood and Coastal Risk Management remit.

The Panel noted their thanks to Matt Boon for his presentation and hoped that Matt would be able to report again to the Panel on some of the issues in the Flood and Water Management Act in more detail. Matt agreed that he would be happy to report back to the Panel in the future.

DECISION MADE: That the presentation of the Environment Agency's Partnership and Strategic Overview Team Leader be noted.

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40. CORPORATE PLAN - QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

The Panel considered the report circulated at 'A' which detailed the performance of the Corporate Priority Outcomes within the remit of the Panel and including the amendments recommended by the Panel at its previous meeting. Several issues were raised by Councillor Greene concerning the targets including:

P14A - Query concerning statement that the target had only been reached once in 2008 when the figures indicate that it was reached in 2010-11. It was to close to say whether the target would be reached next year. The Chair asked for the appropriate graph to be included with the minutes.

PI11 - Query concerning the baseline for the target. It was confirmed as from 2003/4

NI191 - Issues were raised regarding the comparison of previous data. The Executive Director for Environment and Economic Services agreed to look into the issues raised.

NI192 and 193 - Targets did not seem to be appropriate in comparison with data. A Change to the targets appeared to be appropriate to take into account waste sent for energy recovery.

ET3.5 - No starting base had been indicated for the reduction by 2014 - targets also needed to be set.

DECISION MADE:

That the Vice-Chairman and Councillor Mike Greene meet with officers to review the performance indicators and resolve the queries that had been raised. The queries raised related to the reporting of P14A, P11, N191, N192, N193 and all ETC.5.

41. WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered the agreed work programme of the Panel, attached to the agenda at 'B'. The Democratic Services Officer presented the Work Programme and asked the Panel to review and confirm the work programme priorities, in particular the issue of where parks should sit in the Overview and Scrutiny structure. The Chair advised that he thought the Panel would accept how the Economy and Tourism Panel decide to address which Panel issues concerning the Parks Service were reported to. The Panel agreed that issues which crossed over both Panels could be addressed by joint involvement in Task and Finish Groups.

The Panel looked at those issues which had been identified by the Panel previously as the priorities for the work programme. It was agreed to leave the

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priority areas on the plan as unscheduled for the present time and review the areas at the next meeting. Issues concerning the development of car clubs and the 'grey fleet' were discussed and it was noted that a report on these issues as well as the issues raised in the deputation regarding electric vehicles would be brought back to a future meeting.

DECISION MADE: That the work programme be amended as detailed above.

42. MEETING DATES FOR 2013

DECISION MADE:

That the dates for meetings of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel in 2013 as outlined in the agenda be noted.

43. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No matters were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Contact: Claire Gray, Democratic Services Officer
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Please note that the next quarterly meeting of the Environment & Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel will take place at the Town Hall at 6:00 pm on 9 October 2012.