

**Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 13 March 2014**

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL  
13 March 2014**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mark Anderson - Chairman; Councillors Sue Anderson, Eddie Coope, Patrick Oakley, Gill Seymour, John Trickett and Ron Whittaker.

**APOLOGIES:** - Councillors Christopher Rochester, Dennis Gritt, John Beesley and Michael Filer.

**ALSO PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING:**

Councillor Lawrence Williams - Cabinet Member for Tourism, Leisure and Culture

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE**

Angela Pooley - East Dorset Friends of the Earth

**ALSO ATTENDING:**

Nick Colledge - Arboricultural Officer

Bill Cotton - Executive Director, Environment and Economy

Ian Kalra - Transportation Services Manager

Michael Rowland - Parks Development Manager

Suzy Wheeler - Car Club Development Co-ordinator

The meeting commenced at 6.31 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>

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**SECTION I - BUSINESS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL**

No Items

**SECTION II - BUSINESS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

**1. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

None.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES**

**DECISION MADE:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November be confirmed as a correct record.

**4. PUBLIC ISSUES**

The Democratic Services Officer reported that no public items had been received for this meeting.

**5. CO-WHEELS CAR CLUB**

The Car Club Development Co-Ordinator reported to the Panel on the launch of the Co-Wheels Car Club - a new car share scheme launched in Bournemouth. The Car Club Development Coordinator reported that the scheme was free to sign up for with members of the club paying per hour and per mile for their car usage. The Panel was informed that phase 1 of the scheme had seen the club launched across Council sites and that phase 2, due to begin in April, would see the scheme rolled out across the Borough. It was explained that the logic behind the car sharing scheme was to ease congestion and parking problems around the town and lower carbon emissions due to the low or zero emission cars being used. The Panel was told that phase 2 would be accompanied with a marketing strategy to drive take-up which would also continue exploration of partnerships with other agencies across the Borough which could see Co-Wheels cars placed at new housing developments.

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Members asked a number of questions to the Officer who, whenever possible, gave an immediate response and when further information was not available undertook to provide a follow up response. In particular the following issues were raised by Members of the Panel:

- **Location of spaces for Co-Wheels cars** - The Panel was told a number of the locations where Co-Wheels cars will be placed as well as being informed that a number of cars will be held back to respond to demand as the scheme progresses.
- **Range anxiety** - The Panel was told that not all the cars available as part of the scheme are electric cars as there would be a range of petrol cars. It was also emphasised that the car club was more focussed on small-distance, short-term around town trips then long distance, long term hire so range on electric cars should not become a problem.
- **Insurance** - The Panel was told that the cost of Insurance was included in the standard pricing and that there would be no additional fees levied.
- **Penalty fees** - The Panel was informed that there are no fees levied for late return of cars however it is encouraged that if a user is to be late they call the car club to inform them so alternative arrangements may be made for people waiting.

The Chairman thanked the Co-Wheels Car Club Development Co-Ordinator for her report.

### DECISION MADE:

That the report on the Co-Wheels Car Club be noted.

## 6. REPORT FROM CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

The Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Transport, Cleansing and Waste, Planning and Environment and Tourism, Leisure and Culture each provided a written update on the latest areas that they were involved in as part of their portfolio responsibilities for consideration by the Panel which had been circulated to members of the Panel prior to the meeting. Members of the Panel had submitted their questions in advance in order to receive full answers. Four questions in all were received with two to the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Leisure and Culture and two to the Cabinet member for Transport, Cleansing and Waste who had sent his apologies for the meeting and would respond in writing at the earliest opportunity.

Questions and Responses are available to view at:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocracy/AllaboutyourCouncil/Documents/OS-Questions-and-Replies/ETOSP-Questions-and-Answers-13-March-2014.pdf>

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**DECISION MADE:**

That the Cabinet Portfolio holders be thanked for their informative updates.

**7. TREE STRATEGY**

The Panel considered a report and a presentation on the draft Tree Strategy from the Parks Development Manager and the Arboricultural Officer. The Panel was informed that the idea of a Tree Strategy had arisen as a result of the need to:

- Recognise the importance of trees to the Borough
- Ensure a consistent approach to tree issues is applied across the Council
- Assist with planning decisions/appeals
- Create a point of reference for the public and the Council
- Comply with government guidance.

The officers reported to the Panel that there were a number of key aims that they hoped the Tree Strategy could support, these included:

- Complete digital mapping of every public-stock tree in the Borough
- Develop a clear picture of tree population
- Increase canopy cover by 10%
- Provide guidance on the appropriate tree species for different areas within the town
- Maintain a healthy tree population for future generations through protection, re-planting and natural regeneration.

The Panel was told that the careful management of trees would result in a number of benefits for the Borough and amongst these were the reduction in the urban heat island effect, which causes temperatures to be significantly higher in urban areas with little canopy cover compared to areas with good canopy cover, and a potential reduction in flooding problems. The Panel was also told that trees soak up carbon emissions helping to negate the problems of climate change and that various studies have revealed a positive link between trees and physical and mental health.

It was emphasised to the Panel that the aims of the Tree Strategy were very much long-term and that metrics and timescales were being discussed to help measure the success of the Tree Strategy in the future.

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- **Canopy cover** - The Panel enquired as to the potential harm an increase in canopy cover could do to the drainage systems due to leaf falls. The Officers informed the Panel that this problem could be managed through the draft Tree Strategy as it will aid the planting of trees in the appropriate places.
- **Ash dieback** - The Panel was informed that there had been no reported cases in Bournemouth of ash dieback and that there had only been one in the whole of Dorset so far.
- **Fruit trees** - The Panel was informed that fruit trees would be planted in appropriate places as long as there were people who were able to maintain and manage them. It was also stressed that the Council is not liable for accidents involving people climbing trees and falling.
- **Monetary value** - The Panel was informed that a new system had been created that can calculate a monetary value for trees which had been tested in Court and allowed a local authority to claw back money when a tree had been damaged.
- **Remembrance Avenue** - The Panel was informed that there are currently no plans for a 'remembrance avenue' of trees, however plans are being looked at for further facilities for commemorative tree planting.

### DECISION MADE:

1. That the Panel unanimously recommend to Cabinet the Tree Strategy
2. That the Panel congratulate the officers involved in working on the Tree Strategy.

## 8. TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES

### A. REGULATORY SERVICES

The Chairman, as a member of the Regulatory Services Task and Finish Group, distributed a report to the Panel informing them that the Task and Finish Group had met two times with managers implementing the transformational change within Regulatory Services. The report explained that the Core Service Transformation had so far delivered the required savings to the 2013-14 budgets on time and Phase 2, which started in November 2013, aims to transform the organisation of the services towards a more community supportive service. The note also informed the Panel that the transformation intends to preserve officer expertise and specialism where required however there were currently a number of vacancies in key posts so whilst the new structure may be active from 1 April 2014 it will be a number of months before the full team is complete.

The report further informed the Panel that Task and Finish members had helped shape the future service design and that since the implementation was not yet complete the task and finish group would continue to meet for two or three months more before giving a final report to the Panel.

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The Chairman, as a member of the Parking Services Task and Finish Group, distributed a report to the Panel on the latest progress of the Group. The report informed the Panel that the Group had had input into the Council's response to a government consultation on parking. In addition to this, it was reported that the Group had been discussing the impact of traffic management measures on the Borough and that the Group had decided it would be a good idea to create a trial area where measures could be put in place and assessed to see if there is an easing of congestion. The Panel was informed that officers had been tasked with carrying out a feasibility study of Winton East, the proposed trial area, and that a meeting had been set up with Councillor Filer, as portfolio holder, to discuss this approach.

**9. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman noted that there was an item scheduled for the June meeting on the new food waste scheme but asked officers present for an update on the roll-out after media reports that some food waste caddy bins had been inadvertently taken away during collections. The Executive Director for Environment and Economy informed the Panel that 108 food waste caddy bins had accidentally been taken out of a possible 65,000 during the first collection and that it was expected this would not be repeated in future. The Executive Director for Environment and Economy informed the Panel that overall the rollout of the new scheme had been a success with high levels of engagement from residents.

**DECISION MADE:**

That the work programme be noted and updated as previously agreed in the course of the meeting.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

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Contact: Tom Hancock, Democratic and Member Support Officer  
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Please note that the next quarterly meeting of the Environment & Transport  
Overview and Scrutiny Panel is scheduled for 18 June 2014