

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
12 March 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Mark Anderson - Chair; Councillor Christopher Rochester – Vice-Chair; Councillors Sue Anderson, Eddie Coope, Dennis Gritt, Patrick Oakley, Gill Seymour, John Trickett and Ron Whittaker

ALSO PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING:

Councillor Michael Filer – Cabinet Member for Transport, Cleansing and Waste
Councillor David Smith – Cabinet Member for Planning and the Environment
Councillor Lawrence Williams – Cabinet Member for Tourism, Leisure and Culture

Bill Cotton – Executive Director, Environment and Economy
Reg Hutton – Head of Operations
Anthony Kirby – Engineering Design Manager

The meeting commenced at 6.03 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/CouncilDemocratic/CouncilMeetings/Committees/Panels/EnvironmentTransportOverviewScrutinyPanel.aspx>

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SECTION I - BUSINESS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL

No Items

SECTION II – BUSINESS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

1. COUNCILLOR RONALD WHITTAKER

The Chairman advised that this was Cllr Whittaker's last meeting of the Environment and Transport O&S Panel before he retires from the Council. The Chairman thanked Councillor Whittaker for his valuable contributions to the work of the Panel and asked the other Members to join him in a vote of thanks and to wish Cllr Whittaker all the best in his retirement from the Council.

DECISION MADE:

That the Panel's appreciation for the contributions made by Councillor Whittaker to the work of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel be placed on record.

2. APOLOGIES

None

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute Members.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to agenda item 9, The Department for Communities and Local Government – DCLG – Weekly Collection Support Scheme – Strategic Waste Facility, Councillor Coope declared for the purposes of transparency that he was a registered waste carrier in Bournemouth.

5. MINUTES

DECISION MADE:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 3 December 2014 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

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6. PUBLIC ITEMS

The Democratic Services reported that there had been no public items received for the meeting.

- The Chairman proposed and the Panel agreed to vary the order of business to take agenda Item 7 – Hengistbury Head Works as the next item. -

7. HENGISTBURY HEAD WORKS

The Panel received a presentation from the Engineering Design Manager on the repair and recovery works programme which was initiated by the government following the considerable damage to the national flood and coast protection infrastructure during the winter of 2013/14. Bournemouth had been hit by a series of storms which drew down the beach and then heavy swell on 3 March 2014 caused considerable damage. The Council had made an application for the repairs to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne, Rock Groynes 55, 56 & 57, Gabions at Double Dykes and the replacement of lost beach fill. Work was carried out by the Environment Agency's nominated contractor for the Wessex region.

Works to repair the rock groynes were completed by the end of October 2014 and additional protection works for the double dyke were completed by mid December. Further work on Beach replenishment was ongoing.

Members asked questions on the following areas:

- The availability of archive documents on Hengistbury Head – The Portfolio Holder for Tourism Leisure and Culture undertook to find out further information on this and provide a response to the Member.
- Foundations of the Rock Groynes – It was noted that it was important to have a secure base for all groynes and Members were advised that there was a plan in the next phase of works for further rock groynes to be established.
- Monitoring of the Longshore Drift – The plan was to retain as much Beach as possible in order to maintain the headland and avoid erosion into Christchurch bay.
- Climbing on the Rock Groynes – It was reported that the concrete platforms on the groynes had at present not been reinstated to try to prevent this as accidents could be an issue.

DECISION MADE: That the current status of the project be noted and that the Panel's thanks to those involved with the project be noted.

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8. UPDATES FROM CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

The Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Transport, Cleansing and Waste; Planning and Environment ;and Tourism, Leisure and Culture had each provided a written update on the latest works that they were involved in as part of their portfolio responsibilities for consideration by the Panel which had been circulated with the agenda prior to the meeting. Members of the Panel and a Community Representative had submitted their questions in advance in order to receive full answers.

Four Questions were received for the portfolio holder for Transport, Cleansing and Waste and one question for the portfolio holder for Tourism, Leisure and Culture.

Questions and Responses are available to review by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteeMeetings/EnvironmentTransportOverviewScrutinyPanel/2015/03/12/Reports/Agenda-Item-6---Questions-and-Responses-on-the-Cabinet-Portfolio-Holder-Reports.pdf>

Further questions were raised at the Panel meeting regarding the Councils relationship with SSE, the problems of litter along the A338 and the Panel requested a copy of the A338 improvement scheme when available. The Panel requested that plans for the improvements to the A338 including the proposed installation of cycle lanes be considered by the Bournemouth Cycling Forum.

DECISION MADE:

1. That the reports be noted.
2. That the Head of Operations contact SSE with regards to the issues concerning the long lead in time for completion of work around the Borough and the possibility of a service level agreement being established and that their response be reported to the Panel.
3. That the above issue be placed on the Forward Work programme as a possible item for a future meeting

9. STREET LIGHTING REPLACEMENT

The Chairman asked that the Panel's appreciation for the work of Street Lighting Engineer, Chris Hardy, be conveyed to him as he was shortly due to retire from his position. The Panel also agreed Mr Hardy be thanked for his hard work and dedication during his many years of service with the Council.

The Panel heard that the Council had successfully submitted a £4.2m bid to SALIX for the replacement of the existing lighting stock with new LED lighting. The Head of Operations at Southcote Road advised that there was still a small amount of work to do on the project but the work on replacing of over 16,000 LEDs and a number of street lighting columns was nearly complete. In response to a question regarding whether the LEDs being used were the most suitable the Panel was

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informed that the LEDs were guaranteed for 15 years and would significantly reduce the annual maintenance budget and importantly were available in the UK.

The Chairman noted that the energy savings moving from conventional lighting to LED were substantial but a move from the current LEDs to a newer type would only save in the region of 1%. Members noted that there were some issues with certain sections of the footpath patching but were pleased that the Council had moved forward on this project rather than taken alternative options like switching off street lamps.

Members raised a number of questions regarding the gas light replacement in Holdenhurst and Throop. Members commented that the change was outstanding and were informed that the gas lamps would now only need maintenance on an annual basis rather than once a week as previously.

Members were concerned about the future plans for some street lighting columns which had been left in situ in various different locations around the borough. The upper section of each of the columns had been removed from and a new column had been put in place next to the old one. The Head of Operations assured the Panel that the plan was for these to be removed and undertook to provide a response to the reasons why these had been left in place at present.

DECISIONS MADE:

1. That the Panel endorse the report and the work undertaken by Officers to implement this project.
2. That a response be provided to the Panel on the remains of the old street lighting columns.
3. That a letter be sent to Chris Hardy on behalf of the Panel on the occasion of his retirement conveying the Panel's appreciation of his work.

10. THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT – DCLG – WEEKLY COLLECTION SUPPORT SCHEME – STRATEGIC WASTE FACILITY

The Panel considered a report presented by the Strategic Operations Manager which detailed the project progress to date. The council had submitted a successful bid in partnership with Dorset County Council for £14.2 million to design, build and operate a strategic, local waste management facility. The project was currently in the procurement phase and Invitation to Tender returns were recently received. The Panel noted that the Council would be identifying its preferred bidder in the next 6-8 weeks due to the approval process that this needed to go through in Dorset (a delegated authority arrangement had been proposed in Bournemouth). Questions were raised by the Panel on the proposed location of the facility but it was noted that this was dependent on which bidder was selected. The financial and environmental savings on transportation costs for the Borough's refuse was welcomed by the Panel.

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However the Panel also queried how the joint work was progressing with Dorset Waste Partnership due to its financial position but it was confirmed by the Head of Operations that the Council's agreement was with Dorset County Council rather than the DWP and the two were completely separate entities. The Panel welcomed this response.

DECISION MADE:

1. That the progress of the Strategic Waste Facility Project was reviewed and noted by the Panel.
2. The Panel supported the Cabinet Portfolio Holder, Service Director for Environment and Regeneration Services to implement the Strategic Waste Facility Project.
3. The Panel requested a further update on the project once work on the facility had been completed

11. MILHAMS COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE DRAINAGE PROJECT

The Head of Operations advised the Panel that a report on this project was due to come to the Cabinet meeting in June. The Council had allocated £1.5 million in the Capital Programme to add a roof to the site and improve the drainage. The proposals were currently at the design stage but the Panel was advised that once the project has moved forward further there would be the opportunity to bring a report back to the Panel.

DECISION MADE:

That the current situation be noted and that a report be brought to the Panel as the work progresses.

12. WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered the work programme. It was noted that this was subject to change following confirmation of the Membership of the Panel at the Special Council meeting following the elections. An item would be added to the work programme on Traffic Management to report back on the development of a new policy through the established Parking Task and Finish Group.

DECISION MADE: That the current work programme be agreed and updated as detailed above.

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The Chairman advised the Panel that Councillor Whittaker had requested an item to be added to the agenda for this meeting on the condition of Boscombe Pier. The Chairman agreed to the inclusion of this item as this request had been received prior to the publication of the agenda. At the time it was understood that Councillor Whittaker had been advised on the current situation and there was no longer anything to report to the Panel. However this was not the case and there were issues which Councillor Whittaker wished to bring to the Panel's attention.

In 2010, following restoration work carried out on the pier, during a routine inspection it had been discovered that there was damage to the protective casing surrounding several of the steel piles. The Council had a design and build contract with Carillion and the Council had advised them of the cracks which had appeared and that they would likely affect the design life of the pier. The Council was currently awaiting a response from Carillion on whether the design life (50 years) of the pier would be affected and what if any remedial action would need to be taken.

There was no immediate concern about the safety or integrity of the structure but the Panel were concerned that a response from Carillion had not been received since the Council had wrote to them in the autumn of 2014. The Panel felt that the issue was significant and requested that the Cabinet Portfolio holder take a lead in resolving this issue.

DECISION MADE:

1. The Panel expressed deep concern at the current situation and asked that the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning and Environment take the matter forward as a priority issue.
2. That an update report on the situation be brought to the autumn meeting of the Panel and that, as Councillor Whittaker would no longer be serving on the Council, he be invited to attend the meeting as a special guest.

The meeting closed at 7:19pm

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