

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
22 July 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Christopher Rochester - Vice-Chair in the Chair; Councillors Philip Broadhead, Eddie Coope, Nigel Hedges, Andy Jones, Gill Seymour and John Trickett.

ALSO PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING:

Councillor Michael Filer - Cabinet Member for Cleansing and Waste
Councillor Mike Greene - Cabinet Member for Transport, Sustainability and Carbon Management
Councillor David Smith - Cabinet Member for Planning and the Environment
Councillor Lawrence Williams - Cabinet Member for Tourism, Leisure and the Arts
Councillor Donald McQueen
Councillor Philip Stanley-Watts

Paul Ambrose - Flooding and Drainage Manager
Larry Austin - Strategic Operations Manager
Bill Cotton - Executive Director, Environment and Economy
Georgina Fry - Waste and Resource Projects Manager
Mike Holmes - Service Director, Transport

The meeting commenced at 6.05 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/CommitteesPanels/EnvironmentTransportOverviewScrutinyPanel.aspx>

Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 22 July 2015

SECTION I - BUSINESS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL

No Items

SECTION II - BUSINESS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

14. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Mark Anderson and Sue Anderson.

15. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute Members.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

17. MINUTES

DECISION MADE:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 12 March 2015 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

18. PUBLIC ITEMS

A. Public Questions

A question had been received from Mr Ron Whittaker on the report from the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Leisure and the Arts, Councillor Lawrence Williams. It was agreed to take this question now as Mr Whittaker was unable to attend the meeting. A response would be provided in writing to Mr Whittaker from Councillor Williams. A copy of the question and response can be found at the link below:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteeMeetings/EnvironmentTransportOverviewScrutinyPanel/2015/07/22/Reports/Questions-22-07-15.pdf>

B. Deputations

A deputation request had been received from Ms Debbie Payne, Secretary to the Boscombe Business Association and Mr Rob Logue Chairman of the Boscombe Business Association. Unfortunately neither Ms Payne nor Mr Logue were able to

Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 22 July 2015

attend the meeting but requested that a statement be read out on their behalf. The Panel agreed to accept the deputation request.

A copy of the deputation can be found at the link below:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteeMeetings/EnvironmentTransportOverviewScrutinyPanel/2015/07/22/Reports/Deputation-22-July-2015-for-Web.pdf>

DECISION MADE: The Panel agreed that the relevant officers be asked to respond directly to the points raised in the deputation.

C. Petitions

No petitions were received.

19. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the Panel and in particular the new Members following the recent Council elections. The Chairman requested and the meeting agreed to vary the order of business to take agenda item 13 as the next item -

20. MILHAMS COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE DRAINAGE PROJECT

The Panel considered a report circulated at '13' from the Waste & Resource Projects Manager which updated Members on the project's progression and the forthcoming report which was on the Cabinet Forward Plan for September. However it was noted that at the moment only indicative costs were available and this would need to be finalised prior to the submission report. Accurate figures would not be able to be finalised until recent soil samples had been analysed and it was therefore thought probable that it would need to be deferred until the November Cabinet meeting. The Panel's attention was particularly drawn to the submission of the planning application for the development which was likely to be dealt with in September. It was reported that the plans for the site needed to be of an intelligent design to take into account the fact that the site was on greenbelt land. An application was previously approved in 2010 and it wasn't expected that there would be any issues with the application.

Members asked questions on the following areas:

- Disruption to the site - It was noted that there would be some disruption but it was hoped to keep this to a minimum for member of the public. However this was dependent on the contaminated land.

Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 22 July 2015

- Other facilities - Officer confirmed that most other similar sites were either under a roof or in contained spaces. Most contractors would see this as a positive development as the site would have open sides but be undercover.
- Alternative Options - Members asked about the viability of alternative options but it was confirmed that the preferred option was also favoured by the Environment Agency and the cheaper option of utilising a reed bed system had been discounted by the Environment Agency as it would not provide sealed drainage.

DECISION MADE: That the current status of the project and the Panels comments on the project be noted.

21. ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

The Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer drew the Panel's attention to the documents circulated at '6', which outlined the general and specific functions of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, as set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

DECISION MADE: That the general and specific functions of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel be noted.

22. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2015/16

The Panel considered its training and development programme for 2015/16 which had been jointly prepared by the Executive Director, Environment and Economy and lead officers reporting to the Panel, and Democratic Services. The programme was made up of the following elements -

- Skills training - to be delivered by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, focussed on the development of relevant skills in the areas of chairing, questioning, performance management data, building relationships and public engagement.
- Knowledge and understanding training - an introductory session on the overall remit of the Panel which had already been delivered and an annual programme relating to items on the Panel's work programme, to be delivered by lead officers in separate sessions of 45 minutes, either before Panel meetings or as the first item on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair, the first of these sessions having been held at Southcote Road prior to the meeting.

The Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer emphasised that the programme was flexible and was for the Panel to review regularly and to adopt as required.

Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 22 July 2015**DECISION MADE:**

That the Panel's training and development programme for 2015/16 be endorsed.

23. WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

The Panel considered its work programme which had been rolled forward from the previous meeting. The Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer highlighted two items which were suggested at the previous meeting of the Panel and asked if the Panel wished to incorporate these into its work programme, namely SEE and Service Level Agreements and the Strategic Waste Facility. A Member asked if there was any update on the issues which were raised at the last meeting regarding Boscombe Pier and another Member commented on ongoing issues with lighting on the Pier. The Executive Director for Environment and Economy confirmed that any updates on the situation would be picked up when the issue was considered by the Panel.

DECISION MADE: That the work programme be agreed subject to the additional items on SEE and Service Level Agreements and the Strategic Waste Facility being added.

24. CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY STRUCTURE - FLOOD ADVISORY GROUP

The Democratic and Overview and Scrutiny Officer reported to the Panel on the recent changes to the O&S Structure and the impact that this had on the Flood Advisory Group Relationship to the Panel. The Panel were asked for any comments or suggestions on the proposals for the terms of reference for the Flood Advisory Group - in particular the changes to the reporting mechanisms. A Panel Member gave their support to the suggested link between the Flood Advisory Group and the Planning Board in terms of having at least one Member on both bodies. A Member also commented that perhaps the Flood Advisory Group should have some involvement with the suggested O&S Panel training session on climate change.

The Flooding and Drainage Manager provided the Panel with some information about the flooding caused by the storms on the evening of the 3 July. It was noted that flood warnings were received for the whole of England but without any specifics. The intensive rainfall caused extensive flooding in both Poole and Bournemouth and there were more than 27 identified locations of internal flooding. A statutory report was in the process of being compiled on the flooding and Members were asked if they had any further information, or knew of any residents or businesses affected, to report this to the Flooding and Drainage Manager. It was noted that the report would be considered by the Flood Advisory Group in future and would then in turn be reported to the Panel. A

Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 22 July 2015

number of questions were asked about the recent flooding and what could be done to prevent this in future.

DECISION MADE:

1. That the new structure for the Flood Advisory Group be noted.
2. That the suggested Terms of Reference and reporting procedures for the Flood Advisory Group be supported.

25. UPDATES FROM CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

The Cabinet Portfolio Holders for Cleansing and Waste; Planning and Environment ; Tourism, Leisure and the Arts; and Transport, Sustainability and Carbon Management each provided a written or verbal update on the latest works that they were involved in as part of their portfolio responsibilities for consideration by the Panel. Two questions were submitted to the portfolio holder for Cleansing and Waste. A copy of the questions and responses can be found at the following link:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteeMeetings/EnvironmentTransportOverviewScrutinyPanel/2015/07/22/Reports/Questions-22-07-15.pdf>

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment updated the Panel on recent work in his portfolio area which included the recent publication of the Lansdowne Delivery Plan and asked Members to look at this document which would be considered further over the next weeks and months. It was also reported that the 'A' Board policy was under review in order to help de-clutter pavements in particular as some business street directories had been removed with the introduction of the new wayfinding signage. The Portfolio Holder was keen for the Panel to follow up on the 'A' Board policy.

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Sustainability and Carbon Management, having only recently taken over a number of new areas of responsibility, outlined his views on the future of the service areas within his portfolio and updated members on the major schemes which were planned or nearing completion. In particular the Cabinet Member updated the Panel on the A338 works due to start in September and end in May 2016. A Member requested a copy of the plans for the scheme. It was noted that there would inevitably be negative publicity connected with the scheme but that there was also some confusion with the messages going out. The Cabinet Member undertook to keep the Panel updated as the scheme progressed. The Cabinet Member informed the Panel that he wanted to develop a more strategic approach to Road repairs in particular taking a more proactive approach to prevent potholes. He also wanted departments to ensure that they had bids prepared for any funding which may become available to increase the Council's chances of securing scarce government funding. The Cabinet Member also commented on the Carbon Management centre, regeneration in Lansdowne, improvements to Wessex

Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 22 July 2015

Fields infrastructure, cycle networks and local pollution issues. The Panel asked if the Plans for the A338 improvements could be circulated. The Cabinet Member also undertook to get involved with the Bournemouth Cycle Forum.

DECISION MADE:

That the reports be noted.

26. PARKING AND TRAFFIC POLICY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Vice-Chair introduced the report which was circulated at '10' on behalf of the Members of the Task and Finish Group and asked the Cabinet Member for Transport Cleansing and Waste for his comments. The Cabinet Member welcomed the report and the work of the Task and Finish Group but confirmed that he was unable to support certain elements of the policy at present. In particular he was concerned with the weighting system which was applied to policy 1.2 and 2.2 as outlined in the draft policy. He explained that he felt that this may prevent a number of schemes from going ahead and he would prefer to see a simple ranking of schemes if it needs to be included. He also raised concerns about section 4 of the report which outlined the right of residents to request a review. He was concerned that when looking at a scheme or potential changes the first step would be to look at whether it was supported and that by asking residents to provide a petition on a scheme this would lead to disappointment. He would like to actively discourage resident parking schemes as it was felt that this just led to displacement of parking issues to other areas.

The Service Director for Planning, Transport & Regulation Services confirmed that the idea of encouraging people to suggest schemes was perhaps difficult due to lack of funding.

Members of the Task and Finish Group reiterated that the policy was drafted in consultation with officers and the policies in the report were based on their professional opinions. It was also suggested that residents were well aware that they could submit requests for traffic management schemes. The Cabinet Member stated that in future any schemes would go through ward councillors and the Cabinet Member before consultation with residents.

A Member advised that they appreciated the sentiments raised about weighting but could also see the benefits of having a weighted system to enable decisions to be taken more easily on these issues. Further discussion was had by the Panel on the pros and cons of the weighting system. The Chairman suggested that it would be sensible to submit the report and policy as it was and suggest that the Cabinet Member makes the changes along the lines he previously outlined in consultation with the officers.

Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 22 July 2015

DECISIONS MADE:

1. That the Traffic Management Policy be endorsed.
2. That the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Sustainability and Carbon Management be asked to approve the Policy subject to any amendments he had outlined at the Panel meeting and in consultation with officers.

27. FOOTBALL TRAFFIC TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Panel was advised that the Football Traffic Task and Finish Group had held its first meeting but its second meeting which was due to take place on Friday had been postponed to later in August.

DECISION MADE: The Panel noted the current position of the Task and Finish Group.

28. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Christchurch Harbour Management Committee

Councillor Coope advised that he had been reappointed as the Council's Representative on the Christchurch Harbour Management Committee and had recently attended a meeting. He updated the Panel on the following issues arising at the meeting:

1. Work was due to commence on the Town Quay wall over 3 phases starting in Autumn
2. The Christchurch Harbour Boat Patrol was recommencing at weekends and also at other times at random.
3. Work on the floating pontoon was taking place on Mudeford sand banks.

The meeting closed at 7:51pm

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