

Minutes of the Meeting of the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 October 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Roy Jones (Chair), Cathy Kent (Vice-Chair), Gary Collins, Terry Piccolo and John Allen (Substitute) (substitute for Russell Cherry)

Apologies: Councillor Cherry

In attendance: Ann Osola (Head of Highways and Transportation)
Julie Rogers, Assistant Director - Environment
Fred Raphael, Transport Development Manager
Beau Stanford-Francis, Environmental Protection and Contracted Services Manager
Daren Spring, Street Services Manager
Navtej Tung, Principal Transport Planner
Jenny Shade, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

10. Minutes

The minutes of the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 13 July 2017 were approved as a correct record.

11. Items of Urgent Business

Councillor Jones asked Councillor C Kent to provide Members with an update on progress made so far on the Review Panel of the Fly Tipping of Alley Ways. Councillor C Kent thanked members for their contributions and suggestions and that those had been collated by Officers and would form part of the Public Consultation that would commence on the 16 October 2017. A report would be presented at the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee in December.

Councillor Piccolo questioned whether there would be sufficient time between the consultation finishing and the December Committee to fully evaluate such a big project. Officers reassured Members that the consultation would be continually promoted and responses monitored as they were received. Councillor C Kent stated that the questions were straightforward enough to enable residents to be able to put their points forward. Councillor Collins asked whether Members could have sight of the questions, Gavin Dennett agreed to send to Members following the Committee.

Councillor Jones stated that Members had expected to receive an update on Route Optimisation from the Waste Service tonight. Julie Rogers, the Assistant Director of Environment, advised Members that the new service commenced in May 2017 and was still being imbedded and further advised that the Waste Disposal Contract procurement was currently underway for new contracts to be in place for December 2017. Once the outcome of this was known a more detailed report and the implications this had for route optimisation, along with the solutions being put in place to address this would be presented to the Committee.

12. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

13. Update on Air Quality & Health Strategy

Ann Osola, the Assistant Director for Highways and Transportation, presented the report that was endorsed by Cabinet in December 2016 and explained that the Strategy framed the authority's approach to improving the air quality and reducing air pollution exposure to safe levels for human health across the borough. Ann Osola updated Members on the following approaches that the Council would be delivering:

- The implementation of measures for managing air quality throughout the borough to prevent new Air Quality Management Areas from arising.
- Implement measures contained within the action plan for existing Air Quality Management Areas.
- Collaboration with external bodies to reduce background pollution from inside and outside the borough.

Beau Stanford-Francis and Navtej Tung briefly summarised the actions from the Health Strategy which covered:

- Monitoring and reducing the air quality in new developments by promoting public transport.
- Working closely with schools to promote walking and cycling and improve those infrastructures.
- Landscaping and tree planning programmes working alongside the Highways Scheme.
- Looking at actions specific to Air Quality Management.
- Promoting heavy goods vehicles management schemes.
- Providing appropriate signage.

A summary of the progress made so far on borough wide actions and those specific to Air Quality Management Areas were provided to Members.

Ann Osola explained that the Air Quality Steering Group had meet for the first time this week to look at actions and identify issues and address any additional work on air quality being commissioned as part of the work of the

Lower Thames Crossing Task Force. That future prediction of air pollution from traffic was crucially dependent on understanding how traffic would use the borough's local networks and the knowing and planning would be key to mitigating those impacts.

Councillor Jones thanked Officers for the report and that the measures being undertaken would be good for Thurrock.

Councillor Jones asked for further information on the General Practitioner Scorecard. Officers agreed to supply this.

Councillor Jones questioned whether any cycle routes in East Stanford were being proposed. Officers confirmed that plans to create a cycle route to connect from the east to the west of Stanford Le Hope were under consideration working alongside Network Rail.

Councillor Allen questioned that with 140,000 vehicles using the Dartford Crossing daily what impact would the Lower Thames Crossing have on the borough. Ann Osola stated that at the moment the Council did not know and that a lot of work had to be done for this to be understood. Ann Osola stated that the Council had to understand the situation that Thurrock was in at the moment, to prepare baseline information which can be monitored and accessed and to look at predictions for the future. That Highways England had their own models and that these would need to be scrutinised thoroughly. An Independent Technical Advisor on Environmental Issues with a PHD in atmospheric chemistry had been brought in to fight Thurrock's case and that the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force Group were meeting again next Monday.

Councillor Allen questioned how traffic movements would be predicted based on the Lower Thames Crossing going ahead. Ann Osola stated that future scenarios had been based on models that the Highway England had commissioned and the Council would be watching very closely for further information and results so that extracts from this model could be used by the Council. Ann Osola explained that the "Ground Truth" model would be used which was the model predicted verses what could be seen to ensure that comparisons between the model and what was there could be undertake to ensure this was used properly.

Councillor Piccolo stated that areas with poor public transport connections and areas with high omissions should be investigated and addressed.

Councillor Jones stated that any proposed plans should be looked into to ensure that they were not being built in already congested areas which would make air pollution even worse.

Ann Osola thanked Members for their comments which could be fed into the Local Plan to ensure a good quality of life for the future of Thurrock residents.

Councillor Allen asked Officers where the bus lane provision would be in Calcutta Road in Tilbury as identified as an action specific to air quality management areas. Officers would report back to Councillor Allen outside of the Committee.

Councillor Collins stated that housing estates should be built near places of work so no transport would be required and asked Officers what air quality was monitored at present. Ann Osola stated that air quality was monitored on a regular basis compared to data from existing sites and could be used for comparisons. Those baselines were still being developed and shared with discussions taking place using very robust methodology and would be shared with Members through the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force.

Councillor Collins asked what gases were being monitored. Gavin Dennett stated that carbon dioxide and nitrogen sulphate were being monitored but particle pollution PM10 was a considerable problem as particles were very small and invisible.

Councillor Jones asked Officers whether diffusion tubes were being monitored. Gavin Dennett stated that they were monitored weekly and analysed to give an annual average, with spikes and dips in levels tended to average the exposure over the year.

Councillor C Kent stated that this was a big subject and asked whether comparisons with other areas had been made and had any confirmation from Government been received to support to reduce omissions. Officers thanked Councillor C Kent for her comments and take away and report back.

Councillor Allen questioned whether data collected from areas in the borough was published. Gavin Dennett stated that all data was submitted to DEFRA nationally and would be compared with other areas.

Councillor Jones stated that residents did not have faith in Highway England's data which required to be continually monitored to ensure figures were true and accurate.

RESOLVED

That the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented on the progress of implementation of the Air Quality and Health Strategy.

14. Linford Household Waste & Recycling Centre - Future Site Redevelopment

Julie Rogers, Assistant Director of Environment, and Beau Stanford-Francis, Environmental Protection and Contracted Services Manager, presented the report that explained that Thurrock Council operated a single Household Waste and Recycling Centre in Linford. That this site was operating significantly over capacity and that the layout and infrastructure is not in

keeping with modern sites and that the recommendation would be to undertake a planning application for the redevelopment of this site.

Councillor Jones thanked Officers for the report and the excellent presentation and that good things were happening. Councillor Jones questioned Officers whether having the two entrances would be sufficient instead of the three that were shown on the example layout. Officers explained this was an example layout, not the final layout that will be taken forward, and confirmed that it was viewed that initial feedback is that colleagues would favour two entrances, planning input would need to be considered but it was important that segregation of cars and heavy goods vehicles is vital.

Councillor Collins thanked Officers for the presentation and agreed that the review was long overdue and questioned that any reusable products suitable for charities could be considered.

Councillor Collins questioned the requirements stated in the report's Legal Implications but Officers stated this was a statutory requirement that had to be undertaken and formed no part of the planning process. Officers explained that the right specification would attract the right bids.

Councillor Allen agreed that it was clear that consideration should now be given to how the site should operate going forward and agreed that the site needed updating. Councillor Allen stated that the presentation and report was absolutely fantastic and fully supported for this to be implemented as soon as possible.

Councillor Piccolo echoed Members remarks that improvements were now required and that cost savings could be considered for reusable items for community groups. Officers stated that reusable items would need to be viable for such groups and this could form part of the process.

RESOLVED

That the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to make the following recommendation to Cabinet:

- **To undertake a Planning Application for the redevelopment of the Household Waste and Recycling Centre in Linford, on its current Buckingham Hill site in line with the design principles detailed in 4.3 of the report.**

15. Public Bin Review Update

Daren Spring, Street Services Manager, presented the report that updated Members on the Public Bin Review that would be carried out on all public litter bins throughout the borough and that the review would focus on the location, process for installation, purchasing of new dual process litter bins and the introduction of 10 Big Belly Bins. Monitoring would continue on locations,

requests made and usage and that local schools would be approached to provide designs for the side of the bins.

Councillor Jones thanked Officers for the report and questioned whether the Big Belly Bins would only be for general waste. The Officers confirmed that yes this would be the case. Councillor Jones asked Officers to explain how the notification system operated. Officers advised they are compacting bins which send a notification when the bins need emptying. Councillor Jones further questioned in relation to the Bartec system and how this would support emptying of bins. Officers confirmed that the system would be uploaded with all the bins in the borough, including the frequency of emptying, this will automatically produce a work program and schedule for staff, which would be presented to them on electronic devices.

Councillor Collins questioned whether the Big Belly Bins were reliable and maintained regularly. Officers confirmed that monitoring and servicing of the bins would continue for the period of the trial.

Julie Rogers stated that the Big Belly Bins were already in use in the public domain and are not known to have regular maintenance issues. The trial would identify any issues of high demand and how frequently the sites would need to be visited for bins to be emptied, if they weren't collecting high enough volumes they would be relocated.

Councillor Piccolo asked whether the Barrow Beat Sweepers in all wards could identify areas where rubbish was being picked up to establish where potential rubbish bins could be placed. Officers confirmed this already takes place.

Councillor Allen questioned when the Big Belly Bins would be implemented. Daren Spring stated that the bins were in stock and hopefully be rolled out by the end of October.

Councillor Allen asked that the Barrow Beat Sweeper in Tilbury be commended for the work that he undertakes.

Councillor Jones thanked Officers for a very important report.

RESOLVED

That the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented on the contents of the report.

16. Work Programme

The Chair asked Members if there were any items to be added or discussed for the work programme for the 2017-18 municipal year.

Members agreed to add a report on Route Optimisation from the Waste Service to the 14 December 2017 Committee.

Members agreed to add a report on Fly Tipping of Alley Ways to the 14 December 2017 Committee.

Councillor Piccolo requested that his report on “Bin It Campaign” be removed from the 14 December 2017 Committee.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the item on Route Optimisation from the Waste Service will be added to the work programme for 14 December 2017 Committee.**
- 2. That the item on Fly Tipping in Alleyways will be added to the work programme for 14 December 2017 Committee.**
- 3. That the item on Bin It Campaign will be removed from the work programme.**

The meeting finished at 8.50 pm

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**