

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Scrutiny (Climate Change and Environment) Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny (Climate Change and Environment) Committee held in the Coltman VC Room, Town Hall on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Councillors M. Slater (Chairman), A. Bailey, Mrs V J Gould, M. Holton, M. Huckerby and Mrs J. Jones

Officers Present:

The Head of Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer (John Teasdale), the Corporate and Commercial Manager (James Abbott), the Climate Change and Adaptation Officer (Mark Jeffcote), the Programmes and Transformation Officer (Sean Loughran), the Principal Democratic Services Officer (Andrea Davies) and the Democratic Services Officer (Daniel Caulkett).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs B. Ashcroft and K. Smith BEM.

13/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

14/23 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business submitted to the meeting pursuant to Rule 12.

15/23 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public submitted.

16/23 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

A question was received from Councillor M Slater on the subject of fly-tipping. A written response was tabled at the meeting from the Enforcement Team Leader and is appended to the minutes.

An opportunity for questions took place.

The Chairman requested a breakdown as to how well the Council received reports about fly tipping.

In response to a query concerning emergency fly-tipping collection vehicle, the Corporate and Commercial Manager confirmed that corporate plan target GD10 related to this and an update was due in December 2023.

17/23 **PUBLIC MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Public Minutes of the Meeting held on the 26th July 2023 be approved by the Committee and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows.

Those voting for the motion	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor M. Slater		Councillor Mrs J. Jones
Councillor A. Bailey		
Councillor Mrs V J Gould		
Councillor M. Holton		
Councillor M. Huckerby		

18/23 **CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

The Climate Change and Adaptation Officer (Mark Jeffcote) attended the meeting to give a presentation on the ESBC Climate Action Plan.

The Committee noted that the Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2020, and set two aims: To make the council's activities carbon-neutral by 2040, and to make the Borough carbon neutral by 2050. As a result of this, Climate Change and Nature Recovery were now considered in all Council decisions, strategies, policies and plans. It was highlighted that the Government had committed to reaching NetZero emissions by 2050 and through the Environment Act 2021 had set targets for improving air and water quality, protecting wildlife, increasing recycling and reducing plastic waste.

The Council reported on emissions by splitting them into two different sets of data: Co2 emissions across the borough as a whole and Co2 emissions from the Councils own buildings and activities. It was noted that the Borough's Co2 emissions had reduced by 43.9% from 1065.8 kilotonnes in 2005 and 11.3% reduction from 673.9 kilotonnes in 2019, with approximately 1/3 of emissions from the transport sector; 1/3 from domestic property and 1/3 from the industrial and commercial sectors (including agricultural and public sectors). The Council produced a total of 2547 tonnes of Co2 emissions in 2009/10 and in 2022/23 that amount had reduced to 2119 tonnes (representing a 40.26% reduction). The Committee noted that emissions made by the Council in 2022/23 by source as follows: 42.7% outsourced services; 38.3% diesel and petrol in Council Vehicle Fleet; 13.4% Corporate Council buildings; 4.5% electricity used by the Council; 0.8% Staff business travel in own vehicles and 0.4% transmission and distribution losses.

The Climate Change and Nature Strategy had six sections: Protect climate from man-made climate change; adapt to the consequences of climate change; protect and

enhance nature; Use resources wisely and minimise waste and pollution; Cross cutting actions (including planning and regeneration) and communication and engagement. 63 actions were included within the plan, with 49 Green, 4 Red and 10 targets yet to be started (15 targets already completed).

The Committee noted several examples given of actions the Council had already taken or would be taking in the future to help reduce emissions; including installation of EV chargers at Millers Lane and Stapenhill for the Council's fleet (and were currently looking to identifying further EV Charging points within the borough); exploring ways to improve the cycle network through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and as part of the Towns Fund Programme; development of a new Washlands Visitor Centre in cooperation with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust; Parks have achieved green flag standard; 2,500 native tree species had been planted in the Council's green open spaces and were developing nature recovery partnerships with local community groups and organisations; the introduction of a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and consultants were currently being appointed to produce energy audits and Heat Decarbonisation Plans for four main corporate buildings. Other projects included a programme of Climate Awareness/Carbon Literacy training for all staff and elected members; reviewing the recycling provision in the Council buildings; producing a new Air Quality Management Plan; Reviewing the Climate Change section of the Procurement Policy and Working with the Staffordshire County Council to bring forward a programme of Environmental business support to enable local SMEs to reduce costs and/or energy consumption.

An opportunity for questions followed.

A copy of the Climate Change Action plan would be provided to members of the Committee outside of the meeting.

19/23 **SCRUTINY REVIEW PROGRAMME**

It was agreed that a review of Community Engagement Mechanisms in relation to Climate Change be carried out. Councillors M Holton, M Slater, Mrs V J Gould, K Smith BEM and Mrs B Ashcroft agreed to serve on this sub group, with an update to be provided at the next meeting.

It was agreed that a presentation be given to a future meeting on tree planting in the borough and that the relevant responsible organisations be invited to the April 2024 meeting to brief Councillors on sewage/flooding issues within the borough.

NOTED.

20/23 **PUBLIC EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS**

Members received for information a list of Public Executive Decision Records

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED.

21/23 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee take place on 11th January 2024.

NOTED.

22/23 **CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 1**

The Report of the Head of Corporate and Environment Services, on the performance update on progress at the end of the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year towards delivering East Staffordshire Borough Council's Corporate Plan, Leisure Services Contract Performance and Towns Fund Programme was considered. Appendix 1: Spreadsheet of Quarter 1 updates for Corporate Plan targets had been circulated with the report.

Councillors noted that out of 132 corporate targets, 82 were green, 6 were amber with 44 not yet due to be reported; of the 88 live targets, 93.18% were green status, 6.82% were amber status and 0% red status; at the end of Quarter 1 of the Leisure Contract Performance, 75 performance indicators were green, 3 were amber and 0 red; project progress on the Towns Fund Programme including key risks, current financial profiles, and claims for two projects: Cycle Network Enhancements (£780,049.76) and the College Project (£1,907,860).

It was agreed that an update be provided to the committee outside of the meeting on the progress of the Washlands planning application.

An opportunity for questions followed.

NOTED.

23/23 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting during discussion of the following items as it would likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets before each item number on the Agenda

APPENDIX 2 QUARTER 1 LEISURE SERVICES CONTRACT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY; APPENDIX 3 QUARTER 1 TOWNS FUND PROGRAMME SUMMARY

PRIVATE MINUTES

PRIVATE EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORDS

