

Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee

31 January 2018 – At a meeting of the Select Committee held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mr Barrett-Miles (Chairman)

Mr Baldwin	Mr McDonald	Mrs Purnell
Lt Cl Barton**	Mr S Oakley	
Mrs Bridges**	Mr Oppler*	
Mrs Brunsdon	Mr Patel	

In attendance by invitation: Ms Goldsmith (Leader), Mr Lanzer (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure) and Mrs Urquhart (Cabinet Member for Environment).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Jones and Mr Purchase

* Left the meeting at 1.15pm and ** Left the meeting at 2.55pm

Declarations of Interests

165. In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the following personal interests were declared:

- Mr Baldwin as a member of the Executive Task and Finish Group (TFG) in relation to Highways Maintenance Contract – Update on KPI's
- Mrs Brunsdon as a Mid Sussex District Council Member and horsebox owner in relation to Options for Improved Control and Management at Household Waste and Recycling Sites
- Mr Oakley as a member of Chichester District Council in relation to Economic Growth Plan 2018-2023 and Options for Improved Control and Management at Household Waste and Recycling Sites
- Mr Patel as a member of Arun District Council in relation to Economic Growth Plan 2018-2023
- Mrs Purnell as a member of Chichester District Council and Selsey Town Council in relation to Economic Growth Plan 2018-2023 and Options for Improved Control and Management at Household Waste and Recycling Sites; and member of the Executive Task and Finish Group (TFG) in relation to Highways Maintenance Contract – Update on KPI's

Minutes of the 30 November Meeting

166. The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting and agreed the following:

- That Mrs Bridges was in attendance at the meeting, and was not absent as incorrectly stated.

167. Resolved – that subject to the amendment above, the minutes of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee held on 30 November 2017 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Cabinet Member's Response to the Committee's Recommendations

a) Household Waste & Recycling Sites Opening Hours & Waste Performance / Fly-tipping update

168. The Committee noted the Cabinet Member's Response to the Committee's Recommendations on Household Waste & Recycling Sites Opening Hours & Waste Performance / Fly-tipping update

b) Community Highway Schemes

169. The Committee noted the Cabinet Member's Response to the Committee's Recommendations on Community Highway Schemes.

c) Highways Maintenance Contract – Update

170. The Committee noted the Cabinet Member's Response to the Committee's Recommendations on Highways Maintenance Contract – Update

d) Bus Strategy

171. The Committee noted the Cabinet Member's Response to the Committee's Recommendations on Bus Strategy

e) Implications for the F&RS of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and F&RS Future Governance and Scrutiny

172. The Committee noted the Cabinet Member's Response to the Committee's Recommendations on Implications for the F&RS of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and F&RS Future Governance and Scrutiny

f) Community Intelligence

173. The Committee noted the Cabinet Member's Response to the Committee's Recommendations on Community Intelligence.

g) Letter from the Chairman of the Committee in relation to the Call in request for the proposed decision 'Approval to proceed with the procurement and implementation of a Crawley street lighting LED conversion programme – HI 24 (17/18)'

174. The Committee noted the Cabinet Member's Response to the Letter from the Chairman of the Committee in relation to the Call in request for the proposed

decision 'Approval to proceed with the procurement and implementation of a Crawley street lighting LED conversion programme – HI24 (17/18)'.

Economic Growth Plan 2018-2023

175. The Committee considered a report by Executive Director Economy, Infrastructure and the Environment; and Director of Economy, Planning and Place (copy appended to signed minutes).

176. Nick Smales, Director Economy, Planning and Place introduced the report which gave an update on the development of a new Economic Growth Plan for 2018-2023 and beyond, to provide the framework for supporting and driving economic growth to achieve the West Sussex Plan's 'Prosperous Place' outcomes. The Plan was currently in the consultation phase, with finalisation and adoption expected to take place by April 2018.

177. The Leader added that the County Council wanted to ensure a strong economy, with adequate jobs for residents and those wishing to live in West Sussex. It was anticipated that the Plan would be brought back to the Committee as it evolved and developed.

178. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Welcomed the Plan and its objectives, but raised concerns over the appropriate levels of infrastructure and housing to support population growth; including the low number of hotels in the County to accommodate higher numbers of tourists.
- Raised concerns over the erosion of office and commercial space, especially in town centres, to make way for additional housing in the County; highlighting a need to work with the district and borough councils for future planning. *The Leader advised that the County Council was working closely with the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) and the district and borough councils to ensure a common theme in respect of housing needs. Investments such as the Bognor Regis Station creative hub for commercial use would soon come to fruition and should have a positive effect on the area.*
- Queried what work had been carried out in relation to travel behaviours and commuting tolerance, in view of high house prices verses wages in the County; and whether any work had been carried out at rail hubs and on bus usage to measure commuter satisfaction. An officer advised that performance of varying stations and commuter habits had been looked at, as rail travel was still a driver of investments and influenced people's choice of residence. Bus usage hadn't been looked at in detail as bus movements were more relevant to district and borough councils in terms of local plans. Although housing affordability was seen as difficult to influence, the commuter experience could still be improved. It was likely

Agenda Item No.2

that in future years travel habits may change, which could see a change in commuting and the use of office space.

- Requested more economic-specific data on migration and immigration in and out of the County; including the percentage of the workforce made up of immigrants, and the percentage of these who were on the minimum wage.
- Suggested that cross-county links could be investigated to give a wider scope and vision for future tourist events. *The Leader advised that in the past tourism had been fragmented, but that the County Council was promoting the visitor offer through a coordinated `Experience West Sussex` approach. The Leader highlighted the importance of engaging with businesses and discussing how West Sussex's unique 'box of delights' could be maximised. The aim was to encourage visitors to visit for longer than just a day, to spend more, and to theme experiences such as coastal sports activities, Downs walks and arts activities.*
- Raised concerns over the quality of broadband especially in rural areas, and the need to ensure planning for future housing developments include appropriate digital connectivity networks and allowances for 'green' innovations such as electric car charging points; and would also like to see more offshore hydro power being used as a resource. An officer advised that work had been undertaken to look at 'green' issues and it was expected that district and borough councils' local plans should be planning for these, including electric car charging points and digital connectivity. The County Council was working collectively with them to ensure future planning policy gave enough scope to realise the opportunities. *The Cabinet Member for Environment added that there will be a Member Day seminar on 'green and clean' air quality at the end of April to allow for further member input.*
- Raised concerns over the value for money that publicity programmes such as the Beautiful Outdoors represented, given other spending priorities. An officer advised that the idea of tourism campaigns was to achieve broader growth. There were some indicators to measure performance and economic impact, such as what activities were carried out and how much was spent by visitors.
- Requested an update on the progress of various growth deals with the district and borough councils; and requested further scrutiny of the next phase and associated actions of the Plan, at the appropriate time.

179. Resolved – That the Committee:

- 1) Supports the progress with the development of the Economic Growth Plan 2018 -2023, and the proposed aims and actions
- 2) Requests that the Leader note the Committee's concerns before the Plan is adopted.

Highways Maintenance Contract – Update on Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)

180. The Committee considered a report by Executive Director Economy Infrastructure and Environment and Director of Highways and Transport (copy appended to signed minutes).

181. Matt Davey, Director of Highways and Transport, Chris Barrett, Contract Lead Professional and Jonathan Ulmer, Head of Highways Operations, introduced the report which provided an update on progress with the new contract and on the development of KPI's to be used on the contract, as per the Committee's recommendations at its meeting on 30 November 2017. Key points were:

- The KPI's are themed and weighted, with most indicators reported monthly, some quarterly and a small number annually. The contractor may be penalised for missed targets or rewarded for good performance.
- The Committee had previously requested the chosen contractor be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee, but it was suggested that their attendance at a Member Day may be of better value.

182. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Questioned if insolvency mitigation had been built into the contract and whether there were processes in place to detect early contractor failure. An officer advised that there was a degree of risk with insolvency, but that there were business continuity plans in place to mitigate this; and there was also provision to deal directly with the sub-contractors if need be. A great deal of Highways and Transport functionality was being retained in house, with only 8 staff being outsourced.
- Sought reassurances that the current Highways team had enough resource to carry out the management of the new contract and that no new funding was needed. An officer advised that that the County Council would seek to strengthen the current team to manage and audit the contract through the current directorate. As an interim, 4 Highways staff were being deployed onto the Contract and Commercial Team which oversee the activities of contract management.
- Raised concerns over 'temporary' fixes that may arise from the contractor needing to meet KPI's and resulting in further return work. An officer advised that every defect and repair had to be guaranteed for a year after fixing and reasons that drive the contractor to carry out such temporary work were being looked at.

Agenda Item No.2

- Highlighted the importance of a cultural change to prevent underperforming, with a need to challenge the contractor if delivery was not satisfactory; and queried how robust the process of imposing penalties was within the contract. An officer advised that the aim was to build a team with proper processes and resources to utilise and challenge the contractor. A different approach which published performance was being taken, which would keep members and the public informed.

183. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport thanked officers for work on the contract and stressed that the relationship between the County Council and the contractor should be based on trust and mutual challenge. He highlighted the fact that over the 7 year contract period it was likely methods of technology would change, so it was important to expect change and growth. If the County Council had to impose penalties it would do so, but leadership styles and management of the contract should be respectful.

184. Resolved – That the Committee:

- 1) Notes the progress of the procurement project and endorses the overall approach to the key Performance Indicators to be used on the new contract.
- 2) Notes the organisational changes proposed to monitor the performance of the contractor and the need to scrutinise performance.

Options for Improved Control and Management at Household Waste and Recycling Sites

185. The Committee considered a report by Executive Director Economy, Infrastructure and Environment and Director of Energy, Waste and Environment (copy appended to signed minutes).

186. Steve Read, Director of Energy, Waste and Environment introduced the report which outlined the recommended policy changes in relation to improved management controls at the Household Waste and Recycling Sites. At its meeting on 15 November the Committee requested that site survey data and options be further considered, of which further data and evidence had now been gathered. Proposals included: a ban on multi-axle trailers, Luton vans and horseboxes from all sites; the issuing of an on-line permit system for customers visiting sites with a van, pick-up truck or trailer; and a ban on all trailers at the Littlehampton and Bognor Regis sites. These proposals were expected to generally reduce congestion and improve safety, especially at Littlehampton and Bognor Regis and further deter illegal use of sites for trade waste disposal and reduce cross-border traffic from non-West Sussex residents. It was expected that a new IT permit system would be introduced at sites after the spring peak, with communication to residents carried out through the usual channels.

187. The Cabinet Member for Environment added that now further data had been collected, the County Council were able to see where money could be saved and cross border usage avoided. A light touch approach would be taken

towards ensuring residents with vans, pick-ups and trailers have the correct permits.

188. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Raised concerns that a previously successful service was being diminished and the banning of certain vehicles may cause problems for staff needing to turn such vehicles away, particularly at the Bognor Regis site. Especially when some household waste warranted larger vehicles. *The Cabinet Member for Environment advised that site management company Viridor were supportive and in favour of implementing restrictions, especially on smaller sites. The decision to ban certain vehicles at both Bognor Regis and Littlehampton was taken on safety grounds.* Mr Read stated that the service continues to be successful, with fewer constraints compared to neighbouring authorities.
- Queried the cost of implementing the permit scheme and whether this would be open to non-residents. Mr Read advised that the initial scheme set up was likely to be around £10,000 and wouldn't be open to non-county residents; backed up by additional checks and balances within the system.
- Requested that the Cabinet Member as a member of the Inter Authority Waste Group ensures that any information relating to alternative waste disposal for residents, on both the County Council and district and boroughs websites, be up to date and accurate. Also that there be clear and consistent signposting at all sites for redirecting any party wanting to dispose of commercial waste.
- Requests that the timing of implementation of the proposal is clearly shown in the decision report.

189. Mr Barrett-Miles made the following proposal, which the Committee considered: - That the Committee supports the proposal.

190. A vote was held and the proposal was carried.

191. Resolved – That the Committee:

- 1) Supports the proposal
- 2) Requests that the Cabinet Member as a member of the Inter Authority Waste Group ensures that any information relating to alternative waste disposal for residents, on both the County Council and district and boroughs websites, be up to date and accurate.

- 3) Requests that the timing of implementation of the proposal is clearly shown in the decision report.

Strategic Challenges in Waste

192. The Committee considered a report by Executive Director Economy, Infrastructure and Environment and Director of Energy, Waste and Environment (copy appended to signed minutes).

193. Mr Read provided a verbal update and overview of the challenges related to the current and future management of municipal waste and recycling within West Sussex. Key points included: the aim to increase recycling rates and reduce landfill waste, looking at options for waste handling and investment, the potential role of food waste and incentives for district and borough councils to improve collection performance.

194. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Queried how implementing a food waste collection county-wide would help the scale of benefit and investment. Mr Read advised members that the intention is to work with the District and Borough partners to look at the whole system costs and to provide a service that provided the best value for West Sussex overall. Costs could be redistributed accordingly.
- Requested specific targeting of poorer performing recycling areas, along with habitual offenders; with more investment in recycling and financial incentives for district and boroughs to encourage food waste collection.
- Requested that the strategy/action plan be brought back to the Committee

195. Resolved – That the Committee:

- 1) Notes the strategic issues and challenges, with a request that the strategy/action plan be brought back to the Committee.
- 2) Requests that the issues raised are noted by the Cabinet Member.

Rights of Way (ROW) Management Plan 2018-2028

196. The Committee considered a report by Executive Director of Economy, Infrastructure and Environment and Director of Highways and Transport (copy appended to signed minutes).

197. Jo Dixon, Countryside Services Manager, Andy Ekinsmyth, Head of Transport and Countryside and Jane Noble, Senior Access Officer, introduced the report which presented the draft West Sussex ROW Management Plan, covering the period 2018 to 2028; setting out the County Council's approach to managing the Public ROW (PROW) network and outlining ways in which future improvements could be achieved. The Plan needed to be reviewed every 10

years and the draft was currently undergoing a 12 week public consultation, ending 31 January 2017.

198. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Requested greater emphasis on engagement concerning planning applications that may affect Public Rights of Way (PROW).
- Suggested a clear and proactive approach to S106 and CIL contributions being used to fund opportunities for the ROW network.
- Requested that drainage affecting PROW be properly kept and managed to avoid limiting use to the public
- Requested that the strategy include reference to appropriate surfacing for PROW, in particular bridleways. *The Cabinet Member for Environment advised that all users of PROW were taken into consideration.*
- Requested that a process be included in the action plan to understand the scale of the problem of unrecorded historic PROW on the Definitive Map and the work involved in coordinating the collection of data to enable applications to be registered by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 cut-off date of 2026. An officer advised that the County Council would consider the issue of unrecorded historic PROW.

199. Resolved – That the Committee:

- 1) Endorses the draft Rights of Way Management Plan
- 2) Requests that a process be included in the action plan to understand the scale of the problem of unrecorded historical PROW and the work involved in coordinating the collection of data to ensure that applications for these unrecorded PROW be registered by 2026.
- 3) Requests that the issues raised are noted by the Cabinet Member.

Business Planning Group Report

200. The Committee considered a report by the Chairman of the Business Planning Group (copy appended to the signed minutes).

201. Resolved – That the Committee endorses the contents of the report and particularly the Committee's Work Programme for 2017/18 and 2018/19, revised to reflect the Business Planning Group's (BPG's) discussions.

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

202. The Committee considered the Forward Plan February 2018 to May 2018

(copy appended to signed minutes).

203. Members queried if there were any plans to scrutinise the proposed changes to the car parking regime at the County Council's County Hall buildings in both Chichester and Horsham. An officer advised that this information could be provided.

204. Resolved – That the Forward Plan be noted.

Date of the Next Meeting

205. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting will take place on 16 March 2018 at 10.30am at County Hall, Chichester.

206. A specially convened meeting to hear the Call-in of the proposed decision by the Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities concerning the New Approach to Community Grant Funding – SSC11 (17/18) will be held on 7 February 2018 at 10.30am at County Hall, Chichester.

The meeting ended at 3.10pm

Chairman.