

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

THURSDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

PRESENT: Councillor B Anderson in the Chair

Councillors J Akhtar, J Bentley,
A Blackburn, D Collins, A Gabriel, A Khan,
P Gruen, M Harland, N Sharpe, K Brooks
and T Smith

26 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal.

27 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

28 Late Items

There were no late items.

29 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

30 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor P Grahame.

31 Minutes - 11 July 2019

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held 11th July 2019 be approved as an accurate record.

32 Matters Arising

In relation to the minutes of the meeting held 11th July 2019, Councillor Gruen referred to minute 22, Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team Review and made reference to tasking meetings. It was confirmed that this matter would be referred to at the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel. Members of the Board gave their support in Councillor Gruen and Akhtar doing so.

33 Climate Emergency Advisory Committee - update

The report of the Head of Democratic Services provided the Board with an update on the functions and work priorities of the Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor Walshaw, Chair of Climate Emergency Advisory Committee
- Neil Evans, Director of Resources and Housing
- Polly Cook, Chief Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality

The Chair of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC) introduced the report, highlighting upcoming dates for future meetings, and the work priorities in each of the working groups.

Members were informed that there would be an open forum session at the beginning of every CEAC meeting. Additionally, at the meeting to be held on 25th September, it was confirmed that representatives from Extinction Rebellion were due to be present as part of the open forum.

The Chair thanked those in attendance.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report.

34 Parking Strategy and Management

The report of the Director of City Development and the Director of Communities and Environment, provided an overview of city centre parking provision within the context of planning policy, the transport strategy for Leeds and the operation of city centre car parking; further outlining the general approach to the management of on-street car parking in areas surrounding the city centre and outside the main city centre controlled parking management area.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor M Rafique, Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles
- Andrew Hall, Head of Transport Planning
- Jason Singh, Head of Service, Environmental Action
- Mark Jefford, Service Manager Environmental Services

Key issues identified in discussions with the Board included:

- Members sought further information on the legal process and timescales on implementation of schemes. Members were informed there had been issues around employment, and that main priorities focused on road and traffic safety. Members were informed of the representation process and that these could add additional time on the regulatory timescales 6-9 months.
- Members discussed traffic order offences and sought information on the existing schemes that had taken place and suggested that measureable information is brought to a future scrutiny board meeting.
- Members recognised the difficulties in managing traffic offences with schools. Officers highlighted staffing issues and the complexities of monitoring 110 schools. It was noted that there is an enforcement vehicle responding to parking reports. Furthermore, Members heard that officers were looking at introducing informal 'no idling' zones.

- Members felt that it would be helpful for Elected Members to be issued a key point of contact to be able to raise any issues during out of hours.
- A Member sought additional information in regard to a parking scheme in their ward, and requested that details on the consultation round and delivery of the scheme be provided, as well as suggesting a meeting with Ward Councillors to discuss the scheme in further detail.
- In relation to the transport strategy, officers explained that a balanced approach had been taken outside of the city centre, in an attempt to encourage public transport, with particular references made to the use and expansion of park and ride schemes.
- It was noted that the Transport Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is in its final stages and that Members would be able to submit their comments in due course.
- Members' discussion focused on residents parking schemes, and agreed the strategy should include additional information on outer and inner areas. Members requested for further information to be brought back to a future meeting and that the additional paper focuses on Members concerns.

The Chair thanked those officers in attendance.

RESOLVED – The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities):

- a) Noted the contents of the report.
- b) Requested that the information provided during discussion be provided to the Board.
- c) Requested that, in discussion with the Chair, a further progress report be presented to a future meeting of the Board, subject to consultation with the Scrutiny Board Chair (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) on the remit of the matter.

Councillor Bentley arrived at 10:50am, respectively during discussion of this item.

Councillors Khan and Akhtar withdrew from the meeting for a short while, respectively during discussion of this item.

35 Consultation on Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy to 2030

The report of the Director of Communities and Environment outlined proposals for a public consultation on developing a Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy for the period 2020 to 2030.

The report included a copy of the current Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (to 2020) at Appendix 1; along with the Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy (2020 to 2030) at Appendix 2.

The following were in attendance for this item:

- Councillor M Rafique, Executive Member for Environment and Active Lifestyles

- Sean Flesher, Chief Officer Parks and Countryside
- Emma Trickett, Senior Projects Manager, Communities and Environment

The Chief Officer Parks and Countryside presented the report and highlighted key aspects of the consultation period and provided an overview on the timescales of the draft strategy being adopted. Additionally, the Senior Projects Manager guided Members through the appended Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy 2020 to 2030.

The Chair acknowledged the limited time for Members in depth discussions and requested that the officers in attendance, along with Members of the Scrutiny Board attend a working group, prior to the consultation on the future of public parks and green spaces commencing. The Chair advised that Board Members would be informed of the date of the additional working group in due course.

- RESOLVED** – The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities):
- a) Noted the information contained within the report and the appended Parks and Green Spaces Strategy at Appendix 1 and 2
 - b) Requested that the ‘Towards a Leeds Parks and Green Spaces Strategy 2020 – 2030’, as well as the consultation plan be brought to a working group, for Members to review and provide their feedback.

36 Work Schedule

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report which invited Members to consider the Board’s schedule for the 2019/20 municipal year. Copies of the draft work schedule and the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held Wednesday 24th July 2019, were appended to the report.

Members discussed the items scheduled for the October meeting.

- RESOLVED** – The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities):
- a) Noted the matters outlined in the report and raised during the meeting
 - b) Noted the Executive Board minutes
 - c) Agreed the overall work schedule

37 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of the next meeting as Thursday 17th October 2019.

(The meeting concluded at 12.20 pm)