

Minutes



To: All Members of the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Michelle Diprose
Ext: 25566

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT CABINET PANEL, WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2017

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

D A Ashley (Chairman), D J Barnard, S Bedford, S J Boulton, R C Deering, S J Featherstone, N A Hollinghurst, A K Khan, G McAndrew, A Stevenson (Vice-Chairman), J A West, A S B Walkington

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel meeting on Wednesday, 1 November 2017 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

*Note: N A Hollinghurst declared an interest as recorded at minute 1 and 6
A K Khan declared an interest as recorded at minute 5
D A Ashley, S J Featherstone and A S B Walkington declared an interest as recorded in minute 6*

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Cabinet Panel meeting held on Thursday, 5 October 2017 were agreed.

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

- 2.1 There were no public petitions.

3. PRESENTATION AND INFORMATION REPORT ON THE CHILTERN'S AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY (AONB)

[Officer Contact: Tony Bradford, Head of Countryside Management,
Tel: 01992 556028]

ACTION

CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS

.....

- 3.1 N A Hollinghurst declared a personal interest in this item as he lived in the AONB.
- 3.2 The Cabinet Panel received a presentation from Sue Holden, Chief Officer for the Conservation Board of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Presentation gave an update of the work being carried out across the Chilterns. The presentation can be viewed [here](#):
- 3.2 Members noted there were two thousand rights of way in the Chilterns. The presentation gave details on:
- The impact of the local geology on the landscape and wildlife of the Chilterns as well as the use of clay and flint in the local architecture
 - England's light pollution and dark skies and their conservation in the Chilterns
 - The Chilterns Building Design Awards
 - Chalk streams, their conservation and threat of pollution and over-abstraction
 - Chilterns walking festival and food and drink festival
 - A new, Lottery Landscape Partnership project in development for the land to the north and east of the Chilterns
- 3.3 The Panel heard that one of the biggest health challenges the UK faces is inactivity. Getting people walking is an ideal intervention and the board recognised there was work they were well placed to deliver to help people to maximise leisure opportunities. The Board was also keen to encourage volunteering and recognised that involvement of local residents of Hertfordshire would help maximise their health and wellbeing.
- 3.4 In response to a question in relation to HS2, Members noted a review group had received a sum of money to mitigate the social and environmental impact along the route including in the AONB. Funding to support business, enhance the environment and benefit community was available. The Board had bid for additional funds for the AONB but was unsuccessful.
- 3.5 In relation to the boundaries of the AONB, the Chief Officer informed the Panel that a boundary review took place in 2014. However, the limited resource with Natural England (part of Defra) and other pressing issues on that team meant that there is small chance of the boundary being changed in the near future. However, improvement activity would always be carried out beyond the boundaries where areas of habitat needed it and as such the Board would treat the boundary of the AONB as flexible.

Conclusion:

3.6 That the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel note the content of the report and subsequent presentation from Sue Holden, Chief Officer of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Conservation Board, .

4. HERTFORDSHIRE WATER STUDY

[Officer Contact: Sally Talbot, Planning Officer, Tel: 01992 555047
John Rumble, Head of Environmental Resource Planning 01992 556296]

4.1 The Cabinet Panel reviewed a report and presentation which provided an update on the findings of the Hertfordshire Water Study. The Water Study was commissioned in 2015 to identify how water supply and treatment could affect the potential growth of Hertfordshire. The presentation can be viewed here [Water Study](#) and gives information on key dates, issues for Hertfordshire, project objectives and the study approach.

4.2 Members noted that within Hertfordshire sewerage and wastewater treatment was jointly managed by Thames Water utilities Ltd and Anglian Water Services Ltd, water was supplied by Thames Water and Affinity Water Ltd and infrastructure planning was undertaken on a five yearly basis as part of the national price review process undertaken by Office of Water Regulations (OFWAT)

4.3 The study was jointly funded by a partnership of the County Council, the Environment Agency, the LEP and nine of Hertfordshire district and borough councils and the statutory water companies that operated in the county. In relation to the collaboration of the ten local authorities and Broxbourne not participating in the study, Members were informed that although it was disappointing that Broxbourne did not take part, it was not catastrophic. Members were given an overview of the study approach which included :

- Understanding growth trends
- Understanding uncertainties
- Strategic view of water infrastructure
- Identification of water infrastructure options
- Future system capacity and potential deficits

4.4 Members noted the main conclusions and other outcomes of the study and what they meant. The main conclusion being there is enough existing water supply and waste water capacity to meet growth currently planned for within local development plans to 2031. A summary of the conclusions can be found in Appendix 1 to the report. It was also noted that 12 more studies could take place

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

.....

arising from this work.

4.5 The study took account of various scenarios including environmental changes such as drought and flooding. Short and long term factors have been factored in to the modelling process such as anticipated growth up to 2031. The study highlighted five key recommendations, as detailed in section 5.7 of the report.

4.6 In relation to the reduction of water usage it was noted that compulsory water meters would be installed by Affinity to help reduce the amount of water used.

Conclusions:

4.7 The Cabinet Panel noted the report and presentation.

5. UPDATE ON AND OPTIONS FOR CHANGES TO THE SAVERCARD SCHEME

[Officer Contact: Matt Dale, Passenger Transport Manager 01992 588633]

5.1 A K Khan declared a personal and pecuniary interest in this item due to his children having Savercards, he remained in the room and participated in the debate and the vote.

5.2 The Cabinet Panel received a report providing an update on the Savercard Scheme and to highlight 3 changes to the Scheme. These were:

1. To change the operation of the Scheme from mileage to user based reimbursement
2. To increase the cost of the annual Savercard by £5
3. To expand the remit of the Savercard to include Apprentices aged 18 – 25 within the budget available.

5.3 The Assistant Director, Transport, Waste & Environmental Management informed Members that since the report had been printed concerns had been raised regarding the equalities implications of extending to Scheme to Apprentices. Members also asked officers to consider other wider ways the Scheme could be extended within the current budget. Officers undertook to explore in more detail the scope of broadening the scheme and bring a report back to the Panel in the new year

5.4 Members supported the Savercard scheme and how it enabled children and young people to travel to school by themselves and without parent support i.e. travelling to school via a car. Members also welcomed the fact the Scheme allowed discounted travel any day of the week so wasn't just for home to school travel and also

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

.....

noted that compared to other operator discount cards it was significantly more generous.

- 5.5 Following a vote on option 2 to increase the cost of the Saver card by £5.00, the vote was as follows:

8 for
2 against
2 abstentions

Panel agreed to the recommended price increase as set out in section 6.1.1 of the report.

Conclusion:

- 5.6 The Panel noted and commented on the contents of the report and supported:

- i. the recommended price increase of £5 as detailed in section 6.1.1 of the report and the formal annual review of price.

6. REVIEW OF CURRENT FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH GROUNDWORK EAST AND THE HERTS AND MIDDLESEX WILDLIFE TRUST

[Officer Contact: Simon Aries, Assistant Director Transport, Waste and Environmental Management, Tel: 01992 555255]

- 6.1 S J Featherstone, N A Hollinghurst and A S B Walkington declared a personal interest in this item due to being a member of the Herts Wildlife Trust.
D A Ashley declared a personal interest on this item due to being the County Councils Representative for outside bodies to the Groundwork Trust.
All Members above remained in the room and participated in the debate and the vote.
- 6.2 Members received a report providing an update on the current funding arrangements for Groundwork East (GE) and the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) which also gave three options for the future support of funding arrangements. These were set out in section 5 of the report.
- 6.3 A statement was received from GE and HMWT advising of the impact it would have on the organisations if funding ceased.
- 6.4 The Panel noted that the £10k funding for HMWT was used to update information on the County Wildlife Sites and data was used to inform decisions in relation to development and the planning

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

.....

system.

6.5 Members agreed the HMWT was a good organisation and to cease its funding would have an impact on the work that is carried out by them. Concern was raised that expert advice may be lost if funding was to cease. It was also noted that GE and HMWT could apply for other grants for specific projects. It was hoped that they would continue to use volunteers to carry out the monitoring of wildlife sites.

6.6 Following a vote on the options before the panel, the vote was as follows:

8 for
4 against

The Panel agreed to support option 3 as set out in section 5 of the report.

Conclusions:

6.7 The Cabinet Panel noted the content of the report and supported option 3, as detailed below:

A phased withdrawal of financial support from 1 April 2018 e.g. HMWT - £5,000 reduction in 18/19 followed by a further £5,000 reduction in 19/20; GWH £10,000 reduction in 18/19 followed by a further £15,000 reduction in 19/20 and a final reduction of £16,000 by 20/21. Notice of this or any other level of reduction to be given in December 2017.

7. CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT MINERALS LOCAL PLAN
[Officer Contact: Julie Greaves, Minerals and Waste Policy Manager, Tel: 01992 556227]

7.1 The Panel received a report in relation to the Draft Minerals Local Plan document consultation which was to be submitted to Cabinet and County Council for consideration prior to a formal consultation process in December 2017.

7.2 Members were advised of the areas identified for consultation to meet the requirements of the plan. These were Furze Field; Hatfield Aerodrome; Land adjoining Coopers Green Lane, as specific sites with Briggens Estate as a preferred area. The full draft document for public consultation was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

7.3 In relation to clarification on Briggens Estate, Members were informed the Minerals Local Plan had to identify specific sites and or

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

.....

areas to meet the plans requirements. It was noted that Briggens was identified as a potential preferred area to meet the shortfall and to look at using the site at the end of the plan if needed. It was noted that a planning application could come in at any time for any of the sites within the plan or on areas not identified within the plan. Any planning application would need to be dealt with on its merit.

7.4 Members asked if amendments could be made to the site briefs (1 and 2 regarding minor junction improvements. Officers stated that these are the kind of comments that would be sought through the consultation process. They confirmed that any comments received would be taken into account.

Action Julie Greaves

7.5 It was reiterated to the Panel and members of the public that this was a consultation document and that it would come back to Panel at a later date. Once the plan was adopted it would cover a 15 year period, 2016 – 2031.

Conclusion:

7.6 The Panel considered the draft Minerals Local Plan, attached at Appendix 1 and the Omissions Consultation document, attached as Appendix 2 to the report and recommended to Cabinet that Cabinet recommends to County Council to approve a ten week period of public consultation commencing on 4 December 2017 to 9 February 2018, in accordance with Regulation 18 Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

8. WASTE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW, DRAFT INITIAL CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

[Officer Contact: David Hodbod, Planning Officer, Tel: 01992 556404]

8.1 The Panel received a report which outlined the Waste Local Plan Draft Initial Consultation document which was to be submitted to Cabinet and County Council for consideration for a period of formal consultation to commence in February 2018 in accordance with Part 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

8.2 It was noted that as the Waste Planning Authority for Hertfordshire, the Council had a responsibility to prepare, implement and review a Waste Local Plan as part of its development plan. Members also noted that the consultation for this process was to take place from 5 February 2018 until 30 March 2018 so would be brought back to panel when the consultation was completed and would be adopted by the county Council in 2020. Members asked if the wording of the questions could be revisited to make it less technical. Officers agreed to reword where possible.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

.....

Conclusion:

- 8.3 The Panel considered the draft Waste Local Plan, attached as Appendix 1 to the report and recommended to Cabinet that Cabinet recommends to County Council to approve a six week period of public consultation commencing in February 2018, in accordance with Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

9. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

[Officer Contact: Richard Cuthbert, Team Leader Access & Rights of Way, Tel: 01992 555292]

- 9.1 The Panel received a report informing them of the review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP). The report detailed the results of the key stakeholder engagement, attached at Appendix A and gave an overview of the draft strategic plan for the next 10 years which the County Council has a statutory duty to prepare and publish.

- 9.2 Officers noted that Members supported the Rights of Way team and in particular the work which was being carried out in relation to the Motorised Vehicle working Group.

- 9.3 Members commented on how helpful the Rights of Way Team were and asked for their comments to be relayed back to the team.

Action
Richard
Cuthbert

Conclusion:

- 9.4 The Panel recommended to Cabinet to approve that:
- i. the new plan period is now managed and reviewed on a 10 year cycle; and
 - ii. that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2017/18 to 2027/28 be adopted as policy to guide development and improvement of the public rights of way network.

10. REGIONAL FLOOD AND COASTAL COMMITTEE FUNDED PROJECTS (RFCC)

[Officer Contact: Ryan Thomas, Schemes and Partnerships Officer, Tel: 01992 556549]

- 10.1 The Panel received a report informing them of the projects funded by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee in Hertfordshire under the current six year programme 2015 – 2021.

- 10.2 Members noted that it was Local Level funding provided by local

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

.....

authorities to fund the flood risk management projects and was administered by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees. The report listed projects that the Council had submitted for funding to the current 6 year programme, this was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

- 10.3 A further paper would be presented to the Panel in Spring of 2018 to propose a revised approach to the prioritisation and preparation of projects that would be submitted for funding to the next RFCC six year programme due to start in 2021.

Conclusion:

- 10.4 The Panel noted the content of the report.

11. MINERALS LOCAL AGGREGATE ASSESSMENT 2017
[Officer Contact: Trish Carter-Lyons, Planning Officer, Policy
Tel: 01992 556254]

- 11.1 The Panel received a report informing them of the updates to the annually revised Hertfordshire Minerals Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA), attached at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 11.2 The Panel were informed the site of Pynesfield had been added to the list of active sand and gravel sites and was included within the permitted reserves figure for sand and gravel in Hertfordshire. It was also noted that the sales of sand and gravel had seen a minor decrease throughout 2016.

Conclusion:

- 11.4 The Cabinet Panel was asked to consider the LAA as attached at Appendix 1 of the report showing the current minerals supply and demand and acknowledged that it will be placed on the County Council's website.

12. ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT PERFORMANCE MONITOR
[Officer Contact: Simon Aries, Assistant Director Transport, Waste & Environmental Management, Tel: 01992 555255 / Jan Hayes Griffin, Assistant Director Planning & Economy Tel: 01992 555203]

- 12.1 The Panel received a report to review the performance of Environment, Planning and Transport for the Q2 July 2017 to September 2017 against the Environment Department Service Plan 2016-2020. The report included key performance indicators, major projects, contracts and identified risks.

12.2 Members noted those areas that achieved its target and those that had improved. The Panel were reminded that officers were reviewing a new set of indicators that Members would be more familiar with.

12.3 It was noted there had been a decrease in the dealing with planning applications due to a large application currently being dealt with. For future reports Members requested officers to include the number of planning applications decided as well as percentages so they had a better overview of the performance.

Action
Jan Hayes-Griffin

12.4 In relation to affordable homes provision the Panel noted this was the lowest recorded by the County Council. Members noted this was due to fewer brownfield sites being available for development.

Conclusion:

12.5 The Panel noted and commented on the content of the report.

13. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

13.1 There was no other part I business.

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

.....