

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 8 December 2020

Attendance:

Councillors
Clear (Chairperson)

Laming
Achwal
Bell
Hutchison
McLean

Pearson
Read
Scott
Williams

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Horrill, Porter (Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing) and Tod (Cabinet Member for Service Quality and Transformation).

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Cook and Murphy (Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

[Full audio recording and video recording](#)

1. **APOLOGIES AND DEPUTY MEMBERS**

All members were in attendance.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No disclosures of interest were declared.

3. **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairperson's announcements.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 September 2020, be approved and adopted.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Chris Gillham (on behalf of Winchester Friends of the Earth), addressed the committee regarding agenda items 7 (Winchester Movement Strategy) and item 10 (AQMA Annual Update). Phil Gagg (on behalf of WinACC), John Beveridge (on behalf of the City of Winchester Trust) and Councillor Horrill addressed the committee regarding agenda item 7 (Winchester Movement Strategy) and Phil Joyce (on behalf of Extinction Rebellion) addressed the committee regarding item 8 (Petition – Winchester Extinction Rebellion). A summary of their comments are set out as follows:

In summary, Chris Gillham stated that the Winchester Friends of the Earth appreciated the efforts given to the Movement and Access Strategy. However concerns were raised in respect of the rationale for priority three and questioned why reference the declaration of climate emergency had been omitted. , with no clear purpose relatable to the vision and priorities. . In respect of agenda item 10, Mr Gillham stated that due to the significant health consequences of air pollution, they were concerned to see the proposals to reduce the area of the Air Quality Management Area and considered that this proposal sent out the wrong message.

In summary, Phil Gagg stated that the work carried out to date on the Movement Strategy was welcomed. However, due to transport resulting in under 60% of the districts emissions, WinAcc considered that the Strategy needed to align more closely with the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP) to enable to Strategy to bring about a carbon reduction equal to 60% of the district's carbon emissions by 2030, with more work required to demonstrate how the Strategy would deliver its share of the CNAP. Mr Gagg made reference to the need to quantify co2 reduction targets, detail of the concentration of traffic reduction encouraging modal transfer to walking and cycling, which he stated was strongly supported by the public. He concluded that a robust carbon reduction framework was crucial to achieving targets.

In summary, John Beveridge stated that it was important to ensure that maximum consensus regarding traffic reduction in Winchester was achieved. Traffic changes should be experimented in the first instance. Other areas (such as Durham & York) that had successfully introduced low car zones, could be considered as an example.

In summary, Councillor Horrill stated that she agreed with the various points raised by the public speakers and that this initiative was hugely important for the district. The level of cooperation between the Council and Hampshire County Council was important and the clear way forward given the County Council's responsibility for Highways. Fundamental to the report was the need to remove traffic from the town centre to allow more of the important initiatives to take place successfully and to provide more safe space for pedestrians and cyclists. It was recognised that Park and Ride was very significant to this and that progress in this respect within the report still appeared to remain slow. It was noted that the Vaultex site was providing additional provision, but that further changes were necessary to Park and Ride services in order to fully deliver pedestrian and cycling access. Councillor Horrill stated that the Scrutiny Committee had

requested data collected by officers in developing the next phase of the Movement Strategy but that this had not yet been made available.

In conclusion, Councillor Horrill asked if the Chairperson would be able to facilitate the availability of this data to ensure all Members and interested parties were kept informed of future phase progress.

In summary, Phil Joyce stated that he welcomed the work already carried out to social distancing following the submission of the petition by Extinction Rebellion Winchester earlier in the year, but considered that further progress on traffic reduction was essential with simple measures that could be implemented to achieve much at low cost, with interventions such as bus gates and inner city car park closures being critical to reducing traffic volumes. Mr Joyce made reference to the outcomes of the 'Winchester Thinking Ahead' conference in 2016, the five polls carried out by WinACC and the nationwide survey by the Department for Transport (DfT) in 2020, which all consistently found that tackling traffic congestion in town centres was a priority for people by restricting vehicle access and creating more 'car free' pedestrian areas.

The Chairperson thanked those who addressed the committee for their contribution. Councillor Tod provided a full response to the comments made.

6. **TO NOTE THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020/21**

RESOLVED:

That the work programme for 2020/21 be noted.

7. **UPDATE ON THE WINCHESTER MOVEMENT STRATEGY (PRESENTATION)**

The committee noted that a revised presentation had been made available prior to the meeting on the Council's website [here](#).

Councillor Tod provided an update and clarified that this was a joint project with Hampshire County Council, with a scope primarily regarding the City of Winchester, focussing on reducing traffic. He stated that the next Board meeting was due to take place shortly, which would include the approval to release phase two of the works, together with options and data detail. This information would be made available to Members in due course.

The Chairperson welcomed Geoff Hobbs, Principal Transport Planner from Hampshire County Council to the meeting who, together with the Head of Programme, gave a presentation on the priorities for movement across Winchester, the joint studies and the progress made to date and delivery going forward.

Members asked questions and raised comments which were responded to by relevant officers and the Cabinet member accordingly

RESOLVED:

That the content of the presentation be received and the comments of the Committee be noted.

8. **PETITION - EXTINCTION REBELLION WINCHESTER (SAFER STREETS, POST COVID 19) (PRESENTATION)**

The Head of Programme outlined the details of the petition submitted by Extinction Rebellion Winchester which was submitted and considered by Council at its meeting on 8 July 2020 and was referred to the committee for further consideration and response. The committee received a presentation which is available on the Council's website [here](#).

Members asked questions and raised comments regarding travel safety for all, with the increased use of electric scooters and electric bikes as well as those walking and cycling, which were responded to by officers and the Cabinet member accordingly.

In conclusion, the Chairperson announced that the Head of Programme would provide a full response to all the points raised within the petition submitted by Extinction Rebellion Winchester and thanked Phil Joyce for addressing the committee on this matter.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the presentation be received, the comments of the committee be noted and a full response to the petition submitted by Extinction Rebellion Winchester be provided by the Head of Programme.

9. **HEALTH PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS (PRESENTATION)**

Councillor Porter provided an update on the Council's latest position with its health partnerships arrangements in response to the key strategic and policy issues facing the Council and the Service Lead: Communities and Wellbeing gave a presentation on the positive strong partnerships that have been developed, an update on the progress of the Winchester and District Health and Wellbeing Board and sought the views of the committee on a number of proposals for its delivery going forward. The presentation is available on the Council's website [here](#).

Members asked questions and raised comments regarding public health and hospital facilities, issues arising in areas of deprivation, the need for engagement with the clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), and all health groups, providers and partnerships which were responded to by officers and the Cabinet member accordingly.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the presentation be received and the comments of the committee be noted

10. **AQMA ANNUAL UPDATE (PRESENTATION)**

The Chairperson announced that due to the late running time, the presentation of this item would be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the committee or Member briefing, to be advised in due course.

The presentation is available on the Council's website [here](#).

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be deferred for consideration at a future meeting or briefing to be advised in due course.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 8.35 pm

Chairperson