

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2019** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

**PRESENT:** Councillor M E Ryan (Chairman)  
Mrs A Jones (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Mrs C Bunday R Jenks (Dep Mayor)  
Mrs J Cleave M Joyce  
C Coyle-Moore C N Parker  
R Hayes K Purchase (Mayor)  
M Hocking Ms L Roberts  
D Howe T Ward

In attendance: Philip Rowe – Town Clerk  
Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk  
Alex Robinson – Committee Administrator

**372. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Mrs Sally Henley, Town Development Manager.

**373. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 were received and signed as a correct record.

**374. INTERESTS**

None declared.

**375. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**376. PRESENTATION – AIR QUALITY IN NEWTON ABBOT**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Colin Bignall, Principal Environmental Health Officer and Mrs Becky Wotton, Environmental Health Technical Officer, from Teignbridge District Council and invited them to update Members on Air Quality in Newton Abbot.

Mr Bignall provided Members with a background on the statutory requirement of the local authority to monitor air quality. The key pollutant that is measured is nitrogen dioxide and is attributed mainly to pollution caused by traffic. The Air Quality monitoring team at Teignbridge has been measuring levels of the pollutant since 2004 at between 60-70 locations in the district and recording levels to assess whether they exceed the government’s target of 40mg/m<sup>3</sup> and would therefore need measures to reduce levels. The officers had carried out planned monitoring in advance of the new developments in the town to record a base line level to enable them to assess the impact of increased road use in the town and surrounding areas.

Mr Bignall explained current issues in relation to air quality in the town raising the following key points:

- ❖ Defra have approved the draft Air Quality Status Report for 2019 which will be subject to approval by the district authority in April 2019;
- ❖ The District Council has a duty to address pollution in areas that exceed the recommended target level of 40mg/m<sup>3</sup>. and
- ❖ Data from increased monitoring and modelling is used to promote measures that will lead to an improvement in air quality.

Mr Bignall highlighted some of the key measures that would contribute to an improvement in air quality in the town:

- ❖ Additional electric car charging points and electric car use;
- ❖ 'Park and Change' opportunities from the bus or train station;
- ❖ Car clubs;
- ❖ Reduced speed limits to improve the flow of traffic;
- ❖ Active travel incentives;
- ❖ Additional cycle routes;
- ❖ Travel plans for those at work or school;
- ❖ Low emission buses and taxis;
- ❖ Promote advance driving courses;
- ❖ Information on available parking spaces at alternative car parks to ease congestion;
- ❖ Create 'green streets' with increased tree and shrub planting along curbside;
- ❖ Encourage taxis and buses to switch off engines when standing idle;
- ❖ Offer alternative walking routes to school to reduce exposure for children; and
- ❖ Change flow of traffic in the town centre roads, possibly a one-way route.

Mr Bignall emphasised that whilst the district authority had a statutory duty to monitor air quality many of the resolutions relied upon the collaboration and direct involvement of the County Council, Highways department. He hoped that by continued engagement and raising awareness that some of these measures could be addressed and implemented.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bignall for his informative update and invited questions from Members. Members engaged fully in the discussion and raised the following key points for consideration:

- ❖ District Authority has lack of control over implementation of measures in relation to highways and road infrastructure;
- ❖ The County Council is required to co-operate and assist in implementing measures that will improve air quality;
- ❖ Public transport, in particular the bus service is not providing service of sufficient standard to meet needs of town;
- ❖ Monitoring of new development sites has not shown a deterioration in the air quality to date;
- ❖ Overall data for the area, year on year has shown no appreciable reduction in air quality;
- ❖ Concern at lack of provision for electric car charging points for domestic use, particularly in flats and terraced properties;
- ❖ Data from health care professionals may give indication of notable change in health related issues among Newton Abbot residents; and
- ❖ Enforcement of good practice among taxi drivers and bus drivers to reduce running engines when standing idle.

The Chairman thanked both Mr Bignall and Mrs Wotton for their extensive answers to questions from Members and noted that there may be future updates on the matter. Whereupon they were invited to leave the meeting.

**377. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**A.** Councillor Mike Hocking reported on the Teignbridge Association of Local Councils (TALC) Meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February at which the district authority highlighted the likelihood that it would be necessary to devolve additional services to local councils due to budgetary cuts to the district authority funding.

**B.** Councillor David Howe reported on the Meeting of the Stover Canal Trust held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February which noted plans to design and install replica cranes, as per the original style used, as part of a long term programme of activities on the site, together with an exhibition.

The Chairman thanked both Councillor Hocking and Councillor Howe for their updates to Members.

**378. SUB COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

**(i). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 be hereby approved and adopted.

**(ii). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 be hereby approved and adopted.

**(iii). NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT BOARD – 24<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019**

Arising from the consideration of the report of the meeting it was,

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Newton's Place Project Board – held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 be hereby approved and adopted subject to it being noted that some funding applications were still in the pipeline in relation to specific conservation elements of the project.

**379. NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT – UPDATE**

The Chairman as the Chairman of the Project Board updated Members on the Newton's Place Project. Councillor Mike Ryan advised Members that in addition to the Notes of the Project Board there had been a few minor issues that had arisen within the construction phase and these had been addressed satisfactorily. The Museum Designers, Leach Studio had been on site since Tuesday having met with the project group to discuss the latest Concept Designs; with the Project Architect on Wednesday to confirm technical specifications and would attend the Professional Services Site Meeting on Thursday to clarify any outstanding technical queries. The Chairman was pleased to report that the Members on the Project Board would attend

a site visit on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and would be able to report in more detail to the next meeting of the Project Board. The Chairman thanked all those involved for their efforts in keeping the project on track.

**380. CALENDAR AND LIST OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2019/20**

The Chairman invited Members to consider the Calendar and List of Meetings scheduled for 2018/19 (previously circulated) and noted the dates for office closure during the Christmas and New Year period. Following discussion, it was;

**RESOLVED** that the Calendar and List of Meetings and Events be hereby adopted and approved.

**381. POLICIES**

The Chairman introduced the policy documents, previously circulated. Following a review of the policy documents among Members it was;

**RESOLVED** that the Policies in relation to;

Training and Development and  
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

- (a) Employee Privacy Policy,
- (b) General Privacy Notice,
- (c) Consent Form,
- (d) Data Breach Report Form and
- (e) Subject Access Request, be hereby, approved and adopted.

**382. ACCOUNTS INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

**Income & Expenditure Statement - 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

The Committee received and noted the overview of Income and Expenditure statement for Policy and Resources Committee for the Period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. The Deputy Town Clerk clarified the position of a predicted overspend on the salaries budget heading for the year ending March 2019 but demonstrated that this would be offset by reimbursements from the Community Interest Company (CIC) and from HMRC (in respect of retrospective claims for VAT) and therefore, following consideration, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Income and Expenditure Statement for the Policy and Resources Committee for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, be hereby, approved and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

**383. LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**384. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

CHAIRMAN