



Agenda Item No:4

Bristol City Council

Minutes of Place Scrutiny Commission

13th July 2015

Members Present:-

Councillors Bolton, Cheney, Hiscott, Khan, Pearce, Thomas, Threlfall, Watson, Wright

Officers in Attendance:-

Barra Mac Ruairi – Strategic Director Place
Zoe Willcox – Service Director: Planning
Johanna Holmes – Policy Advisor - Scrutiny
Sam Mahony – Democratic Services Officer
Ben Robinson – Transport Intelligence Team Manager
Colin Chapman – Local Plan Team Manager
Michael Legg – Research & Project Monitoring Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Frost

2. Membership of the Commission

The Membership of the Commission was noted as
Councillors Bolton, Cheney, Frost, Hiscott, Khan, Pearce, Thomas, Threlfall, Watson, and, Wright

3. Commission Chair

It was noted that at the Annual Council meeting held on 26th May 2015, Councillor Bolton was appointed as the Chair of the Commission for 2015/16.

4. Election of Commission Vice Chair

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Councillor Hiscott be Vice Chair of the Commission for 2015/16

5. Public Forum

The following Statements were received and are held as a public record in the Minute Book.

Questions:

Question 1 – Bristol Parent Carers

Subject : Community Transport for Children with SEND in Bristol accessing Short Breaks

A written officer response was provided at the meeting. In response Caroline Temple-Bird from Bristol Parent Carers asked for further explanation of what barriers there were to being included within groups to be consulted for commissioning cycles and further information about how to access funding for Community Transport Schemes.

The Strategic Director, Place indicated that officers would respond with further information and speak to Bristol Parent Carers to get feedback on lessons learnt for the next commissioning cycle.

The Commission asked that information about the group be emailed to all Members of Council.

Statements:

Statement 1 – Ian Beckey

Subject: Patchway/Cribbs Causeway New Neighbourhood and the Mall Shopping Centre

Statement 2 – South West Transport Network

Subject: Greater Bristol Land Use, Planning and Transport

Statement 3 – South West Transport Network

Subject: MetroWest Bus and Rail and the Combined Authority

Statement 4 – Bristol Parent Carers

Subject: Community Transport for Children with SEND in Bristol accessing Short Breaks

Statement 5 – Ian Beckey

Subject: Threat to Demolition of Avonmouth Railway Station

RESOLVED – The statements were noted.

6. Declarations of Interest.

No declarations of interest were received.

7. Minutes of 9th April 2015 meeting of the Place Scrutiny Commission
(agenda item 7)

It was confirmed that Councillor Hiscott had submitted her apologies for the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the commission held on 9 April 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

8. Action Sheet (agenda item 8)

The commission noted and reviewed the action sheet relating to the 9th April meeting.

RESOLVED – that the Action Sheet be noted.

9. Whipping.

None reported.

10. Chair's Business.

Councillor Bolton outlined the following statement:

“The Place scrutiny committee is deeply disappointed in the recommendation to the West of England joint transport board to proceed with the Henbury spur rather than the Henbury loop.

We believe this is a shortsighted solution. We need to show ambition in our public transport solutions. We need to maximise the number of people using our local rail services and this will only be achieved by providing solutions which allow people flexibility in their travel choices - as will clearly be offered as a result of the Henbury loop.

We query the rationale behind using the same consultant to review the passenger forecasts. It would appear they have a vested interest in achieving the same outcome. We ask for details of the assumptions on which forecasts are based.

But above all, we ask the board to reconsider the recommendation and unequivocally support (and commit to) the delivery of a Henbury Loop.”

It was AGREED by the Commission that the statement would be forwarded to the West of England Joint Transport Board for their meeting on Friday 17th July 2015.

11. Place Scrutiny Commission Annual Business Report 2015/16

The Democratic Services Officer presented the report for the Commission outlining the Terms of Reference of the Commission and the proposed dates for the municipal year.

It was noted that two of the meetings would start at 6pm in order to facilitate the attendance of those working full time.

There was some discussion regarding whether a different day would be more convenient for some Members however the committee felt that it would be difficult to move the meetings at this stage, as the Civic Diary and Corporate Calendar had been carefully constructed.

It was RESOLVED that;

(a) The terms of reference was noted

(b) the dates and times of the Place Scrutiny Commission for 2015/16 were agreed as:

Thu 10 September 2015 – 10.00am

Thu 15 October 2015 – 6.00pm

Thu 19 November 2015 – 2.00pm

Thu 10 December 2015 – 2.00pm

Thu 21 January 2016 – 10.00am

Thu 11 February 2016 – 6pm

Thu 17 March 2016 – 2.00pm

Thu 14 April 2016 – 10.00am

12. Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16

The Scrutiny Officer (Policy) presented the proposed work programme for the 2015/16 municipal year.

It was highlighted that the 'Case for Culture' inquiry day initially planned for October would likely take place in December instead and in turn, the Housing Inquiry Day (joint with Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission) would be swapping from December to October. The Scrutiny Team would ensure officers were able to work to the earlier date.

It was confirmed that the Risk Register and Quarterly performance reports would be added to the work programme.

It was announced that the date of the Transport Informal Briefing had been agreed as the 29th July at 2pm. The briefing would include information on OLEV (Office for Low Emission Vehicles) originally expected in September.

Members discussed the use of co-optees and the OSM recommendation that where scrutiny commissions felt that they could add value, that expert witnesses should be invited to meetings. It was suggested that the Scrutiny

Officers make enquiries about potential interested parties and expert witnesses that could be drawn upon in advance in line with the work programme.

It was RESOLVED that the work programme be noted

13. Joint Spatial Plan & Joint Transport Study – update

The Service Director, Planning made a presentation to the Commission (a copy of the slides are available in the minutebook) outlining the preparation of the Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study for the West of England.

In response to the presentation the following comments were made:

- Bristol's Core Strategy covered 2006 to 2026 and BCC had the duty to ensure plans were up to date otherwise decisions would be made by appeal. The current local plan was due for review in 2016 to reassess its housing numbers and BCC needed to show a process and progress along a timeline.
- There was concern that there would be new draft of the Joint Spatial Plan due weeks after a possible new incoming mayor in 2016. Officers acknowledged it would be a challenge however, as it would likely be an election issue of debate and candidates would be aware of the topic.
- Although the key members/ executive leads of the authorities had signed up to the process in June there was concern regarding the lower level political buy in. There would need to be a high level of engagement in all areas to see both challenges and benefits.
- The 85,000 figure of unmet housing need until 2036 was of concern. At present it was suggested that there were 1084 concealed families and 337 homeless households.
- The Government proposal that planning permission need not be required for brownfield land was discussed and it was hoped there would be control of the quality and density of new development and the protection of employment land and industrial land.
- All four authorities needed to work together on a solution to unmet need and there were implications to any option and a mixture of responses needed to be explored. Attention needed to be given to infrastructure and amenities, parks, religious buildings etc with mapping studies and joint working. There may also need to be a discussion of differing expectations of residents within each authority.
- Affordable housing within Bristol continued to be a challenge due to the land value and development cost. It was suggested that improvements could be made through a combined joint authority waiting list.

It was RESOLVED that:

(a) The Commission noted the preparation of a Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) for the West of England (WoE) as a statutory development plan document and provide; the context for and scope of the JSP, the revised timetable for its production, and an indication of content for the 'Issues and Options' consultation paper planned for October 1015.

(b) The Commission noted the progress with the preparation of the Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study

(c) The Commission noted that the BCC Local Development Scheme required updating to reflect the JSP and would be a Cabinet item.

(d) The involvement of Place Scrutiny in review of process of the preparation of the JSP was noted.

14. Directorate Risk Register review (information only report)

The report was noted.

15. Quarter 4 outturn performance report 2014-15

The Strategic Director, Place presented the Quarter four outturn performance report for 2014-15. With reference to the report the following elements were highlighted;

- BCP091 - *Net additional homes provided to meet the Core Strategy target* – the target of 977 had been exceeded to 1454 significantly higher than planned, but only 243 were affordable. There were a small number of providers of new housing within the market with BCC the planning authority.
- BCP121 – *Increase economic output measured by annual Gross Value Added (GVA)* and BCP122 – *Increase the proportion of new business registrations per 1,000 working age population* were good indicators for the city, however, with affordable housing added pressure to the system.
- BCP062 – *Improvement in air quality in the Bristol Air Quality Management Area* was below target and would feature again within the work programme of this commission.
- BCP152 – *Number of visitors to Bristol Museums Galleries and Archives service* – although currently above target it was noted that the direction of travel was downwards. It was also noted however, that the service was seasonal and in the past boosted by 'trail' sculptures. The level of targets and aspirations could be discussed further at the upcoming inquiry day.

The Strategic Director, Place undertook to investigate why targets state 'target not set'

16. Date of next meeting

It was noted as 10th September 2015 starting at 10am

END: 4.20pm

(Chair)