

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Place Scrutiny Commission

16 March 2017 at 2.00 pm



Members Present:-

Councillors: Jude English (Chair), Tom Brook, Tony Carey, Paul Goggin, Sultan Khan, Steve Pearce, Mhairi Threlfall, Donald Alexander, Lesley Alexander, Anthony Negus and Charlie Bolton

Officers in Attendance:-

Bill Edrich (Service Director - Energy) and Claudette Campbell (Democratic Services Officer)

1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

The Chair welcome those present and led introductions.

2. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

The following apologies and substitutions were noted;

- Councillor Thomas substitution Councillor Bolton
- Councillor Weston substitution Councillor L Alexander
- Councillor Wellington substitution Councillor D Alexander
- Councillor Wright substitution Councillor Negus

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Public Forum

David Redgewell was invited to speak to his statement and during the course of his presentation the following was mentioned.

- a. That the car park attached to the central bus station depot was not closed because of an extension being built by the owners of the student accommodation block.
Action: Peter Mann to be advised



5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the 13th February 2017 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

6. Action Sheet

Agreed to note the position of the Action Sheet.

7. Chair's Business

The chair on behalf of committee members acknowledged and congratulated Mark Wright on the safe arrival of his child.

- a. OSM would be facilitating a meeting on the future format of the scrutiny process. All invited to share views to the Chair. Those in attendance would include Party Group Leaders, representatives from Cabinet and the Mayor with a representative from the LGA. It was noted that Place Scrutiny would be well represented at the event.
- b. Members considered the recent announcement that there was a significant funding shortfall for the MetroWest Phase 1 project that included reopening the train line from Bristol to Portishead and asked that a statement to summarise their concerns be submitted to the Joint Transport Board at their meeting on 17th March 2017. It is attached here at appendix A.

8. Work Programme

- a. With the possible formatting of Place Scrutiny the work programme discussion was deferred.
- b. The agenda items for the next schedule meeting 27th April, would need to be considered as it would occur during the pre-election period with strict rules on procedure.

9. Climate Change and Energy Security Framework - Alex Minshull

The Members of the Commission requested and were provided with an update on the 2 grant applications for Air Quality projects.

- a. The team had successful obtain funding for the Feasibility and design for a clean Air Zone and the unsuccessful bid was for the Communication and Engagement work.



- b. Work was underway to move the project forward with the intention of identifying as many of the Council's business activities that connect with the project.
- c. Members requested a briefing on progress and for involvement in the air quality work group being led by Cabinet Members Cllr Bradshaw & Cllr Hance. **Action: Alex Minshull to provide members with details**

The discussion then returned to the report on Climate Change and Energy Security Framework.

Members were provided with a definition of a 'clean air zone': it is a district or region that has regulations to limit emissions of gasses such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter. Such regulations typically target cities areas that have a high population or areas that historically had dangerously poor air quality.

The report and presentation provided members with the back ground on the Climate change and energy principles adopted by the Council with a commitment to 'put Bristol on course to be run entirely on clean energy by 2050'.

Members attention was drawn to the slides in the report that detailed:

- 2005 – 2014 Emission – Tonnes Carbon Dioxide output by Transport, Domestic and Industry and commercial against the target line
- 2005 – 2014 Emissions by Sector
- 2005 – 2050 Targets and Trends

The following was noted from the discussion:

- a. The target and trends slide detailed the projects aspiration also demonstrating that the City was on track to deliver its aspiration. All was asked to note that progressing to the end goal would become harder over the next few years. Within the time line there was no identifiable point at which that progress would get hard but those involved recognised that achieving the end goal would be hard. Difficulties exist because current systems were not geared up to support the delivery of the ambition. The hope is that future development of technology would reduce cost and ease direction of travel.
- b. Renewable energy production was impacted by the inability to switch of and store same. Therefore the volumes required to support the requirements of thriving city would be huge.
- c. Work on the Climate change framework continued with integrated work with other service areas. The principle of one Council drives all interaction and this would extend to all liaison with the West of England and Enterprise partnerships.



- d. If new houses are built to meet the current Bristol standards on carbon emissions approximately 240 tonnes would be added to the target. With many new builds underway and approximately 70% of the required target already built there would be an impact on the target.

Resolved to note to the report

10 Energy Services - Bill Edrich

Energy presentation

The commission received a report and presentation from Bill Edrich, Service Director Energy and the following team members; Mareike Schmidt, Paul Barker and David White.

Bill Edrich outlined the report and presentation to the Commission.

- The team had attracted national and international recognition for the work done in this area.
- The funding obtained had ensured that the impact on city council budget was almost cost neutral
- The city council energy bill remain static in a time when energy prices continue to grow this can be credited to the work undertaken by the team together with the reduction of council owned/leased properties.
- Future improvements to the National Grid is on the way with the industry integrating digital technology into their operation that should open up infinite future possibilities.
- Since 2010 The National Grid's customer base has extend to approximately 6000 customers.

Mareike Schmidt

The European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) Programme technical assistance grant was signed off by the European Investment Bank in March 2012 and it is now at the end of the 4 year programme.

The funding of £2million provided for a programme of work across four areas:

- Set up of a municipal energy company
 - Energy saving measures on social and private housing properties
 - Energy efficiency measures on public buildings
 - Solar PV installations on social housing and public sector building
- a. The team are now viewed as Market leaders amongst local authorities finding themselves in the position of being sought after to share learning from the work done.
- b. The Programme had clear guidelines for delivery with a leverage factor of 25:1 applicable. This meant for every pound spent 25 times the investment had to be delivered.



- c. Overall learning was that in place of the procurement exercise for each of the four strands of work, a single procurement procedure to cover all four strands of work for the programme would have been a more productive way forward.
- d. The authority has been invited to make a further bid for funding which is a compliment to the team and reflect the high regard in which the team is held.

Warm Up Bristol – Mareike Schmidt

The domestic energy efficiency programme was established in January 2014 with funding of £7.3m obtained from the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) in July 2014 leading to the launch of Warm Up Bristol in October 2014.

The Service Manager provided an overview of the situation regarding the failure of the delivery partner Climate Energy for the programme and the steps taken in mitigation.

- a. Members were advised that Warm Up Bristol programme was a different programme to that provided to social housing tenants of the City Council. The programme provided to social housing tenants is 'Warmer Homes'. Both schemes have similar names and this has given rise to confusion.
 - b. Learning is shared between the Housing Delivery service and the team.
 - c. General view that the brand 'warm up Bristol' brand would have been damaged because of past issues. It was suggested that the programme should be rebranded.
 - d. Clarity was sought on the fund of £300k available for loans to Bristol residents to support energy efficiency works. Concern that a loan fund would have limited capacity for continued support. The Energy Service has been lobbying government on making more of the funds available to the Wessex loan fund to continue the delivery of energy efficiency measures.
 - e. Community energy fund supports local work for example the Cheese project – Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts – the project provide a services that assist residences/home owners in specific areas to identify cold spots and heat loss from their houses, with the use of thermal imagining and the visit of an expert.
 - f. **Action** list of community energy projects to be provided to members.
- Heat Networks - Paul Barker

The Programme Manager reported on the establishment of the District Heating Networks providing an outline of the different phases of the programme. Outlining progress on completion of phase 1 explained in the July 2014 Cabinet report. The programme continues working to ensure that new developments within the designated area adapt to connect to the heat networks.

- a. The team met with the BEIS the department for business energy and industrial strategy in Bristol citing Bristol as a leading authority on heat network delivery.



- b. Aspiration to make use of the waste heat being generated from Avonmouth by transferring same along a heat network.
- c. Research demonstrated the heat loss along pipe networks was a mere 1% and the aspiration would be that the pipe heat network would develop along the route where other heat networks would be installed as part of new development that would also be fed from Avonmouth heat pipe.
- d. The laying of pipes was complicated because of the number of utility companies that have cables and service pipes underground. Such areas as the Temple quay roundabout had to be navigated carefully and was also impacted because it is one of the busiest roundabout junction London.
- e. Question was asked on moving to water based energy possibly harnessing the water energy around the harbour. Conversations had been had about heating and cooling but at this time there is no move towards this form of technology.

Future Ambition

- f. There remains an issue surrounding the city council budget and what would be reasonable to invest into this project.
- g. Current budget
 - £8million existing in capital and in budget
 - £14million of new capital
 - £23million capital to deploy
 - £40million total capital
 - £18 million need to be attracted to complete capital programme
- h. To achieve all ambition approximately £800m to Billion should be spent to achieve 10% saving on the top of the projection.
- i. Essential to source new types of energy and to resolve the storage issue in respect of solar panel energy.
- j. Looking at the proposal for Bristol City Council owning and storing energy on a national grid scale.
- k. Gloucester has £80million investment into pipeline and only an energy service budget of £19million
- l. The project has no plans to move towards geothermal energy.
- m. Consideration is given on where the programme sits. Whilst it remains within Bristol City Council there is less flexibility and financial constraints. Moving to an independent organisation would allow for the consideration of wider risk management.
- n. There is an awareness that the use of Biomass impacts air quality. As an energy option it should be considered alongside other energy producing options.
- o. EU funding allows for the research into all viable options allowing the project to identify where it enables development and what work is undertaken by the city.
- p. Hydrogen which is a by-product from wind farms may be involved in future development.
- q. Acknowledge that Leeds University is currently ahead of the game in this area of work.

11 Performance Monitoring (Q3) Barra Mac Ruairi

The Scrutiny members were asked to note the report.



Meeting ended at 4.39 pm

CHAIR _____

