

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

**Held on Thursday, 19 April 2018 at 2.00 pm in the
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr D. R. R. Oliver (Vice-Chairman)
Mr P. M. M. Dimoglou
Mr R. F. W. Brame
Mr D. M. Crawford
Mr T. J. Jermy
Mr R.G. Kybird

Mrs S.M. Matthews
Mr M. J. Nairn
Mr R. R. Richmond
Mrs L.S. Turner
Councillor C. Bowes (Substitute Member)

Also Present

Mr H. E. J. Clarke
Mr J. Newton
Mr J.P. Cowen

Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mrs A M Webb

In Attendance

Leanne Neave
Maxine O'Mahony

Margaret Bailey
Ralph Burton
Andrew Grimley

Sarah Shipley

- Democratic Services Officer
- Executive Director of Strategy & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
- Senior Accountant Capital and Treasury
- Strategic Property Manager (BDC)
- Team Leader (Environmental Protection)
- Food, Health & Safety Manager

32/18 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

33/18 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Gould, Joel and Crawford. Councillor Bowes attended as a substitute.

34/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

The Vice-Chairman advised that Item 11 Breckland Bridge Business Plan Update would be taken as Item 7.

35/18 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

36/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

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37/18 NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

Councillors Clarke and Newton.

38/18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

39/18 BRECKLAND BRIDGE BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

Members were informed of the recent success of the partnership and approved the updated Breckland Bridge Ltd Business Plan.

40/18 TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

Housing

Councillor Turner confirmed the next task and finish group meeting was on 23rd April and that Senior Officers from Flagship Housing would be attending.

(a) Public Works Loan Board Minutes 19 March 2018

Councillor Kybird asked Members to note the minutes of the meeting held on 19th March.

(b) Public Works Loans Board Task & Finish Group

Public Works Loan Board

Councillor Kybird updated Members regarding the task and finish group. He advised the group looked at the circumstances in which the Council could borrow and in detail what the different terms and different projects could be. However with the Council being in the financial position it is and the restrictions regarding borrowing to invest out of District, there was no current need to borrow and therefore the group could not progress.

41/18 HR POLICY HANDBOOK ADDITIONS - CAREER BREAK

Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Strategy, Governance and Transformation Councillor Sam Chapman-Allen presented the report.

An amendment had been made to the Career Break policy, at the request of Overview and Scrutiny. An Officer must be

employed by Breckland Council for a period of 52 weeks before an application for a Career Break can be made.

42/18 CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Executive Member People and Information Councillor Alison Webb presented the report.

Councillor Clarke commented that the policy as a whole was good. He queried if there could be a page on the website that assured members of the public the Council was taking action regarding enforcement and as an Authority were committed to enforcing issues. It would not only advise the public but put Members in a better place when dealing with public enquiries.

The Executive Member People and Information agreed and that would be looked at and brought back to Scrutiny.

Councillor Kybird queried if Planning had been consulted with as the policy seemed heavily weighted on Food Safety.

The Executive Member People and Information confirmed all departments had had an opportunity to comment and all representations had been incorporated.

The Vice-Chairman asked if the policy met statutory requirements and the Executive Member People and Information confirmed it did.

43/18 AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

Team Leader Environmental Protection Andrew Grimley, presented the report.

Councillor Kybird mentioned the National detailed plan for tackling gas that was published in 2017, he queried why the report made no mention of it. He also noted that there had been a reduction in emission during the monitoring period but not for Swaffham.

The Environment Protection Team Leader advised that the National plan would be considered and the process was being adhered to and statutory guidance was used in the report. The next step was for discussions to begin with Norfolk County Council.

He went on to advise that they had been monitoring Nitrogen Dioxide levels, there were natural peaks and troughs due to varying weather conditions year on year and the levels had dropped in recent times, however this may be due to the weather. He advised the reduction was in part owing to improved technology and the decreasing numbers of more polluting diesel engines and that this would therefore also help to reduce pollution

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Sarah Shipley

levels.

Councillor Kybird queried if a survey had been completed on domestic heating installations.

The Environmental Protection Team Leader advised the pollution levels they were concentrating on were primarily caused by traffic. However as part of the plan there was the need to look at other sources of pollution including domestic boilers and other sources of combustion. He pointed out that other market town indications were that pollution was more traffic related.

Councillor Jermy advised that as a member of the Norfolk County Council Environment, Development and Transport Committee he had seen reports in the past regarding air quality and he believed there to be some confusion as to which tier of Local Government was ultimately responsible for it. He had noted in the past that Swaffham was a larger concern than Norwich City itself.

Members were advised that as a District Council there was a duty to assess air quality. As a result an annual report is produced and has shown historically that there was high level of poor pollution in certain areas of Swaffham. However, until the air quality management area was in place, as it was now for Swaffham, Norfolk County Council had no legal duty to act.

Councillor Nairn queried if the wind direction would adversely affect the air quality in Swaffham.

The Environmental Protection Team Leader advised the main annual measuring used plastic diffusion tubes which were replaced monthly. The 12 tubes gave a cumulative value. That represented changes in air quality throughout the year. They were in the early stages of identifying when vehicles were moving along Market Place, what happened when a vehicle went past a tube and if the wind direction changed and how the wind direction around buildings may contribute.

Councillor Matthews commented that she felt the whole process was very slow moving.

The Environmental Protection Team Leader advised that there was the need to have a development plan following the consultation. There were a number of localised steps that could be taken. Norfolk County Council had introduced measures to look at in their traffic strategy in terms of lighting, traffic lights, car parks etc and the team were doing highlighting the issue of air quality to them as far as was possible.

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Grimley

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44/18 OUTSIDE BODY FEEDBACK (STANDING ITEM)

Councillor Turner promoted the ongoing work of the Silver Social project. They had a 3 year rolling plan and it was having a great impact on people. She asked members to encourage their residents to attend an event.

Councillor R Richmond advised he had attended a patient participation group and was happy to report the issue of practices in Dereham closing their books had been resolved and patients were now being transferred from North Elmham and Swanton Morley surgeries back to Dereham where the books had re-opened.

45/18 SCRUTINY CALL-INS (STANDING ITEM)

None.

46/18 COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION (STANDING ITEM)

None.

47/18 WORK PROGRAMME

The Vice-Chairman advised the Commission of the items on the Work Programme going forward.

48/18 NEXT MEETING

The arrangements for the next meeting on Thursday 31 May at 2.00pm in the Anglia Room, Elizabeth House Dereham were noted.

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm

CHAIRMAN