

Sustainable development panel**09:30 to 11:15****4 November 2015**

Present: Councillors Bremner (chair). Bogelein, Grahame, Jackson, Thomas (Va) and Woollard

Apologies: Councillors Herries (vice chair) and Lubbock

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2015, subject to item 4, Air quality management plan, amending the second sentence of the third paragraph, to read as follows:

“She pointed out that, based on work produced by the Civitas project at the University of East Anglia, the target for nitrogen dioxide reduction would be met if all buses were Euro standard 4.”

3. Environmental strategy communications plan

(This item had been deferred from the previous meeting.)

The environmental strategy manager, together with the communications officer, presented the report and explained that the communications plan set out how the council engaged people in its environmental strategy and the key projects. Members were advised that projects such as Solar Together had individual budgets for marketing. The winter edition of *Citizen* would have features on the council's projects, such as Cosy Norwich, and environmental initiatives supported by the council.

During discussion members noted that the council worked with its partners to promote other environmental projects, such as Healthy Norfolk.

The environmental strategy manager advised members that each communications plan would be reviewed and evaluated to inform future plans.

RESOLVED to note the report and to thank the officers for their hard work.

4. Norwich City travel plan 2015 - for healthy sustainable journeys

The chair introduced the report and said that the plan demonstrated the achievements of the council in promoting sustainable transport for staff and in its operations and provided a positive message to the council's partners.

The strategy officer presented the report and, together with the environmental strategy manager and the head of planning services, answered members' questions.

During discussion members welcomed the plan and noted the progress that the council had made in promoting the use of sustainable transport and the positive message that this gave to the council's partners. The panel considered the action plan and noted that there was an opportunity for employees and councillors to request an individual travel plan. The objective of this initiative was to reduce the number of single person vehicle journeys. Members noted that the council had a pool of bicycles for employees to use for operational purposes and that the composition of the council's fleet of pool cars was under constant review to ensure that it was used efficiently and cost effective.

In reply to a members' suggestion, the environmental strategy manager confirmed that the council was working with partners and organisations to share the council's experience and promote the use of electric vehicles and car sharing.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) thank all the officers who had contributed to the development of the travel plan and in particular the strategy officer, environmental strategy manager, environmental officer, communications officers and the sports and leisure teams.

5. One Planet Norwich Festival 2016

The environmental strategy manager presented the report.

During discussion the environmental strategy manager answered members' questions. Members supported the proposal for more child friendly activities and collaboration with other events, such as Norwich Fashion Week and British Science Wee. It was suggested that the central library should be included in the festival.

In reply to a question, the environmental strategy manager said that stalls were available to non-political organisations. All stall holders would be required, ideally, to attend on both days and provide their own public liability insurance. Interested parties could express an interest by emailing clairetullett@norwich.gov.uk

In reply to a question on whether there would be a travel plan for this event, the environmental strategy manager said that the festival was being held in a sustainable location and the council would be promoting the use of public transport, walking, cycling and car sharing.

The communications officer explained how the council could use social media (Twitter and Instagram) to promote this event and that an electronic version of a poster would be available nearer the time.

RESOLVED to note the report.

6. Air quality consultation – response to the government’s air quality consultation

The head of citywide development services presented the report and apologised for its late availability.

During discussion members commented on the draft response.

A member said that she thought that the government should be looking to the best practice of other European countries and use legislation to ensure that measures were in place to reduce emissions from vehicles and improve air quality. Members also cautioned about the use of bio-gas and suggested that its source should be from waste products and not from crops grown specifically for that purpose. Members considered that the government’s aspiration for all vehicles to be ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) by 2050 should be brought forward. Members considered that improvements to buses should not be incremental, ie, progressing through standards Euro 4 and 5, but should be fitted to Euro 6 standard. A member suggested buses should be more accessible and therefore prevent the necessity of people with disabilities having to use cars for every journey. A member pointed out that the council’s response to question 1 should include a comment that the government should provide capital funding for schemes to improve air quality and create a modal shift to prevent emissions being created rather than for measures to clean up existing emissions.

Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED to endorse the council’s response to the government’s air quality consultation subject to asking the head of citywide development services to include the following points:

- (1) the government should use its legislative powers to ensure that measures are in place to improve air quality and look to other European countries as examples of good practice;
- (2) the requirement for all vehicles to be ultra-low emission vehicles should be brought forward from 2050 to the earliest feasible date that this can be achieved;
- (3) the response to question 1, should be amended to include a comment that the government should fund capital schemes to create a modal shift where emissions are not created in the first place rather than funding measures to mitigate against emissions;
- (4) buses should be more accessible for people with disabilities;
- (5) buses should be fitted to a minimum of Euro 6 standard.

7. Heritage Interpretation supplementary planning document (SPD) – final for adoption

The planner (policy) presented the report.

During discussion the planner and the planning team leader (policy) answered members' questions. In reply to a member's question, the panel was advised that his comments about digital interpretation at the last meeting had been taken into account and the SPD had been amended before consultation. The wording for this was set out in paragraph 14 and would be in addition to other forms of heritage interpretation.

Members welcomed the use of more examples and discussed the Quayside as a good example of heritage interpretation and practical use because the installations acted as bollards to prevent parking. It was noted that the approach to heritage interpretation should be on a case by case basis and that it was important not to be too prosaic.

During discussion members considered that the use of murals was an attractive method of interpretation. In response to a suggestion, the planning team leader (policy) said that the council could encourage the use of local artists but could not require it. The chair pointed out that a nationally acclaimed artist had created the mural on King Street.

RESOLVED to recommend that cabinet approves the document as amended for formal adoption as a local development document in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as modified) and the relevant regulations.

CHAIR