

Minutes

of the Meeting of the

Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel Friday, 3rd January 2020

held in the New Council Chamber, Town Hall.

Meeting Commenced: 10:00 Meeting Concluded: 12:05

Councillors:

P John Crockford-Hawley (Chairman)
P Mike Solomon (Vice Chairman)

P Peter Crew
P Richard Tucker
P Steve Bridger
Gill Bute
Sarah Codling
Mark Crosby
Karin Haverson
Steve Hogg
Huw James
P Patrick Keating

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Also in attendance: Councillors Mike Bird, John Ley-Morgan, James Tonkin

Officers in attendance: Joy Milsom, Michael Reep, Rachel Lewis, Rob Thomson, Colin Medus, Steve Thorne, Jenny Ford (Development and Environment); Brent Cross, Leo Taylor (Corporate Services)

SPR Public discussion (Standing Order SSO 9) (Agenda Item 1)

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None

SPR Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes (Agenda Item 2)

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None

SPR Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest (Standing Order 37) 11 (Agenda Item 3)

None

SPR Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 July 2019 (Agenda Item 4)

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Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

SPR 13 Matters referred by Council, the Executive, other Committees and Panels (if any) (Agenda Item 5)

None

SPR 14 North Somerset Local Plan (Agenda Item 6)

The Planning Policy manager presented a report outlining the background to the development of a new Local Plan and the role of the Panel in helping to steer that process.

Officers responded to Member's comments and queries as follows:-

- (1) *What was likely to be different from the original plans set out in the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP)?* – the new process was not fundamentally different but there should be no preconceived ideas of where growth should go.
- (2) *Timescale?* – the aim was to have completed the process by November this year.

There was some discussion about the challenges including the strategic planning constraints in the district and changing environmental priorities.

Resolved: that the Panel engage with officers on the development of the Local Plan through the arrangement of a series of informal working group meetings (open to all Panel Members).

SPR 15 WsM Town Centre Transport Enhancement Scheme (Agenda Item 7)

The Development and Regeneration Programme Manager gave a presentation updating the Panel on the scheme to improve transport links and enhance the environment in the town centre. The presentation highlighted changes to the scheme that addressed issues raised by the public following further public engagement involving the SPEDR Panel.

Officers responded to Members' specific queries as follows: -

- (1) *Had the need for emergency vehicles to access the gated pedestrian zone been catered for?* – this was still being investigated by officers to determine the optimal solution.
- (2) *The chairman sought and received confirmation that the gate would be of sturdy construction.*
- (3) *From the total funding received of £6 885 000, how much was the contribution from North Somerset Council?* - This scheme would require no contributions from local rate funding.
- (4) *Was the regeneration of Big Lamp Corner to be a part of the scheme as the bus stop there would no longer be needed?* This was not part of the scheme, but options for the western end of Regent Street were being examined.
- (5) *How would the proposed 20mph speed limit be enforced?* Funding to investigate traffic calming methods in the Orchard Meadows area had been allocated for next year; this would then feed in to the planning of

the scheme.

Concluded: that it be **recommended** to the Executive Member that the amended scheme be approved.

SPR 16 Parking Review (Agenda Item 8)

A report on the parking review was presented by the Head of Transport and Infrastructure. This report invited consideration of the proposed parking policy framework and sought views from members on the proposed pilot residents parking scheme in Leigh Woods and on the implementation of similar schemes in other areas including Weston-super-Mare.

Comments and questions from Members were addressed by officers as follows:

- (1) *Would the permits be interchangeable between vehicles (for example, if a resident was supplied with a short-term courtesy car), and would this be clear to residents?* – changing the permit to show another vehicle registration would be performed simply and without charge on-line. Should a resident fail to update registration before a penalty was issued, parking enforcement would take a flexible approach if supporting evidence was provided.
- (2) *Could the parking permits be linked to an address instead of a specific vehicle?* – As this was to be a paperless scheme, it would be difficult to implement address-linked parking. The Head of Transport and Infrastructure would investigate whether the system currently in use was flexible enough to accommodate this. A member pointed out that a physical permit might also enable abuse of the system, for example by selling the permit on to someone not entitled to it.
- (3) *Reassurance was sought that there would be scope in the framework to address different characteristics and priorities between towns and involve consultation with Town Councils.* – Consultation would occur when local proposals were brought forward and specific local issues taken into account, notwithstanding the stated need to ensure a level of fairness and consistency across the district.

Concluded:

- that the report be received and comments forwarded to officers in the form of the minutes;
- that the commencement by officers of work on a residents' permit scheme for Weston-super-Mare including arrangements for residents in the existing on-street pay and display zone be supported;
- that the Parking Policy Framework contained in Appendix 1 of the report be endorsed; and
that the Framework be recommended to the Executive Member for Business, Economy and Employment for adoption.

SPR 17 Update on Homes England and North Somerset Development Sites (Agenda Item 9)

The update report on Homes England and North Somerset development sites

was presented by the Head of Development. This report included the information that officers were examining meanwhile uses for Dolphin Square, and community-led housing options for smaller pieces of North Somerset-owned land.

Further to the report, members were informed that the consultation for the pre-planning of the Uplands site in Nailsea was due to begin in January.

Concluded: that the report be received.

SPR 18 Time of Panel Meetings in 2020-21 (Agenda Item 10)

The Panel confirmed that the start time for meetings was at 14:30, and the dates of Panel meetings for 2020/21 were to be:

Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Wednesday 25th November 2020

Wednesday 10th March 2021

Concluded: that the Panel agreed the start times and dates for the 2020/21 municipal year.

SPR 19 The Panel's Work Plan (Agenda Item 11)

The Democratic Services Officer presented the work plan, and updated members on items that had been added since the last Panel meeting.

Concluded: that the Work Plan be updated, picking up actions and discussion outcomes from the present meeting.

Chairman
