

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 March 2017

Present:

Councillor Brimble (Chair)

Councillors Foggin, D Henson, Keen, Mitchell, Prowse, Robson and Wood

Apologies:

Councillors Lyons and Wardle

Also present:

Chief Executive & Growth Director, Corporate Manager - Legal, Litigation Solicitor, Service Manager, Community Safety & Enforcement, Economy and Enterprise Manager, Principal Accountant (PM), Principal Accountant (MH) and Democratic Services Officer (Committees) (SLS)

In attendance:

Councillor Rachel Sutton	- Portfolio Holder City Development
Councillor Rosie Denham	- Portfolio Holder Economy
Councillor Rob Hannaford	- Portfolio Holder Place
Councillor Philip Bialyk	- Portfolio Holder Sport and Health and Wellbeing

12 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

13 **Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

14 **Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order 20**

In accordance with Standing Order No 20, two questions were put by Councillor Prowse in relation to Parking Enforcement. A copy of the questions had been previously circulated to Members, and these, together with the reply from Councillor Denham, Portfolio Holder Economy are appended to the minutes.

15 **Exeter City Futures - Exeter Energy Independence 2025**

The Head of Finance of Exeter City Futures, Laurence Oakes-Ash referred to the commissioning of a series of three reports to examine the potential options and a roadmap that would enable the Greater Exeter area to develop a path towards a sustainable future. The stated goal of Exeter City Futures was to ensure an Energy Independent and Congestion Free city region by 2025, which included the geographic area of Exeter City, East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge District Councils, which would be without precedence in the UK. The report provided a comprehensive analysis of the potential energy efficiency and generation opportunities for energy technologies including solar, photovoltaics (PV), wind, bioenergy, hydro marine and geothermal as well as enabling technologies including smart grids and energy storage. The full report was available to download from Exeter City Futures and also the City Science web sites.

He stated that it was important to ensure that, as part of an evaluation of the report, there was robust evidence to explore the economic impact and ensure that the ambitions were achievable and resulted in specific actions. The first report undertook a detailed assessment of potential energy resources and uses in Greater Exeter and across the wider South West Region. The second report will assess the transport situation and options available to alleviate congestion and deliver further efficiency and the third and final report will pull together the economic evidence to provide an independent analysis of the impact of the programme's goals and proposed deliver plans.

Mr Oakes-Ash detailed a series of ten key recommendations arising from the Energy study to help reduce energy consumption and boost clean energy generation across Exeter and its travel to work area (with a brief explanation in italics) as set out below.

Recommendation 1: Facilitate the Development of Net Energy Positive Buildings
(The development of a supply chain and policy environment that ensures the delivery of net positive energy buildings was an urgent priority. New developments that positively contribute to city energy use would mean that less onshore generation development and retrofitting of older building stock would be required) Greater Exeter already benefits from progressive local authorities which actively pursue building energy efficiency objectives, in particular in their own properties. The next steps were to further encourage innovative solutions, combine insights and analysis to support tighter planning policy and develop mechanisms to significantly expand the project base).

Recommendation 2: Develop credible Roadmaps to Large Scale Retrofit
(A key assumption in the Maximum Technology scenario presented in the report is that viable business models which deliver large-scale retrofit could be developed over the time horizon. The development of credible roadmaps that deliver comprehensive intervention in this area is essential. This was a challenging undertaking which requires significant investment in skills, new solutions and the development of businesses that could integrate, finance and deploy the roll-out of multiple technologies at scale).

Recommendation 3: Encourage and Demonstrate Innovate Solutions to Reduce Domestic Appliance Energy Use
(While space and water heating consume the largest proportion of domestic energy, appliance use represents 0.5 TWh of Greater Exeter demand. The benefits of upgrading to the highest efficiency appliances should be promoted and systems developed which enable and manage behavioural change to both optimise use and reduce overall cost. Identified technologies should be trialled and best practice fostered).

Recommendation 4: Develop Commercial and Industrial Case Studies
(This study identifies 359 GWh of potential savings from commercial buildings and 250 GWh of potential savings from industrial processes, based on current understanding of technical opportunities. More specific demonstrator projects would be required to advance and promote greater understanding of what was achievable across a varied range of end users. A diverse group of local commercial and industrial partners should be brought together to develop leading-edge strategies to encourage potential energy savings).

Recommendation 5: Develop Credible Roadmaps to Cut Transport Consumption
(Transportation is expected to represent 4.4 TWh of annual energy consumption by 2025. Developing roadmaps to significantly address this consumption is an

essential priority, and is the focus of a forthcoming report by Exeter City Futures. In this context, wider participation in the development of various options should be encouraged, in particular through Exeter City Futures' innovation programme).

Recommendation 6: Co-Ordinate Solutions to Address Grid Constraints
(The grid is a critical technical constraint that impedes the viability of projects across the region. Moving past this barrier is essential if the regional energy industry was to thrive. Several options exist including capacity amnesties, the socialisation of upgrade costs and technology-led options such as smart grid infrastructure. All would need considerable co-ordination with the local grid operator to progress, but should be seen as a pivotal issue for the South West economy and Exeter City Futures' goals. If this barrier could be overcome, Greater Exeter could play a key role in stimulating a regional approach to energy independence, drawing on the skills, expertise and innovation of local research and industry. Close collaboration with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and other national stakeholders is required to develop policy and technology mechanisms to realise the potential local benefits of regional generation).

Recommendation 7: Stimulate Offshore Generation
(In the face of considerable planning barriers, improved stakeholder understanding of the impact of onshore generation options - principally wind and solar - was required. Co-ordinated Greater Exeter multi-authority strategic planning would be needed to optimally locate new generation and work openly and collaboratively with the public to identify solutions that would be acceptable in the context of the energy choices available. Furthermore, the exploration of generation technologies that achieve higher levels of aesthetic acceptability should be encouraged. This was already happening within the solar industry, with the introduction of technology integrated into rooftops and roads. Further integration into other standard infrastructure could achieve both new generation and cost reduction without facing political barriers).

Recommendation 8: Provide an Economic Evidence Base
(Evidence for the economic benefits of the proposed approach to energy independence and the opportunities afforded by being at the forefront of integrated smart energy infrastructure development should be provided, and was the focus of a forthcoming report by Exeter City Futures. Demonstrating significant potential for increased local productivity, jobs and growth would enable the development of a wider network of support for this approach).

Recommendation 9: Encourage and Support Research into Enhanced Generation Efficiency
(Estimates of generation were based on widely accepted methodologies, the efficiency of many technologies could be expected to improve with time. Extrapolating the historical trends in technology efficiency would increase the estimates of generation made in this report. Research into areas with the potential to improve natural energy resource conversion efficiency, for example, solar cell technology, should be prioritised).

Recommendation 10: Encourage Investment in Marine and Geothermal Technologies
(In the wider South West region, geothermal and marine technologies offer sizeable generation potential in the Maximum Technology scenario. These capital-intensive sectors require significant levels of investment to reach commercial viability. High technology and deployment risk, alongside falling substitute technology prices, mean public sector support was likely to be required to achieve

long-term market development. Private investment and innovation in these sectors should be supported and promoted, alongside strategic engagement with policy-makers at national level).

Mr Oakes-Ash provided a response to a Member's comment on the future of the National Grid, which he stated was operating at capacity in the South West, but alternatives technologies or policy actions, suggested in the report, could alleviate these restrictions. It was important to look at more innovative and viable business models including the development of battery and solar power. He also responded to a Member's comment on the Waste to Energy Plant on Marsh Barton. The benefits of shared infrastructure, including the further development of the District Heating Scheme, were discussed in general, but the particular issues the Member raised would need further investigation.

The Chair thanked Mr Laurence Oakes-Ash for the informative presentation which included a number of high level of aspirations.

Place Scrutiny Committee supported a further opportunity to look at the report in detail and proposed the establishment of a Task and Finish Group to include the Portfolio Holder for Economy to identify the implications in relation to resources and staff on offering support to develop the aspirations of the programme.

16 **Development of a New Brand - Visit Exeter**

The Economy and Enterprise Manager presented a report, which outlined the work undertaken to establish a new brand for Exeter - Visit Exeter, to increase the number of people who visit the city including day visits, overnight leisure break, or a business trip or group visit. The report also incorporated an update on the development of marketing activity under the newly developed brand – Visit Exeter. This would enable the City Council to proactively promote the city to increase the number of visitors to city, increase visitor spend, as well as raise the profile of the city within the UK and overseas, as a vibrant, culturally modern, visitor destination. The existing tourism marketing budget would be used to deliver activity as set out in the report. However, it was estimated that an additional income of £82,500 could be generated to support marketing activity, through the development of annual membership and sponsorship packages for businesses.

The Economy and Enterprise Manager confirmed that some work had been commissioned to develop the Visit Exeter brand, including national research which was detailed in an appendix to the report. Although Exeter was largely seem as a city for history and heritage, the research would help inform the basis of a regional and national marketing campaign covering eight experiences, including Culture; Heritage; Nightlife; Food and Drink; Activity; Business; Shopping and Relaxation.

In response to a Member's enquiry, the Economy and Enterprise Manager stated that the launch of the Visit Exeter brand would take place at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum during English Tourism Week 25 March – 2 April 2017. It was also anticipated that a national launch would take place in early summer, with a targeted national marketing campaign to include engagement events in London at the recognised gateway to Exeter, such as Paddington or Waterloo mainline train stations or even the London City Airport. Then potentially there could be some international work with Exeter Airport and Flybe, but, that was dependent on the available budget. She also responded to a Member's comment on improving the connection to the city from European destinations such as Austria, stating that Exeter was already a popular destination from Germany and Austria with direct summer flights. They continued to work with Exeter Airport to consider extending the flight

season. The Chair welcomed a Member's suggestion to invite the new Chief Executive of Flybe, Christine Ourmieres to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee to hear her thoughts for the future of the Airport. It was noted that Councillor Edwards, as Leader, was a representative on the Exeter International Airport Consultative Committee.

Place Scrutiny Committee endorsed the adoption of the Visit Exeter brand, and associated marketing activity, as detailed in the report and requested Executive recommend to Council approval of all projected additional income via Visit Exeter membership sales (estimated to be £82,500) be ring fenced for tourism marketing spend. An invitation to a future meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee would also be extended to the new Chief Executive of Flybe.

17 **Parking Tariffs**

The Service Manager Community Safety & Enforcement presented a report which proposed an increase of car park tariffs and the number of Pay and Display parking sites, which would take effect from June 2017. He stated that parking charges within Exeter had fallen behind other cities and there had been a rise in overheads, in part, to facilitate credit and debit cards, along with mobile phone payment charges. Increased tariff charges would negate the need to introduce a separate surcharge and cover these additional costs. The report also sought to reduce an anomaly in parking provision by operating all pay and display sites in-house under a Parking Places Order. He referred to the City Council's ambitious plans to reduce congestion in the city, and a reasonable pricing policy would support these objectives. The detail of the projected recommended tariff increase, which could raise an additional £680,000 income per annum, was based on historical ticket data, and assumptions on changes to parking patterns resulting from the new charging structure, was attached as an appendix to the report.

A Member referred to the increase in parking fees which could result in some inconvenience with change being sought for parking, and what impact the introduction of the new 12 sided pound coin would have on the City Council's parking machines. The Services Manager Community Safety & Enforcement stated that the existing car parking machines would be re-calibrated. He also stated that the three main car parks of Mary Arches Street, John Lewis and the Guildhall were all Pay-On-Foot car parks and gave change on exit from the car park. Other pay and display car parking machines did not give change, but credited any overpayment with additional time for parking.

A Member also commented on the fee attracted by the level of card transactions in 2016/17, and gave an example of a similar charge for transactions by text for the Pay and Display Car Park in Bampfylde Street and he sought clarification whether such charges could be made under the Parking Places Order. He also referred to a parking enforcement issue, which had involved Premier Parking at the Flowerpots and Station Road, (Exwick) car parks which had been resolved, but was concerned about other areas where the parking enforcement was still managed by Premier Parking, referring to sites at Mincinglake Valley Park Road and Haven Banks. He commended the City Council for taking the Flowerpots, Station Road (Exwick) and Clifton Hill car parks back into the operation of the City Council and hoped that the City Council had taken the appropriate advice before the implementation of the Parking Places Order. He enquired if there was any repercussion from terminating the arrangement. The Service Manager Community Safety & Enforcement responded to the Member's questions and stated that the levy imposed for text messages in respect of pay by phone was made by the company facilitating that service and the current Parking Places Order accounted for payment by card or

phone. The Corporate Manager Legal & HR Services confirmed that the use of the car park by Premier Parking was coming to an end because the leases were expiring by an effluxion of time. The Member thanked officers for the report and stated that he was pleased to support the recommendation to bring the enforcement of the three sites identified in the report back in house.

Place Scrutiny Committee supported and recommended approval by Executive of the following:-

- (1) the amendment of the Car Parking Places Order as set out below:-

An increased tariff at Premium, Zone 1 and Zone 2 car parks by 10% within the existing linear pricing structure, as set out in the table below but retain the existing all day tariff to encourage visitor dwell time:-

Premium Car Parks (Guildhall, Mary Arches, John Lewis)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£2.00	£2.20
2 hours	£3.00	£3.30
3 hours	£4.00	£4.40
4 hours	£5.00	£5.50
5 hours	£6.00	£6.60
6 hours	£7.00	£7.70
7 hours	£8.00	£8.80
All day	£12.00	£12.00
Zone 1 Car Parks (Bampfylde Street, Bartholomew Terrace, Harlequins, King William Street, Magdalen Road, Magdalen Street, Matthews Hall, Princesshay 2, Princesshay 3, Smythen Street)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£1.00	£1.10
2 hours	£2.00	£2.20
3 hours	£3.00	£3.30
4 hours	£4.00	£4.40
5 hours	£5.00	£5.50
6 hours	£6.00	£6.60
7 hours	£7.00	£7.70
All day	£10.00	£10.00
Zone 2 Car Parks (Belmont Road, Bystock Terrace, Cathedral & Quay, Haven Road 1, Howell Road, Richmond Road, Parr Street, Topsham Quay, Triangle)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£1.00	£1.10
2 hours	£2.00	£2.20
3 hours	£3.00	£3.30
4 hours	£4.00	£4.40
5 hours	£5.00	£5.50
All day	£6.00	£6.00
Zone 3 Car Parks (Flowerpot, Haven Road 2 & 3, Holman Way,		

Okehampton Street, Tappers Close)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£0.50	£0.50
2 hours	£1.00	£1.00
3 hours	£1.50	£1.50
4 hours	£2.00	£2.00
All day	£2.50	£2.50
Zone 3 Car Parks with Maximum Stay (Clifton Hill, Gordons Place, Station Road (Exwick))		
1 hour	£0.50	£0.50
2 hours	£1.00	£1.00
3 hours maximum stay	£1.50	£1.50
Coach Parking at Haven Road 3 (per day)	£5.00	£5.00
Quarterly Commuter Season Ticket	£300.00	£300.00
Residents Annual Season Ticket	£125.00	£125.00
Bartholomew Terrace Business Permit	£205.00	£205.00
Cathedral & Quay Business Bays	£565.00	£565.00

- (2) The inclusion of the following additional car parks in the Parking Places Order 2014:-
- (a) Flowerpot (Appendix 1)
 - (b) Station Road (Exwick) (Appendix 2) and
 - (c) Clifton Hill (Appendix 3)
- (by way of pay and display)
- (3) The designation of the following car parks as Zone 3 Car Parks as set out in the table in Recommendation (1) in the Parking Places Order 2014:-
- (a) Flowerpot,
 - (b) Station Road (Exwick) and
 - (c) Clifton Hill; and
- (4) The restriction of parking to a maximum three hour stay at the new Clifton Hill and Station Road (Exwick) car parks.

18 Budget Monitoring (Third Quarter)

The Principal Accountant (MH) presented the report which advised Members of any material differences by management unit to the revised budget in respect of the Place Scrutiny Committee revenue and capital budgets, for the nine months in the financial year up to 31 December 2016. The current forecast suggested that net expenditure for the Committee would decrease from the revised budget by a total of £215,794 after transfers from reserves and revenue contributions to capital. This represented a variation of 2.20% from the revised budget and included a supplementary budget of £1,117,370, already agreed by Council. She also stated

that the report also included an outturn update in respect of the Place Capital Programme, and she confirmed a forecast total spend of £2,459,655 in 2016/17 with £163,720 of the programme potentially deferred to 2017/18 and beyond.

A Member was pleased to see that funding was available for play area refurbishments as their upkeep was very important. The Principal Accountant (MH) stated that any underspend on the project would not be lost but would be carried onto the following year.

Place Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

19 **Legacy Leisure Working Group Minutes 21 February 2017**

The minutes of the Legacy Leisure Working Group meeting held on 21 February 2017 were circulated for Members' information.

Councillor Bialyk presented the Working Group minutes and also provided a comprehensive update of the facility following the recent fire at the Riverside Leisure Centre. He referred to the Working Group meeting that had been held on the site that day, and Legacy Leisure's report which detailed the recent upgrade of the gym equipment and their future aspirations for redecoration and refurbishment. The fire had set back the plans and whilst it was disappointing, he acknowledged the professionalism and dedication of the Legacy Leisure staff employees who quickly and safely evacuated the building ensuring there were no serious casualties, and continued to deal with the aftermath. He also wished to commend those City Council staff involved and particularly the Fire Brigade who contained the fire to the Health Suite and stopped the fire spreading to the rest of the building. Legacy Leisure had complied with all the necessary fire regulations, but they awaited the outcome of the enquiry and recommendations from the Fire Service. The pool was likely to be out of action for up to six months, but it was hoped to get elements of the facility, such as the sports hall and gym back into use in the coming weeks. A great deal of work had been carried out to promote the opportunity to use other Legacy Leisure sites within the city or allow an amnesty on their membership. All efforts had been made to accommodate the customers at other facilities within their already busy programmes. It was noted that the employees based at the Riverside Leisure Centre had been redeployed to other Legacy Leisure facilities in the city. The Leisure Facilities Manager would continue to liaise with the staff to ensure that a regular update report was received, which would be shared with Members. He was aware that the local Members for St Thomas had also welcomed the site being brought back into use.

Councillor Bialyk referred to a proposed Activities Evening for Members as part of a promotion for health and well-being which would now be held at a later date. A Member commented on the excellent work carried out at her local Leisure Centre in Wonford, in association with the local GP practice, as part of a regular health and fitness programme. Councillor Bialyk also referred to good work to help combat dementia and isolation. He hoped that a Member Group might be able to consider such work later in the year.

Place Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the Legacy Leisure Working Group minutes.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.40 pm

Chair

MEMBER QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER at Place Scrutiny Committee – 9 March 2017

Response to be made by Councillor Denham Portfolio Holder Economy

Questions from Councillor Prowse and precis of response below.

Question 1

At the recent Full Council, I tabled several questions regarding the current position of just who is dealing with Penalty Charge notice appeals issued by this authority in our own car parks.

The reply to Question (i) stated “Devon County Council has never dealt with Exeter City Council’s appeals”. This reply is erroneous. What should the reply have been?

Response

Councillor Denham responded to the question and stated that the reply was not erroneous and it was correct and she was confident in position with the reply previously given at Council held on 21 February 2017.

Councillor Prowse asked a supplementary question relating to the staff who dealt with appeals and was aware that an employee of Devon County Council was used, and they were employed on secondment by Exeter City Council, one day a week and acted on behalf of the City Council.

Question 2

The reply to Question (f) at Council states “I do not agree that the Council is in breach of its statutory obligations. There is no breach of an Act of Parliament. I accept that the Council has not followed the guidance on this point. (my underlining). The only issue to be complied with is to clarify the post which deals with appeals against Penalty Charge Notices.

Can the Portfolio Holder give an indication when this will be? What is the position during the intervening period?

Response

Councillor Denham stated that the post would be identified in the City Council's Constitution, and a report to this effect will be presented to Executive on 11 April and Council on 25 April. The approach would not change during the intervening period, but met with best practice guidance.

Councillor Prowse asked a supplementary question and was concerned about having no agreement which was procedural in propriety?

Councillor Denham confirmed that the stance was following best practice guidance and the approach in the interim period had not impacted on the validity of the Act.

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