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Minutes

Meeting of : Extraordinary Environment and Climate Committee
Date : 24 October 2022
Meeting held in : The Guildhall, Salisbury
Commencing at : 5:00pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr J Wells Vice Chair: A Riddle

Cllrs: A Bayliss, V Charleston, S Hocking, C Hibbert, C Stanway and E Wills.

Officers: Annie Child and Tom Simpkins

1. Apologies:

- 1.1. Cllr J Bolwell gave her apologies.
- 1.2. Cllr A Hoque was substituted by Cllr J Nettle.
- 1.3. It was noted that Cllr V Charleston has replaced Cllr A Bayliss on this committee and that Cllr E Wills has replaced the later Mary Webb on this committee.

2. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted by the public.

3. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted by Councillors.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting of Services Committee held on 10 October 2022 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Dispensations:

No dispensations were requested.

7. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman made no announcements.

8. Net Zero Consultation:

The Committee considered a response to the [Net Zero consultation](#), and it was:

Resolved that:

8.1. The Committee's response, which is attached to these minutes, will be submitted to the relevant Government website by Thursday 27 October.

9. Matters, if any, which by reason of special circumstances the Chairman, decides should be considered as a matter of urgency:

No other matters were raised.

There were no members of the public and no members of the press present.

The meeting closed at 18:01pm

**Proposed responses for Government Consultation Net Zero
Environment and Climate Committee 24.10.22**

24. What are the biggest barriers you face in decarbonising / enabling your communities and areas to decarbonise?

- Costs and supply chain limitations in procurement of replacement of resources required to support progress towards achieving net zero targets (e.g. vehicles, grounds maintenance tools)
- Need for national guidance, suggested strategies, and funding for small local councils to effectively support achievement of net zero national targets
- Competing pressures on a relatively small budget
- Limited capacity of Wiltshire Council to support the action required to achieve net zero targets
- Environmental impact of crematorium is the most significant in the city (also provides significant revenue for SCC)
- Pace of transition away from dependency on domestic fossil fuels (cars, heating, lighting etc.)
- Cost of 'going green' for smaller businesses
- Lack of investment in public transport
- Limited capacity for measuring and monitoring impact of action in reduction of carbon footprint

25. What has worked well? Please share examples of any successful place-based net zero projects.

- Impact of local organisations and pressure groups in providing, practical support, expertise, knowledge to local residents e.g. Salisbury Community Energy, Woodland Trust
- SSC Tree Strategy maintaining and exploring potential to increase capacity
- SCC Environmental Policy Action Plan providing leadership, making small improvements and raising awareness in the City
- River Park Project (Funded by Environment Agency) attracting a lot of attention, promoting discussion and raising awareness of significance of impact of tree planting on carbon capture

26. How does the planning system affect your efforts to decarbonise?

- Lack of local perspective and inadequate consultation at planning level a significant contributory factor.
- Local planning does not emphasise need to address retro fitting of existing building improvements
- Local planning does not require all new build properties to incorporate carbon reducing energy efficiencies such as solar panels, EV charging and heat source pumps.
- Robust standards in planning for transport and access to, and from, new developments specifically around walking and cycling access to town centres.

27. How can the design of net zero policies, programmes, and funding schemes be improved to make it easier to deliver in your area?

- Develop bidding expertise and capacity to secure additional funding to initiate and deliver local projects.
- Guidance required to support local authorities through bidding processes.
- 'Windows of opportunity' too short and funding does not sustain continuity of new projects.
- 'Top down' imposed conditions on use of funding for local projects
- Funding schemes to support local businesses 'going green' alongside targeted council support to work in partnership with BIDs and other stakeholder groups.
- More public awareness campaigns would help to get key messages out from a top down approach which the City Council could then develop locally.

28. Are there any other implications of net zero or specific decarbonisation projects for your area that the Review should consider?

- Planning requirements for all new developments to be carbon neutral.
- Infrastructure improvement to address local travel and access to leisure and shopping venues require investment to comply with policy decisions.
- Means to secure public support from local population in decarbonising projects
- 'Land banking' inhibiting the growth of new net zero building projects
- The use of brownfield sites to be prioritised for development

**Responses to be recorded on Government website by Thursday 27th October.
Cllr John Wells (Chair of Environment and Climate Committee)**