

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

6.00 P.M.

26TH OCTOBER 2022

PRESENT:- Councillors Richard Austen-Baker (Chair), Darren Clifford (Vice-Chair), Paul Anderton, Tim Dant (substitute for Jack Lenox), Roger Dennison, Abi Mills, Joyce Pritchard and David Whitaker (substitute for Mandy King)

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors Mandy King and Jack Lenox

Officers in attendance:-

Suzanne Lodge	Director for Communities and the Environment
Will Griffith	Head of Public Realm
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer
Elliott Grimshaw	Business Improvement and Project Delivery Lead
Jenny Kay	Civic & Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer

17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2022 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

18 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of Urgent Business.

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

20 COUNCIL PRIORITIES - A SUSTAINABLE DISTRICT

The Chair welcomed the Director of Communities & the Environment, the Head of Public Realm and the Business Improvement and Project Lead to the meeting.

The Committee was given details on the City Council's progress in tackling Climate Change since the Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 with the aim to be Zero Carbon by 2030.

With regard to Public Realm, the introduction of route optimising had seen a reduction of 37 tons in CO 2 emissions with the Council now owning 2 electric bin wagons. Recycling

continued to increase and a pilot in Heysham introducing recycling wheelie bins was about to start.

It was reported that the Council had planted 12,000 trees and was working with Community Interest Companies to introduce more biodiversity within the district. The Council was also working with local communities to have flood plans in place with 15 now established across the district.

The Committee then received a presentation which gave details of the many innovations that had been implemented across the Council. When the Climate Change Emergency had been declared the Council's emissions were :-

59.5% from heating buildings (gas)
39.4% generated from fleet (diesel)
1% from casual business travel
Total: 3,370 t(CO₂e) p/a

It was reported that Salt Ayre Leisure Centre emissions comprised of 30-35% of the Council's energy consumptions therefore was the first building to be reviewed. £6.8 million of Government funding was secured to install a heat pump, a 1 MW solar array, glazing and LED lighting successfully making the building carbon neutral. As there was an underspend on the project, work was undertaken on ten other buildings to provide improvements such as glazing and LED lighting.

Members were given details of the Co-Wheels project which was open to the public who could book an electric car out of hours. Three more cars were about to be introduced which could be booked 24/7.

Information on future projects was given such as a solar array at Burrow Beck, replacement boilers, heat networks and work on the Council Housing stock.

Members asked questions relating to planning permissions and community pools.

Resolved :-

That the Director of Communities & the Environment, the Head of Public Realm and the Business Improvement and Project Lead be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.

21 WORK PROGRAMME REPORT

Members of the Committee noted the updated Work Programme. The Chair advised that the Investment Strategy Task Group had yet to meet as officer support was currently unavailable due to the budget setting process.

It was noted the Planning Informal Task Group would be meeting next month.

It was agreed that the work of the Sustainable Investment Strategy Task Group be postponed until after May 2023.

Resolved :-

- (1) That the updated Work Programme be noted.
- (2) That the work of the Sustainable Investment Strategy Task Group be postponed until after May 2023.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 6.43 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Jenny Kay, Democratic Services - email jkay@lancaster.gov.uk**