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Meeting	Economy & Place Scrutiny Committee
Date	2 August 2017
Present	Councillors N Barnes (Chair), K Myers (Vice-Chair), D'Agorne, Funnell, Gates, Hunter and Reid

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## **6. Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in respect of business on the agenda. None were declared.

## **7. Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

## **8. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee held on 28 June 2017 be confirmed, and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **9. Attendance of Deputy Leader (Economic Development and Community Engagement), Executive Member for Environment & Executive Member for Transport & Planning - Priorities & Challenges for 2017/18**

The Executive Member for Environment gave an overview of his priorities and challenges for 2017/18.

Members welcomed the update and in response to questions, the Executive Member clarified the following:

- With regard to whether there would be the opportunity to recycle tetra packs at bring banks, it was confirmed that the types of materials to be recycled would be reviewed as part of the analysis of the public

consultation, which closed on 30 September 2017. There had been 300 consultation responses to date.

- The communication regarding the changes to recycling would be via the calendar distributed to residents, which would include information on what could be recycled.
- There was provision in place to enable the recycling of bikes that could not be salvaged.
- It was confirmed that there was a programme in place to increase the number of charging points for electric cars in the city. The Scrutiny Officer advised Members that this was to be examined by the Economy and Place Policy Development Committee.
- Diesel generators were on standby at the Foss barrier in the event of flooding.

The objective of the clean air zone survey was to make a difference to the areas of poorest air quality.

The Deputy Leader (Economic Development and Community Engagement) gave an overview of his Economic Development priorities and challenges for 2017/18.

Members welcomed the update and in response to questions the Executive Member confirmed:

- Venturefest was a Yorkshire wide event organised by Make it York, that took place in York. York Business Week took place at the same time as Venturefest the previous year and would take place in York in 2017.
- In regard to the Business improvement District (BID) an 89% collection rate for business rates in York was good compared to collection rates around the country and it continued to improve. The work of the BID had been well received by businesses and residents. The process for the collection of business rates was the same as the collection of council tax.
- The reporting mechanisms for businesses and residents to contact the rapid response 24 hour cleaning teams was explained.
- The case for the relocation of Channel 4 headquarters to York had been agreed by Full Council and a response to the consultation had been submitted by the Council.
- Work was ongoing to review Make it York's three year service level agreement, which was now in its final year.

The Executive Member for Transport and Planning gave an overview of his priorities and challenges for 2017/18, and provided an overview of the funding available from Leeds City Region for natural flood management work. He also confirmed the following:

- The pedestrianisation of Fossgate and Micklegate was being monitored and the flow of traffic in Fossgate was to be reversed and monitored. There would need to be consultation on proposed changes to access to the city centre.
- The planned parking review had not taken place as there had not been enough capacity to undertake the review.
- In order to address the flow of southbound traffic at the A19/Crockey Hill junction, there was a proposal to widen the road to create an extra lane outbound through the junction. The flow of traffic on Naburn Lane was also being looked at as part of the Germany Beck development.
- The timescale for the completion of the Haxby Road/Wigginton Road roundabout was 2021/22. Referring to the upgrading of key roundabouts on the outer ring road, the Corporate Director of Economy and Place highlighted the complexities in regard to the purchase of land.
- There had been a 100% conversion of the city sightseeing buses to electric drive.

Resolved: That the priorities and challenges for Environment, Economic Development and Transport and Planning for 2017/18 be noted.

Reason: To identify possible topics for overview and scrutiny.

## **10. 2016/17 Finance & Performance Outturn Report**

Members were updated on the 2016/17 outturn position for both finance and performance across the Economy and Place Directorate.. The Corporate Director of Economy and Place explained how the overspend of £724k would be addressed.

The following points were noted:

- The £100k shortfall in income from the Coppergate enforcement fines, was due to a raised awareness of the restrictions which had resulted in fewer infringements and fines.
- The Council was looking to put in additional camera enforcement on different bus lanes. The budget projections for this would be revised when a decision had been made by the Executive Member for Transport and Planning.
- The delivery rates for planning performance and housing delivery were high.

Resolved: That the 2016/17 outturn position for both finance and performance across the Economy and Place Directorate be noted.

Reason: To update the scrutiny committee of the latest finance and performance position.

## **11. Evaluation of Impact on Air Quality of New Developments**

The Public Protection Manager delivered an evaluation of the impact on air quality of new developments to Members, and confirmed that:

- The use of biomass boilers in rural and urban areas was not recommended.
- Planning applications were assessed on their own merits.
- The Economy and Place Policy Development Committee would be considering how the low emission strategy would be taken forward to 2030.

Resolved: That the evaluation of the impact on air quality of new developments be noted.

Reason: To assess the impacts and ensure that a process for appropriate mitigation is in place.

## **12. Briefing on Building Control & Fire Risks**

Members received an overview of the steps being taken to check the fire risks associated with buildings in York and officers confirmed:

- There was to be a government review of building regulations.
- In regard to private inspections undertaken on non-council owned properties across the city, these were certified by the government as being appropriate.
- With reference to what building regulations apply to historical buildings, it was noted that the buildings in the Shambles were being examined by the council's Health and Safety team.

Resolved: That the steps being taken to check the fire risks associated with buildings in York be noted.

Reason: To be reassured that the fire risks associated with buildings in York have been properly assessed.

## **13. Workplan 2017/18**

The Committee considered the revised work plan for the 2017/18 municipal year and it was:

Resolved: That the work plan be approved.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee has an agreed programme of work in place.

Cllr N Barnes, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.32 pm].