
Meeting	Economy & Place Policy Development Committee
Date	17 July 2018
Present	Councillors Cuthbertson (Chair), Kramm (Vice-Chair), N Barnes, S Barnes, Richardson and Steward
Apologies	Councillor Cullwick
In Attendance	Councillor Waller, Executive Member for Environment and Councillor Dew, Executive Member for Transport and Planning

11. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests or any prejudicial or discloseable pecuniary interest that they might have in respect of the business on the agenda.

Cllr S Barnes declared a personal non prejudicial interest in agenda item 4 (Attendance of Executive Member for Environment) in that he worked in renewable offshore wind.

Cllr Cuthbertson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 (Attendance of Executive Member for Transport & Planning) in that he lived in Earswick.

12. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting held on 19 June 2018 be approved as a correct record and then signed by the Chair subject to two changes in minute number 7, resolution ii) that Cllr Richardson be removed from the informal Task Group and that only one member of the Green Party was to take part.

13. Public Participation

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

14. Attendance of Executive Member for Environment

The Executive Member for Environment gave an overview of his priorities and challenges for the 2018/19 municipal year and thanks were expressed to officers, councillors and residents for their support in promoting Clean Air Day.

As a result of questions raised by Members the Executive Member responded and it was noted that:

- Clean Air Day was developing each year and hopefully there would be earlier engagement with residents and councillors next year.
- Policies or initiatives within renewable energy, flood defence, air quality including fleet procurement, plastics and recycling could be scrutinised by this Committee.
- Flood defences were regularly inspected by the Environment Agency (EA) and the EA worked in consultation with communities to consider a range of flood defence solutions.
- Flood defences at Naburn could be discussed with staff at the hub on Wellington Row.
- The Bulky Waste Collection scheme was being reviewed and work with the Community Furniture Store was taking place to consider practical ways to reuse and salvage items.
- The traffic and sustainable transport approach for York Central was being considered and the Executive Member for Environment would continue to campaign to reduce traffic numbers and improve accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Anti-idling sat in the Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods portfolio but due to the air quality impact the Executive Member for Environment had suggested a policy should be created to allow fines to be issued. In the short term, messages would continue to be relayed to companies to ensure large diesel vehicles switched their engines off when stationary.
- First York provided an anti-idling and cyclist awareness training programme to bus drivers.
- Council policy was to move towards electric vehicles but more awareness was needed on the heavy goods vehicles to ensure the right investment was made.

- An approach was required to prevent opportunistic fly tipping in the city centre so businesses could recycle more.
- York residents should receive communications regarding the recycling process by the autumn.

Following a discussion around clean energy, Members thanked the Executive Member for his update.

Resolved: That the update from the Executive Member on his portfolio area be received and noted.

Reason: To update the Committee on the challenges and priorities within the Executive Members portfolio area.

15. Attendance of Executive Member for Transport & Planning

The Executive Member for Transport and Planning gave an overview of his priorities and challenges for the 2018/19 municipal year.

As a result of questions raised by Members the Executive Member responded and it was noted that:

- Officers would continue to monitor rural bus services.
- The parking prices in the city centre car parks would not be reduced so there would be no 'free for all' on parking which would undercut the business plans of bus companies.
- Coaches were currently not permitted to use bus lanes and some coaches were not permitted to cross Lendal Bridge. Consultation would be required with operators should the bus lane policy be altered.
- Officers were consulting with residents on proposals to improve the Haxby Road/Wigginton. Road/Clarence Street area.
- He was not aware of any new orbital bus routes.

Following discussion and comments made by Members, the following policies or initiatives were flagged as possible areas this Committee could scrutinise:

- Street Lighting Policy
- Dockless Cycle Hire Scheme

- Parking Strategy
- Crossing Points
- Cycling points outside the city centre
- Bus Lanes
- Traffic Regulation Orders

The Corporate Director of Economy & Place suggested that should Members decide to assist the Executive Member in his decision regarding a dockless cycle hire scheme, they could invite officers from Sheffield City Council to provide them with an overview of their cycle hire scheme experience.

Members thanked the Executive Member for his update.

Resolved: That the update from the Executive Member on his portfolio area be received and noted.

Reason: To update the Committee on the challenges and priorities within the Executive Members portfolio area.

16. Economic Strategy Review

Members considered a report which set out a proposed timeline and outlined processes to review the economic strategy, consider the challenges which York faced as a city, and to enable the development of a refreshed Economic Strategy as an early priority in the 2019/20 work programme.

The Head of Economic Growth gave an update and confirmed that:

- The York Economic Strategy was developed in 2015 and published in July 2016, just 26 days after the EU referendum.
- The York Skills Plan was published in 2017.
- Due to the Governments Industrial Strategy to encourage local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) to develop their own regional approach, the York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan and the Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan were under review.

He went on to advise that the current Economic Strategy was for the period 2016-2020, with its partner document, the York Skills Plan, covering 2017-2020. Therefore, a new strategy would be needed for 2020 onwards, with drafting taking place in 2019, with an opportunity to bring economic development and skills together into a single framework.

The officer continued to outline the targets set for York and the progress against the York Economic Strategy priorities, focussing on the 8 essential 'to-dos' of which four were progressing well and assessed green, with the remaining four progressing more slowly and assessed amber.

He then discussed the following four headline targets:

- Growing Wages to above the national average by 2025.
- Meeting in full the requirements for business space and housing.
- Growing priority high-value sectors at least 20% faster than baseline forecasts.
- Maintaining comparative advantages in employment, skills and connectivity.

Members noted the priorities and challenges moving forward and that the Economic Strategy conference would link into York Business Week and would take place on 19 November 2018.

Following comments and further questions around inward investment, business space, housing targets, employment, wages and skills, the Head of Economic Growth, the Corporate Director of Economy and Place and the Assistant Director of Planning and Public Protection stated that:

- Discussions with key players including the University of York regarding inward investment and commercial opportunities within York Central had begun and ongoing engagement with businesses across the city through Make it York was taking place to drive the economy. New opportunities and innovations that would be unique to York were being considered.
- There was a good range of space in the Local Plan for industrial development.

- The council did not have a huge amount of influence over employer's wages and this would be a challenge going forward.
- The economic development officers from the LEP's could be invited to express their views on the regions economic function in order for Members to explore more broadly and ensure a fully formed debate.
- Planning enforcement was only imposed as an appropriate and proportional response to something, such as an adverse impact on residents or an environmental issue.

Members thanked the officer for his report and it was noted that this Committee could provide guidance to help bring this strategy together. It could help set a clear vision where certain key indicators could be monitored. Members requested a double rating on the 'to-dos' and it was suggested that promoting re-skilling opportunities for employees could be an approach to develop the skills agenda.

- Resolved: (i) That the report be noted and commented on prior to it being considered by the Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement at a Decision Session on 23 July 2018.
- (ii) That the Chair considered all points raised and email Committee Members a suggested direction that would best support officers in the development of the strategy.

Reason: To inform Members of the proposed timeline and process for the development of a refreshed Economic Strategy.

17. Work Plan 2018/19

Members considered the Committee's work plan for the 2018/19 municipal year.

Following discussion it was agreed that a presentation on the Street Lighting Policy would be received at the next meeting and that the Chair would consider all points raised and email Committee Members about potential items for business.

Resolved: That the work plan be approved subject to the above amendments/additions.

Reason: To keep the Committee's work plan updated.

Cllr Cuthbertson, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.47 pm].

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