



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 23rd MARCH 2023

PRESENT: Councillor S Goodall (Chair), Councillors P Turner, M Cook, J Harper, S Peale, B Price and R Rogers

CABINET & GUEST: Councillor Stephen Doyle
Councillor Martin Summers
Chief Inspector R Neeson

The following officers were present: Anna Miller (Assistant Director – Growth & Regeneration), Joanne Sands (Assistant Director Partnerships), Paul Weston (Assistant Director Assets), Jo Hutchison (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer) and Leanne Costello (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

89 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Maycock and P Thompson

90 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th January 2023 were approved as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor J Harper and seconded by Councillor R Rogers)

91 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

92 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair highlighted that Councillor P Thompson had joined this Committee.

The Chair thanked Councillor S Peale for all her contributions to the Committee.

The Chair reminded members that an additional meeting had been scheduled for 5th April 2023 to consider the Castle Grounds Festival.

93 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE

No recommendations had been taken to Cabinet since the last meeting in January 2023.

94 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL

The Chair reported that following the Motions at full Council on 28 February 2023, the Chairs of the scrutiny committees would consider how these could be progressed by scrutiny.

95 TAMWORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023-2026

The Report of the Portfolio Holder for Voluntary Sector, Town Centre, Evening Economy & Community Safety / Assistant Director – Partnerships on the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023-2026 to consider the draft 2023-26 Community Safety Partnership Plan and progress update on the 2020-23 work plans.

The Chair welcomed the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Summers, the Assistant Director, Jo Sands, and the Chief Inspector, Rob Neeson to the meeting for this item.

It was reported that following this Committee's consideration the three year plan would be presented to Cabinet for its approval in April 2023.

The Committee sought and received clarifications in the following areas:

1. Clarification on the reported rises in the figures related to certain crimes set out in the report where the Chief Inspector reported that the report showed the increase from the period 12 month period during COVID and that if the figures were compared to the pre-COVID period the figures (April 2019 to March 2020), the rises were not as significant, although the figures remained higher which was a picture reflected across South Staffordshire. The Chief Inspector reported that preventative work across our borders was underway in terms of vehicle crime to target these offences.
2. Whether holding MARAC meetings online had improved attendance and performance where it was reported that there had been no adverse impact from moving online and it had assisted attendance.
3. How knife crime was being addressed locally where the Chief Inspector reported that work continued with schools as well as linking in with social media. It was reported that partnership funding had supported the roll out of knife bins. The figures would also reflect any increase or improved targeting of stop and search powers.
4. Funding streams in this area, and whether it was sufficient to deliver the planned work, where it was reported that the funding was from the Staffordshire Commissioners Office and that in Staffordshire this funding was being maintained, which was not the case in all regions. In addition there was additional funding available to partners through grant funding.

RESOLVED that Committee:

1. noted the content of the report in terms of progress made on the Community Safety Plan 2020-23 (2022 Update);
2. considered the draft Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023-26 and provided feedback to assist the Partnership to deliver on its priorities; and
3. supported endorsement of the 2023-2026 plan by Cabinet on 27th April 2023 for publication and return to the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office.

(Moved by Councillor S Goodall and seconded by Councillor M Cook)

The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder, Assistant Director and Chief Inspector for the Report and their attendance, who then left the meeting.

96 STAFFORDSHIRE SUSTAINABILITY BOARD UPDATE

Report of the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Skills, Planning, Economy & Waste on the Staffordshire Sustainability Board update to adopt:

1. the Joint Staffordshire Sustainability Board Communications Plan 2023 which had been developed with the Staffordshire Sustainability Board in conjunction with all district and borough councils to help residents to reduce their carbon emissions; and
2. the Staffordshire County Council Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy which had been developed in conjunction with all district and borough councils to help residents to transition to electric vehicles.

The Assistant Director further reported that the report covered the proposed adoption of the above two Staffordshire wide strategies as well as a proposal to adopt a borough strategy for EV Charging and to provide an update on progress made in relation to the installation of EV Charging points in two borough car parks.

Following this Committee's consideration, the Report and its recommendations would be presented to Cabinet on 6th April 2023.

The Committee sought and received clarifications in the following areas:

- the Chair reported that over the last 5 years recommendations to Cabinet from this Committee had been made and that whilst work to attract the installation of EV Charging Points in the Borough had been progressed to date no EV charging facilities had been delivered, which in part reflected the complexities of the system being operated within and the importance of ensuring any new strategy delivered.
- the Committee sought assurances that there would be action on EV Charging, where the Assistant Director reported that with the adopted of the Staffordshire Strategy could open up funding streams, which had been the case in Warwickshire following their adoption of a strategy. However, it was reported that the Staffordshire strategy did place the onus on the districts and boroughs to do the delivery, even though not the highway's authority. The Staffordshire Strategy model would therefore need to assist boroughs and districts in accessing government funding streams to facilitate this.

- The importance of there being EV Charging points in the town centre, to ensure that the town centre did not miss out. The importance of the council talking to the electricity network companies was also reported.
- The importance of the Local Plan in this area, which was under review, and where climate change was likely to be central to that work.
- The value of a bespoke strategy for Tamworth which could facilitate the delivery at pace of solutions once funding was available. The Committee supported the importance of this strategy being developed quickly to facilitate progress in this area.
- The Committee discussed the strategy to pursue a no cost solution to the council for EV charging on two borough car parks which was entered into with a sole supplier and where limited progress had been made. It was reported that the supplier's solution had moved from the delivery of facilities across 2 council owned car parks to one larger charging facility at the Riverdrive car park. It was reported that a bespoke strategy with different options would enable the council to move forward at more pace.

Councillor B Price joined the meeting at 7.08pm.

RESOLVED that the Committee recommended that:

1. The Staffordshire Sustainability Board joint communications plan (attached as Appendix 1 to the report), which sets out the 12-month programme of climate change awareness-raising and behaviour change activity, be adopted;
2. the Staffordshire County Council Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy (as attached in Appendix 2 to the report) be adopted;
3. the Borough Council commissioned a borough-wide bespoke strategy to provide a framework for making decisions around EV charging in Tamworth; and
4. the EV Charging update on the installation of 4 fast charging points be endorsed.

that the Committee further recommended to Cabinet that:

5. the Tamworth Borough Council EV Charging Strategy was received by the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee in its draft form before the end of 2023.
6. the Installation of Charging Points within Tamworth be treated as a Cabinet Priority moving forward.

(Moved by Councillor S Goodall and seconded by Councillor P Turner)

The Committee thanked the Portfolio Holder and Assistant Director for their attendance. The Assistant Director then left the meeting.

97 FORWARD PLAN

No additional items were identified from the Forward Plan for this Committee's consideration.

98 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

There were no further working group updates at this point.

Councillor Price reported that he expected to be able to provide an update from the Facilities for HGV Drivers working group to the June / July Committee meeting.

The Chair reported that all members had been invited to a useful seminar on Travellers.

99 INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY & GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee's work plan was updated as follows:

Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Work Plan

Work Plan	
DATE	SUBJECT
5 April 2023	Committee Annual Report (draft)
5 April 2023	Castle Grounds Festival
X June 2023	Dual Stream (recycling service) quarterly update
X June 2023	Future High Street Fund (quarterly update)
August / September 2023	PSPO (Tamworth Dog Control)
Date to be confirmed	Town Hall Proposals
Quarterly updates	Future High Street Fund
Quarterly updates	Dual Stream (recycling service) updates
Quarterly	Reset & Recovery updates
Date to be confirmed	Council Housing Repairs Policy
Date to be confirmed	Review of policy / engagement with stakeholders relating to migrant travelling community
Date to be confirmed	Fire Safety Update
Date to be confirmed	Review of Taxi Licensing Policy – Points System
Date to be confirmed	CCTV update
Date to be confirmed	Assembly Rooms

Working Groups

Topic	Possible WG Members	Target IS&G Com meeting date
Review of policy / engagement relating to migrant travelling community		
Facilities for HGV Drivers in Tamworth	Cllrs B Price (WG chair) Cllrs S Daniels and M Cook	June / July 2023

Upcoming Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee Meetings

Meeting dates:

5 April 2023

100 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That members of the press and public be now excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

(Moved by Councillor S Goodall and seconded by Councillor B Price)

101 UPDATE ON TOWN HALL PROPOSALS

The Committee received the Report of the Assistant Director, Assets which provided an update on Town Hall Proposals.

The Committee agreed that it would keep this item on its Work Plan.

Following discussion the Committee noted the Report.

Chair