

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



15 November 2019

Our Ref Environment Panel 28.11.19
Your Ref.
Contact. Committee Services
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To: Members of the Committee: Councillors Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Steve Jarvis, Val Bryant, Sam Collins, Ian Moody, Gerald Morris, Michael Muir, Claire Strong and Kay Tart

Substitutes: Councillors Mike Hughson, David Levett, Adem Ruggiero-Cakir and Richard Thake

You are invited to attend a

MEETING OF THE CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

to be held in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, GERON
ROAD, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY**

On

THURSDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2019 AT 7.30 PM

****MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DOWNLOAD ALL
AGENDAS AND REPORTS VIA THE MOD.GOV APPLICATION
ON YOUR TABLET BEFORE ATTENDING THE MEETING****

Yours sincerely,

Jeanette Thompson
Service Director – Legal and Community

Agenda **Part I**

| Item | Page |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2. MINUTES - 11 SEPTEMBER 2019 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 11 September 2019. | (Pages 5 - 12) |
| 3. MINUTES - 15 OCTOBER 2019 To take as read and approve as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 15 October 2019. | (Pages 13 - 20) |
| 4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda, should be declared as either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Declarable Interest and are required to notify the Chairman of the nature of any interest declared at the commencement of the relevant item on the agenda. Members declaring a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest must withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item. Members declaring a Declarable Interest, wishing to exercise a 'Councillor Speaking Right', must declare this at the same time as the interest, move to the public area before speaking to the item and then must leave the room before the debate and vote. | |
| 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public. <i>Please note that speakers should register their interest to speak by midday two days before the meeting.</i> <i>The Chairman has requested that a written submission of the content/subject of the presentation be submitted to committee.services@north-herts.gov.uk by the above deadline.</i> <i>Those selected to make presentations will be advised the day before the meeting.</i> | |
| 6. DISCUSSION REGARDING BIODIVERSITY The Chairman to lead a discussion regarding biodiversity. This will include issues such as tree planting, pollinators, wilding and chalk streams. | |
| 7. INFORMATION NOTE - WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER FOR 2019/2020 REPORT OF THE POLICY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER To schedule the work programme for the Cabinet Panel for the Environment and show progress against the action tracker. | (Pages 21 - 26) |

Agenda Item 2

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

MEETING HELD IN THE ROOMS 2/3, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES,
GERNON ROAD, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY
ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2019 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors Steve Jarvis (Chairman), Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg (Chairman), (Vice-Chairman), Val Bryant, Sam Collins, Ian Moody, Gerald Morris, Michael Muir, Claire Strong and Kay Tart*

In Attendance: *Reuben Ayavoo (Policy and Community Engagement Manager), Claire Morgan (Community Engagement Team Leader), Kei-Retta Farrell (Trainee Policy Officer), Lea Ellis (Assistant Community Engagement Officer) and Hilary Dineen (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager)*

Also Present: *At the commencement of the meeting approximately 30 members of the public, including registered speakers.*

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Audio recording – 1 minute 12 seconds

There were no apologies for absence.

2 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 1 minute 18 seconds

- (1) The Chairman welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chairman advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (3) The Chairman drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.

3 CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Audio recording – 1 minute 58 seconds

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference for the Cabinet Panel on the Environment be noted.

4 THE ROLE AND AIMS OF THE CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Audio recording – 3 minutes 17 seconds

The Chairman advised that, when the Council declared a Climate Emergency, objectives were set including:

- Emission targets for Council;
- Developing a Climate Change Strategy.

The Cabinet Panel on the Environment was set up to maximise opportunities for input from interested organisations and residents.

There were, in his opinion, three main areas for the Council in respect of the Climate Emergency:

- Look at how the Council could reduce its own impact;
- Enable residents and businesses in the District to reduce their impact;
- How the Council can encourage people and business to reduce their impact.

The Chairman explained that he would ask those who had registered to speak to make their presentation, the Panel Members would then be given the opportunity to ask questions.

The Panel would then consider a work programme for future meetings.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - BALDOCK BEATS WASTE

Audio recording – 7 minutes 14 seconds

Ms Christine Watson, Baldock Beats Waste, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Panel as follows:

- Baldock Beats Waste was a local group started due to the concern about misleading information regarding recycling, particularly single use plastic;
- Intention was to encourage people in Baldock to look differently at waste, particularly packaging and single use plastic;
- They advised on what could be recycled and when and where this could be done as well as alternative packaging;
- At meetings they demonstrated a selection of products and discussed where they could be bought;
- They had a Facebook page on which 100-500 people read posts regularly;
- They had held 3 meetings with 25-30 people attending;
- They had a stall at the Baldock Festival;
- They set up a collection of crisp packets at the local Community Centre;
- They had discovered some good practices by businesses and individuals in the Town;
- They had held 3 litter picking events
- They had visited local businesses to discuss waste management and have even been successful in changing the habits of some including:
 - Sought to change packaging at Baldock weekly market;
 - Archers Gym had been persuaded to stop using plastic bags;
 - Hollington Health had cancelled their order of bottled water and had started using compostable cups.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Michael Muir;
- Councillor Kay Tart;
- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg.

In response to questions Ms Watson advised that:

- There were no plans for Baldock Beats Waste to become Plastic Free Baldock;
- However, should they meet the requirements for plastic free status, this would be a subsidiary of Baldock Beats Waste.

The Community Engagement Team Leader advised that a good way to share information was through Engage North Herts.

The Chairman thanked Ms Watson for her presentation.

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

Audio recording – 16 minutes 48 seconds

Ms Rak Dimmock, Climate Action Group, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Panel as follows:

- The Climate Action Group had been set up to work as an alliance of campaign groups;
- Global carbon emissions had reached an all time high;
- If this was not reversed it would be catastrophic therefore we must act now;
- There was a widespread public concern about this issue;
- The Council was to be congratulated for backing the climate emergency;
- They urged the Council to move forward quickly;
- The immediate priority was to update the Climate Strategy in support of the goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030;
- Audits if carbon needed to be completed;
- They had invested a lot of time putting together a list of actions covering all areas of the Council's operations;
- If the Council does well in this area it will inspire other Authorities;

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Sam Collins;
- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Kay Tart;
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg.

In response to questions Ms Dimmock advised:

- That an article in the Outlook magazine would make a big impact

The Chairman thanked Ms Dimmock for her presentation.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PLASTIC FREE LETCHWORTH AND PLASTIC FREE HITCHIN

Audio recording – 28 minutes 20 seconds

Ms Julia Sonander , Plastic Free Letchworth and Ms Anni Sander, Plastic Free Hitchin, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Panel as follows:

Ms Sander informed Members:

- Letchworth had achieved Plastic Free Status and Hitchin was working towards it;
- Both towns had an abundance of festivals, coffee shops and take-aways;
- Single use plastic was a feature of these types of business;
- Compostable cups made of corn starch cannot be recycled in North Herts and therefore end up in landfill;
- Composting these products would require a whole new waste stream;
- Reusable products were better for the environment;
- Plastic Free communities proposed:
 - Produce and deliver on campaign to establishments that offer take-aways;
 - NHDC could loan reusable cups to events and charge a fee for washing and drying;
 - NHDC could work with BIDS to introduce a cup scheme.
- These proposals provided building blocks to move towards new ways of living.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Sam Collins;
- Councillor Val Bryant;
- Councillor Claire Strong

In response to questions Ms Sonander advised that:

- In respect of running events, a solution to in race water stations had not yet been found, however runners should be encouraged to bring their own water bottles for the end of the race.

Members comments included:

- That compostable processing could release carbon back into the atmosphere;
- That consideration could be given to a “scores on the doors” scheme regarding environmental awareness.

The Chairman thanked Ms Sonander and Ms Sander for their presentation.

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - BEST BEFORE CAFE AND HITCHIN FOOD RESCUE

Audio recording – 43 minutes 49 seconds

Ms Suzi Holding, Best Before Café and Ms Emma Goulding, Hitchin Food Rescue thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Panel as follows:

- Best Before Café had saved more than 20 tonnes of food from supermarkets;
- They were fighting food waste and food poverty;
- Supermarket waste was only 2 percent of total food waste;
- 78 percent of food waste was residential;
- Food waste was harmful as rotting food turned into methane;

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- They were working with other charities and people to view best before food as edible by using it in a different way;
- They would like to see the Best Before model in every town, village and city;
- Their aim was to use food waste and educate people to use it;
- People needed to stop buying pristine food and start to use best before food.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg;
- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Gerald Morris;
- Councillor Michael Muir;
- Councillor Claire Strong;
- Councillor Val Bryant.

In response to questions Ms Goulding advised that:

- Best Before Cafe and Hitchin Food Rescue had 250 people a week use their services;
- They were happy to be used to help conduct surveys;
- Schools did not undertake a lot of food waste separation.

Members comments included:

- There was a need to consider what education programmes NHDC could promote and/or deliver;
- On the continent people were penalised for not recycling.

The Chairman thanked Ms Holding and Ms Goulding for their presentation.

9 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HERTS WITHOUT WASTE

Audio recording – 1 hour 29 seconds

Mr John Webb, Herts Without Waste, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Panel as follows:

- Herts Without Waste was an advocate for transition towards reduced waste and a circulatory economy of materials;
- Greenhouse gasses was a large part of emissions;
- There were three main suggestions:
 - Minimise residual waste;
 - Local processing of waste;
 - Consistency of waste management.
- NB a written submission had also been presented.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Michael Muir;
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg.

Members comments included:

- District Councils were responsible for waste collection and therefore had the power to influence people, but they could not do this alone.

The Chairman thanked Mr Webb for his presentation.

10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NORTH HERTS AND STEVENAGE CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

Audio recording – 1 hour 10 minutes 46 seconds

Ms Nicky Clark, North Herts and Stevenage Climate Action Group thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Panel as follows:

- Where were the new green technologies such as public transport?
- The Climate Emergency had been declared, but when would it commence?
- The Council was doing some good things, but then allowed a concrete plant to be developed;
- The Hitchin Museum was designed around the sale of single use plastics;
- The Council needed to stop and take stock;
- People want to hear that things have changed, not that things were expected to;
- The first step was to accept that the problem existed;
- This was the first generation to feel the effects of climate change and the last that could do anything about it;
- Apathy and inaction of leaders leave us in a hedonistic decline;
- There was so much that could be done and it must be done now.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Michael Muir;
- Councillor Sam Collins;
- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Kay Tart.

In response to questions Ms Clarke advised that:

- Information was key so the Council needed to communicate;
- Adults needed to be educated on how they deal with children and to take responsibility.

Members comments included:

- That the Council did not communicate enough.

The Chairman thanked Ms Clark for her presentation.

11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - TRANSITION TOWNS LETCHWORTH

Audio recording – 1 hour 24 minutes 20 seconds

Ms Julia Sonander thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Panel as follows:

- Every town in North Herts should have a sustainable travel plan;
- For towns where there was not a Town Council a forum was needed to discuss issues and solutions;
- They had been working in Letchworth on a cycling plan;
- They had applied for funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund for a project about a modular road planning kit around school entrances. Although they had been unsuccessful they were keen to take this forward;
- Low carbon homes were needed and there was an opportunity in the Local Plan to consider what would be the best that could be achieved for new homes taking into account;
- The UK Green Building Council's Policy Play Book was a great resource;

- Council's building on their own land would be able to ask for higher standards;
- Town Planning was important. There was an opportunity to review the Local Plan taking into account:
 - The climate emergency;
 - Revised housing need figures
 - Clarity from the Government regarding sustainable housing standards;
 - Incompatibility with LTP4:
- The Council should consider removing the least sustainable locations from the Local plan, taking into account the reduced housing need figures.
- NB Transition Towns Letchworth had also submitted a written statement.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Gerald Morris;
- Councillor Sam Collins;
- Councillor Michael Muir.

In response to questions Ms Sonander advised that:

- Safe routes through towns for cycling and walking were needed.

Members comments included:

- That the sale of Council land for development should have a condition of sale regarding green development;
- Improving cycling and walking was actively being considered;
- There were some real issues about how much the Local Plan could be changed.

The Chairman thanked Ms Sonander for her presentation.

12 INFORMATION NOTE - PROPOSED GUIDANCE, WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER FOR 2019/20

Audio recording – 1 hour 42 minutes 6 seconds

The Policy and Community Engagement Manager presented the information note entitled Proposed Guidance, Work Programme and Action Plan and drew attention to the following:

- The guidance aimed to support the Terms of Reference of the Panel;
- There was a proposed Work Programme at Appendix B;
- It was suggested that the Panel keep an Action Tracker.

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Claire Strong;
- Councillor Kay Tart;
- Councillor Michael Muir;
- Councillor Gerald Morris;
- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Claire Strong;
- Councillor Kay Tart.

Suggestions included:

- That Executive Members be invited to relevant meetings;
- That emails from members of the public are circulated to all members of the Panel;
- Landscaping should form part of the planning application process;
- Street lighting was often not wanted in village and rural locations;
- Environment breaches should be investigated by NHDC;
- Need to talk about how tenants can work together with Housing Associations;
- The Council need to improve communication and enthuse people.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposed guidance be accepted;
- (2) That the work programme be amended as follows:
Meeting 2 Planning (to include street lighting and decommissioning of solar farms);
Meeting 3 Transport, Travel and Air Quality;
Meeting 4 Waste, Recycling and Food Waste;
Meeting 5 Greenspaces and Bio-Diversity (to include trees and landscaping);
Meeting 6 Energy.
- (3) That the proposed action tracker be approved.

The meeting closed at 9.32 pm

Chairman

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES,
GERNON ROAD, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY
ON TUESDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 2019 AT 7.30 PM

MINUTES

Present: *Councillors Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg (Chairman), Steve Jarvis, Val Bryant, Ian Moody, Gerald Morris, Michael Muir, Claire Strong and Kay Tart.*

In Attendance: *Ian Fullstone (Service Director - Regulatory), Reuben Ayavoo (Policy and Community Engagement Manager), Kei-Retta Farrell (Trainee Policy Officer) and Hilary Dineen (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager).*

Also Present: *At the commencement of the meeting County Councillor David Barnard, District Councillor Paul Clark (Executive Member for Planning and Transport), District Councillor Ian Mantle (Deputy Executive Member) and approximately 25 members of the public, including registered speakers.*

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

14 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Audio recording – 1 minute 32 seconds

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (3) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question;
- (4) The Chair advised that the dates of the Panel meetings for the rest of the Civic Year were now on the website;
- (5) The Chair advised that this meeting was about Planning and Transport;
- (6) The Chair welcomed County Councillor David Barnard and District Councillors Paul Clark and Ian Mantle who would be invited to comment throughout the meeting.

15 MINUTES - 11 SEPTEMBER 2019

Audio Recording – Start of Item – 1 minute 54 seconds

The Chair advised that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2019 would be presented to the next meeting of the Panel for approval.

16 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Audio recording – 5 minutes 30 seconds

Before the commencement of any other business of the Panel Councillor Michael Muir declared a declarable interest in that he was a Member sitting on the Hertfordshire County Council Highways and Transport Committee.

17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PRESENTATION OF A PETITION

Audio recording – 6 minutes 4 seconds

The Chairman formally acknowledged receipt of a petition which had been handed in to NHDC by the climate change protesters.

She reminded Members that a citizens forum was being provided through the Cabinet Panel on the Environment and asked for continued support and patience.

18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Audio recording – 8 minutes 40 seconds

The Chair reminded those who wished to speak to register in advance of the meeting.

19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - CHRIS NICKOLAY

Audio recording – 13 minutes 17 seconds

Mr Chris Nickolay thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Panel as follows:

- He did not want to talk about climate change but felt he had to;
- He kept hearing that things could not go quickly;
- He made impassioned reference to trees burning in the Amazon and that his children had decided not to have children due to this emergency;
- It was important to acknowledge what was happening;
- He was running out of patience as the Council was not treating this as an emergency;
- The Council had not communicated the emergency.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg;
- Councillor Kay Tart.

The Chair thanked Mr Nickolay for his presentation.

20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PHILIP DEVONALD

Audio recording – 19 minutes 32 seconds

Mr Philip Devonald thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Panel as follows:

- The IPCC says there was just 10 years to combat the climate emergency;
- The Local Plan covered the next 10 years and there was a golden opportunity to amend it to address the issues;
- The Local Plan did not address climate change and the Council should start again;
-

Tuesday, 15th October, 2019

- The Council has never has a 5 year supply of land and therefore any concern about development applications was not a concern;
- By the time the emerging Local Plan expires it would be too late to have taken action and Members will not have done their moral or legal duty;
- The Local Plan was unlawful and the Council was acting unlawfully. This could result in the Council being judicially reviewed by them;
- Most officers were not aware that the Council had declared a climate emergency;
- It was time to stop the Local Plan process and start again from scratch;
- Ticking boxes would not do.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg;

In response to questions Mr Devonald advised that:

- The carbon output of the Local Plan needed to be reviewed;
- The carbon output of every single output of the Local Plan needed to be analysed;
- Carbon reduction should run through every element;
- Targets and land allocations should be reviewed;
- Members needed to push back at resistant Officers.

Councillor Paul Clark, Executive Member for Planning and Transport commented as follows:

- He agreed about the concrete batching plant, the Secretary of State decided to take no action;
- The environmental impact of every planning application will be considered;
- The Design SPD would be considered in the new year;
- Developers were now saying that zero carbon housing could be built;
- He was talking to the CPRE regarding green belt and densities of developments;
- This was just the start;
- The Inspector now had control of the NHDC Local Plan;
- It was possible that, if NHDC started looking at the Local Plan from scratch, they could end up with a worse Plan.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg;
- Councillor Claire Strong;
- Councillor Michael Muir;
- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Kay Tart.

In response to questions Mr Devonald advised that:

- That zero carbon housing could be achieved now;
- There were empty houses around the District that the Council could compulsory purchase;
- The Council needed to think about sustainable transport and sustainable employment when considering the Local Plan.

Members made the following suggestions:

- That all written submissions received from members of the public and organisations be put on the Council's website.

The Chair thanked Mr Devonald for his presentation.

21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - SOPHIE BARBER

Audio recording – 41 minutes 22 seconds

Ms Sophie Barber thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Panel regarding London Luton Airport as follows:

- We are in the midst of a climate crisis;
- The impact of the expansion of London Luton Airport would be devastating;
- There were currently 16 million passengers per year, this would soon increase to 18 million and there were plans to further increase to 38 million;
- The consequences would be air pollution, cars blocking roads and greenspaces built on;
- Business as usual would not make the crisis go away;
- Air pollution accounted for 70 million deaths worldwide;
- London Luton Airport created excessive amounts of pollution in North Herts;
- Poor air quality could cause the following problems:
 - Chronic respiratory, lung and heart issues;
 - Shattering noise;
 - Stress;
 - Other negative impacts on health;
- A new terminal would be built on green space and would require new roads;
- The Secretary of State was not calling in the application for expansion;
- NHDC, as a neighbouring Council, needed to stop all plans for expansion.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Michael Muir;
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg.

Councillor Paul Clark, Executive Member for Planning and Transport, commented that:

- Traffic related to the airport was an issue;
- There were a number of regional airports that could take some of the proposed expansion;
- Technology could be used instead of taking flights for business.

Comments from Members included:

- That people needed to change their behaviour and consider whether they really needed to go abroad.

The Chair thanked Ms Barber for her presentation.

RESOLVED: That the Service Director – Regulatory be requested to inform Members of the Luton airport expansion consultation dates and locations.

22 PRESENTATION BY COUNCILLOR DAVID BARNARD

Audio recording – 57 minutes 22 seconds

Councillor David Barnard thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address the Panel regarding London Luton Airport as follows:

- London Luton Airport would publish its proposals to expand business from 18 million to 32 million passengers on 16 October 2019;
- They say they will use the existing runway;
- This excludes the natural growth in freight and personal aircraft movements;
- 35 percent of passengers travel through Hertfordshire by private means;
- There will be a massive increase in service trucks and vehicles to serve the new facility;
- The proposed new terminal and associated parking and community park would encroach into North Herts green belt;
- No trees or bushes would be allowed in the new development so as to discourage birds from roosting;
- Villages were flown over day and night, with the flight path widening;
- The road infrastructure to the east of Luton was antique;
- The A505 was already gridlocked in and out of Hitchin
- The local tiny lanes, used regularly by farm vehicles, were used as over congested rat runs;
- Luton had recently granted planning permission for two commercial and light industrial sites adjacent to North Herts, which alone will cause massive congestion
- The Local Plan proposed 2100 houses to meet Luton's unmet need;
- The Office of National Statistics had reduced Luton's housing requirement, but the Local Plan had not been amended;
- Luton had clearly stated that they have no intention of supporting road infrastructure improvements in Hertfordshire as it was not their responsibility;
- This would cause massive air pollution as well as gridlocked roads.

The following Members asked questions and commented on the presentation:

- Councillor Kay Tart;
- Councillor Michael Muir.

In response to questions Councillor Barnard advised that:

- The application for expansion would be considered as an application of national importance and as such Luton Borough Council would not be able to determine it.

The Chair thanked Councillor Barnard for his presentation.

23 DISCUSSION REGARDING PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

Audio recording – 1 hour 5 minutes 10 seconds

Local Plan

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg;
- Councillor Val Bryant;
- Councillor Ian Mantle;
- Councillor Michael Muir;

- Councillor Gerald Morris;
- Councillor Claire Strong;
- Councillor Kay Tart;
- Councillor Ian Moody.

The issues discussed included:

- The Local Plan was the most significant issue with decisions having an impact on many aspects;
- Need to consider the carbon emission of homes as they are built;
- What scope was available in the Local Plan to affect carbon impact by considering issues such as materials used;
- What scope was available to consider the sustainability of locations identified for development;
- What scope was there to ensure that the more sustainable locations were developed first;
- The Council needs to recognise the concept of fuel poverty and how electricity will be paid for in the future;
- How robust would the Council be in respect of developers putting in applications for more housing in an area than is in the Local Plan;
- Affordable/Social housing allocations in rural locations are often not taken up by social landlords and end up being sold at market rates;
- That other Councils have a design and standards committee that sets standards that have to be followed by developers.

The Service Director Regulatory advised that:

- The quickest way forward to impose design standards would be to undertake a single policy review following adoption of the Local Plan;
- There was a consultation on Future Homes Standards in which one proposal was to limit Planning Authorities' ability to go over and above standards set out in building regulations;
- He strongly recommended that the public responded to the consultation;
- The increased design standards for the Norwich City scheme resulted as this was a site in the control of the Council ;
- Affecting home design standards and delivery on sites developed by private developers was more difficult;
- The Council's responses to consultations were published in the regular Strategic Planning report to Cabinet.

Councillor Paul Clark, Executive Member for Planning and Transport advised that:

- The approximate number of empty houses was 400-500;
- The densities quoted in the Local Plan were indicative rather than prescriptive;
- CIL and S106 monies should be used to provide services such as bus services.

London Luton Airport

In respect of transport and Luton Airport the Service Director – Regulatory advised that the current permission was for 18 million passengers per year. The process to increase to 32 million passengers would be that the Planning Inspectorate would consider the application, preceded by the statutory consultation.

Currently NHDC was liaising with other affected authorities and were appointing a consultant to put in a response to the consultation.

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Steve Jarvis;
- Councillor Paul Clark;
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg;
- Councillor David Barnard;
- Councillor Kay Tart;
- Councillor Michael Muir.

Issues discussed included:

- That, if the expansion of Luton Airport took place a strong travel plan should be put in place regarding public and other sustainable transport;
- The Council was very restricted in what could be done, but needed to make strong representations to consultations;
- That Members need to convene a cross party group to make a public statement against the expansion of Luton Airport.

Transport – Construction Routes

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Claire Strong;
- Councillor Gerald Morris;
- Councillor Steve Jarvis.

Issues discussed included:

- The safety of construction routes for development sites in rural areas with narrow road;
- There were not enough tools in the toolkit to challenge and defend unsuitable construction routes.

In response to issues raised the Service Director – Regulatory advised:

- The Key was that the planning committee could only consider the area within the application site;
- The Council has to take account of advice from Hertfordshire Highways in respect of construction routes.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Service Director – Regulatory be requested to circulate to the Panel and external parties the Future Homes Standards consultation;
- (2) That the Service Director – Regulatory be requested to circulate to the Panel details of Stirling Awards 2019 – The project for Norwich City Council;
- (3) That the Chair be requested to ensure re-iteration of NHDC's Climate Change Emergency through NHDC communication channels (Outlook, external website etc.);
- (4) That the Service Director – Regulatory and the Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health, be requested to provide an update with regard empty dwellings within in the district and how, where appropriate, these can be brought back into use as homes.

Tuesday, 15th October, 2019

- (5) That the Executive Member for Planning and Transport be requested to consider the possibility of a Design Standards Committee;
- (6) That the Service Director be requested to explore whether there was an opportunity to identify, in the Local Plan, which sites were most sustainable and whether these could be developed first;
- (7) That Group Leaders and Members approach relevant local Council's to lobby them to speak against the expansion of Luton Airport;
- (8) That the Chair be requested to draft a letter on behalf of the Cabinet Panel on the Environment to other 10 Hertfordshire District Councils to express concerns regarding the proposed Luton Airport expansion.

NB – following the meeting it was advised that the Panel should request that the Executive Member for Planning and Transport undertake resolution 8.

24 INFORMATION NOTE - WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER 2019/20

Audio recording – 2 hours 15 minutes

The Policy and Community Engagement Manager presented the information note entitled Work Programme and Action Tracker together with the following appendix:

- Appendix A - Work programme and Action Tracker.

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Steve Jarvis.

RESOLVED: That the Policy and Community Engagement Manager be requested to put a link on the front page of the NHDC website to the Climate Panel webpage.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Chairman

**CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT
28 NOVEMBER 2019**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF INFORMATION NOTE: WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER FOR 2019/20

INFORMATION NOTE OF THE POLICY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER
GO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

PRIORITY: RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This note highlights items scheduled in the work programme for the Cabinet Panel on the Environment for 2019/20 following the initial meeting. This allows the Cabinet Panel to set a work programme which enables open discussion that may lead to recommendations to Cabinet /the relevant Executive Members or Service Director, regarding actions that they believe that the Council should be taking to address climate and environmental issues.

2. STEPS TO DATE

2.1 Cabinet approved the establishment of the Cabinet Panel for the Environment for 2019/20 at the 27 June meeting. It agreed the Membership, Terms of Reference and procedure for the panel as noted here -

<http://srvmodgov01.north-herts.gov.uk/documents/s5515/APPENDIX%20A%20-%20Cabinet%20Panel%20on%20Environment%2027.06.19.pdf.pdf>

2.2 The work programme and action tracker have been updated following the initial meeting. Future meetings will be announced shortly to ensure good engagement with the community.

3. INFORMATION TO NOTE

3.1 An Environment inbox is being created to allow members of the public or organisations to provide suggestions/presentations for the panel's consideration.

3.2 The Panel will seek to ensure that consideration of agenda items minimises additional burdens on staff resources. Wherever possible, requests are made for the presentation of documents already in existence rather than the production of new documents specifically for the Panel. Suggestions from outside sources, as detailed in paragraph 3.2 will only be placed on the work programme if agreed by one of the alternating Chairs or at a meeting of the Panel.

- 3.3 Attendance from external bodies and members of the public is actively encouraged.
- 3.4 This is a non-decision making advisory body and therefore this or any notes/reports to the Panel do not include a recommendation on a key Executive decision and have not been referred to in the Forward Plan. However, recommendations for action from the Panel for consideration by Cabinet may do so. This will therefore need to be borne in mind for any recommendations of the Panel.

4. NEXT STEPS

Other Topics for Consideration

- 4.1 Other topics for consideration and inclusion in the Panel's work programme will be considered at each meeting. When considering additional topics, their risk assessment and prioritisation will ensure that the most appropriate items are taken forward to the work programme

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix A Work programme and Action Tracker

6. CONTACT OFFICERS

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Hilary Dineen, Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager, 01462 474353
Hilary.Dineen@north-herts.gov.uk

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Cabinet report and Appendix A 27 June 2019

APPENDIX B

POTENTIAL PROGRAMME FOR FUTURE CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT MEETINGS 2019-20

| | |
|--|--|
| Meeting 1. 11th September 2019 | Introductory Session Guidance Terms of Reference Announcements Public Participation and Q&A Work Programme |
| Meeting 2. 15th October 2019 | Planning (Street lighting, decommissioning of solar farms and energy) |
| Meeting 3. 28th November 2019 | Bio-Diversity (including Trees and landscaping) |
| Meeting 4. January 9th 2020 | Waste, Recycling and Food Waste |
| Meeting 5. Thursday 5th March 2020 | Transport, travel and Air Quality |
| | |
| | |

CABINET PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT – ACTION TRACKER: October 2019

| Date and Min No | Action/Resolution | Action/Response/Outcome | Status (Complete/in progress) |
|------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 11092019 EP1 | Meeting Two to be amended to cover - 'Transport, Travel and Air Quality' | Policy and comm. Engagement Manager | Complete |
| 11092019 EP2 | Swap the running order of meetings 2 and 3. Planning will now be meeting two and Transport will be meeting three | Policy and comm. Engagement Manager | Complete |
| 11092019 EP3 | Meeting four will include consideration of food waste | Policy and comm. Engagement Manager | Complete |
| 11092019 EP4 | Meeting five will include Trees and Landscaping | Policy and comm. Engagement Manager | Complete |
| 11092019 EP5 | Meeting Two will include Street lighting, the decommissioning of solar farms and energy | Policy and comm. Engagement Manager | Complete |
| 11092019 EP6 | To consider the investigation of environmental breaches within North Hertfordshire | Environmental Health and Waste Team | On-going |
| 11092019 EP7 | Ensure Environment page is updated to publicise Panel's activity. | Policy and Community Engagement Manager | On-going |
| 11092019 EP8 | Proposal of surveying clients at Best Before Café/Hitchin Food Rescue to assess needs/client base | Policy and Community Engagement Manager | On-going |
| 15102019 EP9 | That the Service Director – Regulatory provides an update with regard empty dwellings within in the district and how, where appropriate, these can be brought back into use as homes. | Service Director – Regulatory | On-going |
| 15102019 EP10 | That the Service Director – Regulatory informs Members of the Luton airport expansion consultation dates and locations: https://futureluton.llal.org.uk/ | Circulated by Policy and Community Engagement Manager. Links also circulated via FB and Twitter feeds on external website. | Complete |
| 15102019 EP11 | That the Service Director – Regulatory circulates to the Panel the Future Homes Standards consultation. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings | Circulated by Policy and Community Engagement Manager. Links also circulated via FB and Twitter feeds on external website. | Complete |
| 15102019 EP12 | That the Service Director – Regulatory circulates to the Panel details of Stirling Awards 2019 – The project for Norwich City | Circulated by Policy and Community Engagement Manager. Links also circulated via | Complete |

| Date and Min No | Action/Resolution | Action/Response/Outcome | Status (Complete/in progress) |
|-----------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| | Council: https://www.architecture.com/awards-and-competitions-landing-page/awards/riba-stirling-prize | FB and Twitter feeds on external website. | |
| 15102019 EP13 | That the Chair ensures re-iteration of NHDC's Climate Change Emergency through NHDC communication channels (Outlook, external website etc.) | External Webpage has been updated with a permanent direct link in the ' Popular Now' section to the Climate change/Environment Panel pages. Latest Outlook magazine features a range of articles relating to the environment and climate change. | Complete |
| 15102019 EP14 | That the Executive Member for Planning and Transport consider the possibility of a Design Standards Committee. | Executive member – Planning and Transport | On-going |
| 15102019 EP15 | That the relevant Executive Member/Service Director draft a letter to the other 10 Hertfordshire District Councils to express concerns regarding the proposed Luton Airport expansion. | Policy and Community Engagement Manager | On-going |
| 15102019 EP16 | That the Service Director - Regulatory be requested to explore whether there was an opportunity to identify, in the Local Plan, which sites were most sustainable and whether these could be developed first. | Service Director – Regulatory | On-going |

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