

Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 11 October 2011

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL  
11 October 2011

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mark Anderson - Chairman; Councillor Chris Wakefield - Vice-Chairman; Councillors Sue Anderson, Eddie Coope, Mike Greene, Dennis Gritt, Ron Whittaker, Lawrence Williams and John Wilson.

**NON-VOTING CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVE:** Angela Pooley - Chairman of the Vision 2026 Sustainable Environment Forum

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Michael Filer - Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport; Councillor Peter Charon - Leader of the Council and Councillor Anne Filer - Cabinet for Service Development and Corporate Efficiency

The meeting commenced at 6.00 p.m.

Councillor Dennis Gritt arrived at 6.18pm and left at 8.43pm

The meeting was adjourned between 7.47pm and 7.59pm.

**Note:** To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Panel at this meeting please visit:

[http://archive.bournemouth.gov.uk/main/Minutes\\_Agendas/EnvironmentTransportOverviewScrutinyPanel.asp](http://archive.bournemouth.gov.uk/main/Minutes_Agendas/EnvironmentTransportOverviewScrutinyPanel.asp)

**SECTION I - BUSINESS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL**

No Items

**SECTION II - BUSINESS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

**15. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

There were no Substitute Members

**16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Greene declared a personal interest in item 23 below, on the grounds that depending on where it is sited; it may well be possible to see the Navitus Wind Farm from his home and therefore it may affect the view from his home. He did not consider the interest to be prejudicial for a number of reasons, including the fact that a large number of Bournemouth residents are in a similar position. He

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gave an assurance that his judgement of the public interest in this matter would not be affected by the location of his home.

**17. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no Public Questions received under Procedure rule 17.

**18. MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - 2011-2026**

The Strategic Operations Manager reported that a number of documents underpinning the Headline Strategy had been completed recently, including an options appraisal, environmental assessment and full consultation report. A steering group including four Councillors had been established to input to and review the strategy, prior to presenting the strategy to the Executive Board and full Cabinet. The Panel was in agreement with this but requested that a copy of the document be circulated to Members of the Panel before it was submitted.

**DECISION MADE:**

That the Municipal Waste Management Strategy Steering Group be endorsed and that a link for the consultation paper be circulated to all Members of the Panel.

**19. DEPUTATIONS**

The Democratic Services Officer reported that requests asking the panel to receive deputations from Mr P Cromie and Mr Ian Belchamber in relation to the speed restriction change on Wessex Way had been received. However as both Mr Cromie and Mr Belchamber were unable to attend the meeting their written submissions would be considered by the Scrutiny Panel under item 8 on the agenda.

**DECISION MADE:**

That the views presented in the deputations made by Mr Cromie and Mr Belchamber be taken into account under consideration of Item 8 on the agenda, Review of data - A338 Speed Restriction Change.

**20. CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES**

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager reported on the review of co-opted members on Overview and Scrutiny Panels, the aim of which had been to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the co-opted members, and ensure that the Council was making the best use of its external representatives.

Three options had been examined as part of the review. Option (c) which would involve moving towards a more flexible system involving the participation of community and voluntary organisations and Bournemouth 2026 was considered to be the most appropriate. The Co-opted representative on the Panel advised that she felt this option would provide a more flexible approach which would encourage greater participation from co-opted members.

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That option (c) as outlined by the Overview and Scrutiny Manager be endorsed.

**21. STREET LIGHTING**

The Panel received a short presentation by the Project Manager on street lighting which included information on fault reporting, vandalism, routine works, Monitoring and future trends in lighting technology. The Project Manager also demonstrated new low energy light fixtures which were being installed in a number of locations. The Panel discussed whether there were any plans to introduce PIR (sensor) lighting within the Borough. The Officer informed the Panel that this would require additional technology and greater maintenance costs. Furthermore it was not compatible with certain types of light fixtures. Therefore there were no plans to install PIR lighting at present. The planned work being undertaken was as a result of an overview of lighting across almost the entire borough which would result in £40k of savings. However it was noted that these savings were required as a result of increasing energy costs.

**DECISION MADE:**

That the presentation made by the Street Lighting Team be noted.

**22. REVIEW OF DATA - A338 SPEED RESTRICTION CHANGE**

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager advised that she had been contacted by members of the public regarding the data used in the decision taken by the Portfolio holder for Transport and Technical Services to implement the permanent introduction of the 40mph speed limit on a section of the A338. The Chair proposed the setting up of a Task and Finish group to address the issues raised in the deputations received and respond to them. It was suggested that the Task and Finish Group would be able to address the matter quickly and expediently thereby not engaging extensive officer time.

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Technical Services advised the Panel that he did not doubt that the decision he had taken was correct. He reported that during the trial period of the 40mph speed limit the number of accidents and casualties had been reduced and the police had been consulted on the decision. Whilst he understood the need to respond to the deputations made he advised that the department was running at 50% capacity and he hoped that a Task and Finish Group would not detract from the work of the department.

A Member proposed that a report on the statistics used in the decision to make the 40mph speed limit permanent be brought to the next meeting of the Panel and the police be invited to attend. The Panel expressed concern that those who made the deputations had not attended the meeting. It was then proposed and seconded that the most appropriate response would be to ask officers to respond to the points raised within each deputation.

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That the comments received in the deputations from Mr Cromie and Mr Belchamber be forwarded to the appropriate officers to respond to the issues raised.

**23. WIND FARM - TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

A report from David Harlow, Coast Protection manager on the recommendations of the Wind Farm Task and Finish Group was circulated to the Panel. The report outlined the Council's response to the proposed Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) produced by Eneco, the preferred developer for the Wind Farm. The Council was proposing a number of corrections and additions to the SOCC to ensure that the SOCC provided the best possible opportunity for the public to respond to the consultation for the proposed Wind Park. The Chair advised that the Panel would need to refer the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group to Cabinet for approval as a formal response from the Council.

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group advised that the recommendations made concerned elements which the Council felt should be included within the consultation document. These included improved visualisations, consultation with organisers of the air festival and different forms of promoting the consultation. It was moved that the recommendations be put forward for Cabinet approval.

The Leader of the Council provided a response to the Panel in which he stated "Whilst I am wholly supportive of the desire to ensure that our residents are fully informed and have every opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation I feel obliged to mention that in the context of our wider partnership within Dorset and in particular our Local Enterprise Partnership my predecessor gave his strong support manifested itself by citing the proposed off-shore wind farm as one of the key carbon reduction, and the subsequent re-submission that was accepted.

Given the approach that the Council now wished to take in terms of the remit of the Task and Finish Group set up by this Panel I have today requested that the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Environment write to all of his counterparts across Dorset and beyond, as well as the incoming Chair of the new LEP Board enclosing a copy of this response to the SOCC and a copy of the Council Motion of July 26<sup>th</sup> so that they are fully appraised."

The Chair advised that the comments made in response to the SOCC did not give any indication of any opinion on the development of the Wind Farm and that the Task and Finish Group had carried out a comprehensive piece of work. The Panel discussed the fact that the response to the SOCC only concerned the consultation process and did not indicate any view on the development of the Wind Farm itself. Councillor Greene advised that at the meeting with Eneco it was agreed that the Council's response would be circulated to other statutory consultees and that he would be supportive of the document in its current form being submitted as the Council's response. The Co-opted representative on the Panel also lent her support to the Council's response to the review of the SOCC.

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### DECISION MADE:

That the recommendation of the Task and Finish Group, that the proposed SOCC be approved for use in public consultation, subject to the corrections listed in Sections 4.7 and the additions listed in 4.8 of the associated report be accepted and referred to the Cabinet for approval.

### 24. RIVER RESTORATION WORKS - PRIORITISATION OF WORKS

The Panel was invited to consider the proposed Programme of Works following a preliminary options and feasibility report produced for the Council by Mouchel's Flooding and Coastal Team. The Panel received a brief presentation from the Parks Development Manager which explained that the Council had identified a number of sites along the River Stour and one location along the Bourne stream where the deterioration of the bank structure was so great that it was causing or was likely to cause major problems.

Until recently the Council had been reactive in its river bank maintenance programme. It was now proposed to take a more strategic approach to the repair works which were needed, in order to find the most cost effective and environmentally appropriate solutions for each site. This approach had been supported by the Council's Capital Gateway Board. The main issues and treatment options at each site were outlined. These were selected using specific assessment criteria and where possible the preferred options were environmentally sympathetic in terms of appearance and materials/methods used.

The preferred options, costs and suggested phasing of works were: -

| Site             | Preferred option  | Estimated cost | Timetable |
|------------------|---|----------------|-----------|
| Muscliffe        | Willow spiling and pre-planted matting  | £27,000        | 2013/2014 |
| Iford Meadows    | Composite option - including geo-textile, willow spiling, planted mattress and granular revetment | £178,200       | 2011/2012 |
| Tuckton          | Sheet piles   | £664,200       | 2012/2013 |
| Hengistbury Head | Replace damaged gabions, planted coir mattress and new access step                                | £14,400        | 2014/2015 |
| Bourne Stream    | New concrete foundation   | £41,400        | 2015/2016 |

The Parks Development Manager reported that the estimated costs did not include the cost of structural, ground investigation, design and environmental assessments

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where required. These could add on approximately 10 - 20% to the estimates. He also explained that there were special reasons for selecting these particular sites - for example, the Muscliffe site impacted on the nature reserve and on residential properties on the other side of the river bank. At Hengistbury Head there were health and safety issues with the Noddy Train road being located close to the edge of the bank. There were also health and safety issues with sinkholes on the Tuckton river bank, where the Council leased moorings to Sembcorp Bournemouth Water Ltd.

The Panel discussed options regarding funding and the possibility of grants to support some of the proposed works. Officers reported that the Environment Agency had been invited to give their opinion on each scheme and with the exception of Iford Meadows would probably not be able to provide support. It was reported that due to the nature of the site, ground investigations were required to be undertaken at Iford Meadows as soon as possible in order to help ascertain the implications of bank erosion and the potential health and pollution issues arising from the previous use of the site for landfill should any contamination of the River Stour occur. The Panel supported the need to move forward as soon as possible with the Iford Meadows site.

It was further suggested by a Member of the Panel that it may be possible to access funding from the local levy and that the Environment Agency may be able to provide support on this. It was further suggested that those organisations involved with Hengistbury Head, Natural England and English Heritage, may be able to provide support for the work taking place there. A Member suggested that the dredging work taking place in Christchurch Harbour may be able to be used to support the river restoration work at Hengistbury Head.

The Ward Member for Throop and Muscliff spoke about his concerns relating to the River Stour, both in general terms, and specific to the river banks within his Ward. The Member acknowledged that there had been long-standing resource issues in undertaking repairs to the river banks. Although he welcomed the survey, he did not consider that the proposals went far enough to address the issues along a particular stretch of the riverbank which he identified. He felt that these problems should be dealt with more urgently than the suggested phasing of works in 2013/14 and possibly with a more robust solution than 'willow spilling'.

### **DECISION MADE:**

That the proposed programme of river restoration works be endorsed, with the addition of the comments made by the Ward Member regarding the consideration of urgent remedial works and the possibility of using rock rolls on the section of the riverbank in Muscliffe (as identified by the Ward Councillor).

### **25. WORK PROGRAMME**

Panel Members were invited to express their views on the priority of topics for the Panel's future work programme. A Member suggested that the Panel should consider public toilets outside of the town centre, as it was felt that this issue had not been adequately addressed previously. The Vice-Chair advised that work had

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been undertaken on this subject and it may be useful for a report to be brought the next meeting of the Panel. It was considered that it was not necessary to prioritise the items on the work programme at present as the Panel was already sufficiently engaged with the current task and finish groups.

**DECISIONS MADE:**

1. That a report on public toilets in areas outside of the Town Centre be brought to the next meeting of the Panel.
2. That the prioritisation of items on the work programme be deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

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Please note that the next quarterly meeting of the Environment & Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel will take place at the Town Hall at 6:00 pm on 24 January 2012.