

SUSTAINABILITY PANEL

THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2018

PRESENT: Councillors Marion Mills (Chairman), Derek Sharp, Lynda Yong and Simon Werner

Also in attendance: Martin Fry

Officers: Wendy Binmore, David Scott, Naomi Markham, Sue Fox and Michael Potter.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coppinger, Pryer and Sharp.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Part I minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2018 be approved.

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman welcomed the Panel and stated that changes were happening all the time, and the Energy Manager was working on the next Energy and Water Strategy, ensuring bills were kept as low as possible. The Borough was always looking to upgrade technology as and when it could.

POOL VEHICLES / ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

Sue Fox, Senior Project Manager gave an update on the Borough's pool cars and electric vehicle charging points. She stated a report went to Cabinet in September 2017 which looked at getting out the current pool cars contract and reducing the number of vehicles in the fleet and changing them to electric or hybrid vehicles. The council were trying to encourage more members of staff to use the pool cars. There were currently 13 petrol Mini's in the fleet on a three year lease with an annual mileage of 10k miles per year per car; the lease was in its final year but the cars were averaging just 7k miles per year. The Senior Project Manager had carried out some analysis on the type of trip and length of trip and where the cars were kept. She added that she was looking at potentially making them available for public use.

The Senior Project Manager stated she had been looking at different models of delivery and hoping to reduce the size of the fleet. She said it would be advisable to keep four of the 10 petrol cars due to some trips being carried out that were very long distance and the average range of an electric vehicle was 100 miles. The Senior Project Manager was looking at hybrid models which had a petrol generator which gave double the range; the cars did not have two engines like other hybrid models.

Looking at electric charging points, the Senior Project Manager said she was looking at potential locations. There could be four charging points at the Town Hall in the North Yard and four points at the Tinkers Lane Depot.

The Council's current car pool contract was with Alpha City; they were only able to provide a BMW i3 with or without the range extender but, they had the capability for a car club so that the public could use the cars in the evenings and at weekends. One issue for the car club was insurance. The Council's current insurance only covered staff using the vehicles and not the public. That would need to be managed and a solution agreed. The other issue with running a car club was where the cars would be left when not being used. The Town Hall would be fine but, not the North yard.

The charging points would be for Council use so they would not need pay as you go technology for that usage. The Senior Project Manager had also been looking at charging points for charging public vehicles on the street. There were already a couple of charging points installed at Hines Meadow car park which were pay as you go to charge. She added it was very difficult to get the electricity feed to the charging points if they were to be installed in the North Yard.

The Senior Project Manager was in talks with providers who could potentially provide a car club scheme. One of those providers was Enterprise who already ran a car club scheme which the Council could buy into. The Council could block book vehicles for a working week and they could then be used at weekends and in the evenings by the public. They used clever technology that worked out if it was cheaper to spot hire a vehicle or, use the car club so potentially saving the user money. If the Council talked to joint venture partners and developers, and the decision was made to all sign up to a car club scheme, the Council could potentially save money. Surrey Council had introduced a car club scheme which used staff pool cars and charging people to use their cars.

The Senior Project Manager explained her team had asked residents to nominate locations around the Borough where charging points could be installed. The charging points were eligible for up to 75% grant funding and some companies who installed the points offered to make up the last 25%. Once installed, users would either subscribe to a payment service or, use a pay as you go style system. In order to nominate where residents wanted to see charging points, they could go online and pinpoint where they most wanted them to be installed.

The next step was to assess feasibility and look at what parking restrictions at locations were like and how to reserve parking bays for electric vehicles with relevant controls such as length of maximum stay. Residents did not want to contribute to pay for charging points to be installed and there was no commitment in joining the scheme.

Councillor Werner said he had seen charging points in lampposts in other Borough's. the Senior Project Manager confirmed that she had looked into those types of charging points but, the Borough's lampposts were usually at the back of the pavement and so would leave cables trailing when a car was on charge. She was looking at putting together 10 sites as a pilot bid for funding which needed to be deliverable as the Council had to spend the funds in the same year they were awarded. There had been a lot of interest despite the scheme not being publicised yet. Councillor Werner stated there would be a lot of disappointed residents if there were only to be 10 sites. The Senior Project Manager said that all sites had to be assessed. The bid would be for a minimum number of sites to get the scheme up and running. The numbers required had not been announced as yet. There would be a zero cost for the installation of the charging points.

Councillor Werner stated he noticed that new public car parks in the Borough would not have charging points. He queried if it was sensible not to future proof the car parks. The Senior Project Manager stated the Borough did not have a standard for developers when building car parks but, when discussing that with developers, they were keen to install them anyway. The Head of Communities, Enforcement & Partnerships confirmed the Braywick Leisure Centre would have the infrastructure to ensure all parking spaces had a charging point. Councillor Werner stated Broadway Car Park was not future proofed to the same standard and he wanted officers to talk to developers regarding that.

The Senior Project Manager confirmed that she had not had any feedback from Surrey Council regarding their car club scheme. She had meetings coming up with potential providers and she was conscious of just how flexible the car club could be in reality. She added it would be advantageous to have a mix of vehicles if the public were to use them but, she did not want to be constrained by the type of vehicle for the pool cars.

The Chairman thanked officers as a lot of work had gone into the potential scheme so far and she looked forward to an update in due course.

- ❖ **Action** – The Senior Project manager to bring regular progress updates to the Sustainability Panel as and when they were available.

WASTE UPDATE

Naomi Markham, Waste Strategy Manager gave Members a brief update which included the following key points:

- Food waste:
 - The Council ran a campaign in 2016 which focused on food waste and since then, figures have been maintained in the amount of food waste recycled.
 - In 2015, 170 tonnes of food waste had been processed. This rose to 272 tonnes in 2017
 - The team were supplying the libraries with food waste bags.
 - The team were on target to increase food waste being collected in 2018.
- Textiles:
 - The Council relaunched the scheme in 2017.
 - Sacks were introduced for residents to put their unwanted textiles in.
 - In October 2016, seven to eight tonnes of textiles were collected per month.
 - In November 2017, 18 tonnes of textiles were collected with 10 tonnes collected in December 2017, 16 tonnes collected in January and 12 tonnes collected in February 2018.
 - Residents were now aware of the service and could recycle the stuff they could not take to charity shops.
- Contamination:
 - Residents were confused over what could be recycled and what should not be recycled.
 - Nappies were becoming more of a problem
 - Shiny gift wrap and polystyrene were among the items that could not be recycled
 - In recent weeks, the recycling collection team were putting stickers on bins which showed a list of items that could not be put into recycling bins.

The Waste Strategy Manager confirmed the Council received approximately £40 per tonne of recycled textiles.

Martin Fry commented that biodegradable food waste bags were no longer available through the Council. The Waste Strategy Manager confirmed they could be bought from a supermarket but, the Council was still supplying plastic bags. The reason the Council was still using plastic bags was due to the way the food waste was processed. It was an anaerobic process and the biodegradable bags were not suitable for the machinery. The plastic bags were being recycled once they were emptied of food waste. Councillor Werner enquired how much recycling was rejected due to contamination. The Waste Strategy Manager responded that no recycling was rejected but, approximately 14% of recycling was contamination which was sorted at plant and removed; the 14% that was rejected was not the Borough's targeted waste. Councillor Werner stated that other Councils were running a campaign 'if in doubt, leave it out'. The Waste Strategy Manager said that was something she could look into.

The Waste Strategy Manager confirmed that the 14% of contamination found in recycling was put back into waste. When inputting data flow, her team input the full waste flow which included rejected recycled waste material. The Chairman stated she was impressed by the level of detail on recycling and waste. Councillor Werner requested a monthly spreadsheet with an itemised list of what had been collected which went back for the last few years. The Waste Strategy Manager agreed she would send Councillor Werner the information.

The Waste Strategy Manager confirmed the Borough was not looking to change waste collection contracts. There were no large scale changes due to be made. She was however, happy to listen to any potential small scale changes that could improve the current contracts. The Head of Communities, Enforcement & Partnerships confirmed a paper was going to Cabinet in April 2018 relating to the waste contracts and that could be circulated to the Panel prior to Cabinet.

Councillor Werner wanted to know if the 25 year waste contract affected the food waste collection. The Waste Strategy Manager confirmed they were two separate contracts. The contracts were for 25 years and the Borough were tied into them from 2012. The food waste contract tied the Council into an anaerobic disposal way of disposing of food waste and the Borough was committed to a certain level of tonnage. The Head of Communities, Enforcement & Partnerships stated there was still food waste being disposed of into normal refuse.

Councillor Werner asked the Waste Strategy Manager if it was possible to introduce free garden waste collection. The Waste Strategy Manager confirmed the Borough received some income from garden waste collection so her team would need to look into that. Councillor Werner stated it seemed harsh to be tied into a 25 year contract for waste when technology moved so quickly. The Waste Strategy Manager responded it was a standard length of contract for the industry. The Borough had a degree of flexibility in the contract as it was 15 years with a five plus five clause. The Chairman commented the Borough was still ahead of other local authorities on how much and what the Borough collected and recycled.

Members thanks the Waste Strategy Manager for her comprehensive and informative update.

- ❖ **Action** – The Waste Strategy Manager to send Councillor Werner historical spreadsheets showing all items collected in recycling.
- ❖ **Action** – The Head of Communities, Enforcement & Partnerships to circulate the Cabinet Paper on waste collection and recycling contracts to the Panel prior to it going to Cabinet.

ENERGY REDUCTION MANAGER UPDATE

Water Refilling and Fountain

Michael Potter, Energy Manager provided Members with an update on energy reduction which and stated with regards to water refilling and fountains, the Energy Manager had been in contact with a refilling organisation that were running a nationwide scheme (www.refill.org.uk); Refill.org.uk explained the Council could set up its own sites and use their app but the Council could increase water consumption due to the scheme. The Chairman stated at the previous meeting, Laxmi had mentioned installing a water fountain on the High Street in Maidenhead but, it needed to be a fountain that could refill a bottle as well as drink straight from. She suggested the Energy Manager look into that to see what could be provided and also, encourage businesses to allow customers and passers-by to refill their bottles at their establishments. She was sure that a lot of businesses were already doing so but, the more that offered to do it, the better. Councillor Tong suggested asking businesses to sign up to a scheme where they could place a sticker in their windows letting the public know they could refill their bottles there. She added one water fountain in the Town was great but, getting businesses to put a sign in their window was more cost effective.

The Energy Manager explained to Members that there was a public toilet with a drinking tap in the Town Centre of Maidenhead. There were also a lot of cafes in the Borough he could talk to so that customers could fill up their bottles. The Chairman commented that was a good place to start and requested feedback from the Energy Manager on how successful the scheme was and how many businesses had signed up.

The Energy Manager stated the feeling was not to install a fountain in the High Street in Maidenhead due to cost of installation and maintenance. It was suggested to have it installed somewhere indoors if there was to be one. However, if businesses on the High Street were allowing people to refill in their establishments, that negated the need for a fountain at all. Councillor Yong suggested asking Laxmi for help as she had offered to help with ideas at the last meeting. She could approach establishments and ask if they were interested in joining the scheme. The Chairman stated Steph James, the Maidenhead Town Manager should be approached and asked to join in on getting businesses to agree to the scheme.

- ❖ **Action** – The Energy Manager to speak to Steph James, Town Manager to ask her to help engage businesses to sign up to a bottle refilling scheme for members of the public.

Energy

Members noted the details of the energy data on page 15 of the agenda pack, paragraph 11.1. between April and December 2017, there was an 18.5% reduction in energy against the baseline for corporate sites; including lighting, it was a 25% reduction. The target was a 15% reduction so the Council was on track.

Councillor Yong wanted to know why the Tinkers Lane Depot used so much more gas than other sites. The Head of Communities, Enforcement & Partnerships replied it was an old building with poor insulation and there had been an increase in the number of people that worked at the site since the closure of York House. The Energy Manager stated there had been a reduction of energy usage by boilers of 19% in the Town Hall following the upgrade in the BMS.

Street Lighting

Members noted the details of the energy reductions since the switch over to LED bulbs which was listed on page 24 of the agenda pack. The Energy Manager highlighted that from April 2017 to January 2018, there had been a reduction of energy use of 20%. That reduction would continue to increase as the LED switch over programme continued.

Energy and Water Storage

The Energy Manager had produced a proposed action plan and he requested comments and feedback. The Chairman stated she would circulate the action plan for comments and set a deadline of 31 March 2018 to receive feedback from Panel Members.

The Energy Manager stated there was a new energy and water baseline and he was looking to include Optalis and AfC buildings in that baseline as they were still part of the Borough's contract and the Council still looked after their buildings. However, the leisure centres were excluded from the baseline.

- ❖ **Action** – The Energy Manager to send the Chairman his proposed Energy and Water Reduction Action Plan to be circulated to the Panel for comments and feedback.

Tap volumiser trial

The Energy Manager confirmed volumisers had been installed on the ground floor of the Town Hall and they had been monitored since they had been installed four weeks previously. There

were two weeks where water usage had reduced and had saved approximately £250. If that trend continued, the volumisers would only take three years to pay back. However, there were two weeks where there was an even higher usage of water than before the volumisers were installed but, he could not work out why. The Head of Communities, Enforcement & Partnerships confirmed that during that two week period there had been an event in the Desborough Suite.

The Energy Manager said that a couple of taps needed to be replaced in order to fit the volumisers and he was looking at getting that done as soon as possible. The Energy Manager confirmed that no staff had noticed the change over to the volumisers although the taps were using a fifth of water compared to the taps without volumisers fitted.

Work Planned

An internal consultation on the Energy and Water Strategy was due to take place and the Energy Manager was looking at increasing the number of water volumisers across Council buildings.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That:

- i. The Sustainability Panel noted the report, the progress made and commented on the proposed work plan over the next period as detailed in paragraph 11.21 of the report.**
- ii. The Sustainability Panel noted the proposed annual Energy and Water Strategy Action Plan and provided comments.**
- iii. The Sustainability Panel approved the inclusion of Optalis and Achieving for Children leased Council buildings in the energy baselin.**

DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted the details of the next meeting date being 31 May 2018.

The meeting, which began at 7.00 pm, finished at 8.45 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....