SUSTAINABILITY PANEL

TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2018

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

Also present: Martin Fry.

Officers: Wendy Binmore, Michael Potter and Kevin Mist.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Coppinger.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Part I minutes of the meeting held on the 18 September 2017 be approved subject to the following amendment:

That Mr Martin Fry be added to the record of attendance.

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman welcomed members of the public, one in particular that had requested to speak on the issue of plastic waste, and the overuse of plastic bottles polluting the oceans. As the Royal Borough was placed alongside the Thames which flowed into the sea, it was a good place to start trying to reduce the reliance on single use plastics which were often washed down stream and into the sea.

BRAYWICK LEISURE CENTRE SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

Kevin Mist, Communities Project Lead, introduced the item and stated the design team had been working together for 12 months and a planning application had been submitted. The application was waiting to go to Panel. The Communities Project Lead and his team had been working with Wates Construction under a framework agreement and they were benefiting from practical advice from other organisations that had built other leisure centres. He hoped the presentation would answer a lot of questions and reassure residents of the good quality of the project.

The main points of the presentation were as follows:

- Sustainability objectives:
    - To achieve a 75% reduction on utility costs over the current Magnet Centre
    - To provide a future facility which enabled amendments and modifications to the fabric as technology and use advanced

    - To follow an approach that offers the best value to the Council and local rate payer with a life cycle costing approach to Capital and Operational Expenditure
    - To provide a life cycle of at least 35 years.
- Site Location:
    - The site was located in the Green Belt within Braywick Park
    - The team had looked at the path of the sun to get the most use of daylight to keep energy costs reduced.
    - The location to be used was a former landfill site with interesting trees.
- Site Strategy:
    - Pedestrians had priorities in certain places
    - A holistic approach had been adopted
    - As part of the design, making elements work as hard as possible and making sure the scheme answered a brief on programme
    - Will be an extraordinary facility that was connected with the nature reserve and interconnected with a cycle path.
- Sustainable Travel:
    - Within walking distance to the Town Centre
    - Connected to the Green Way Cycle Path
    - Shuttle Bus to and from Town Centre
    - Increase in bus provision
    - 6 new electric vehicle charge points with the ability for more to be added at a later date
    - Cycling stands to be provided
- Sustainable Drainage:
    - Rainwater harvesting provision for grey water and irrigation
    - Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) were to be used to ensure all surface water attenuates through the site.
    - Attenuation ponds and swale
- Ecology and Planting
    - Centre had been designed with careful consideration to the sites sensitive location
    - The development would enhance the ecological value through retention of high value trees and improved planting
    - Cemetery boundary to be reinforced creating a primary bat corridor
    - The central avenue would make the centre a hub for the park.
- Floor Plan:
    - There was to be a wet side and a dry side of the building as well as a street like area
    - There would be three elements that formed the construction
    - The building would feel generous in space and open within.
- Sun and Daylight:
    - The Planning application included PV provision
    - The winter garden skylight gave a parkland outside in feeling
    - Sun pipes provided natural light to the pool hall
    - Sun glare was controlled for balanced light
- Fabric First:
    - High level insulation and air tightness meant the building would retain heat, reducing the use of non-renewables
    - The design was highly planned and provided an excellent place for planting. There was no wasted space.
- Mechanical and Environment Approach:
    - Combined heat and power

- UV disinfection of pool water – minimise chemical input and increased water quality
- Air handling (73%-85% efficiencies) – efficient heat recovery
- LED lighting, occupancy sensors – minimises electrical requirement for lights
- BMS and smart management of facility (over 90% energy metered)
- Drinking fountains/water points at strategic locations – soft water showers to minimise cleaning required.
- Photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation
- Pool ventilation night set back (sleep mode when pool not in use)
- Inverter driven speed controls to fans and pumps
- High efficiency gas fired boilers
- Controls zoning, set point and time clock controls (tailored to match when building was being used)
- Low water usage appliances
- Rainwater harvesting for WC flushing

Mr Martin Fry stated the build looked challenging. Jason Crozier, Wates Construction stated the centre would be opening in January 2020, with a soft opening in spring 2019. The Communities Project Lead said the plans were uploaded onto the Borough's planning portal to be viewed. The team were working with users and clubs to develop the design and they would be going back to them for any final amendments. Andrew Stevens. Wates Construction confirmed that solar panels would be installed on the roof on the right hand side. Discussions were ongoing regarding how many panels would be installed due to the availability of funding. The roof would be slightly pitched. Richard Clayton, Architect for the project, stated the panels would not cover the whole roof due to the ventilation vents that were required.

The Chairman stated she liked the use of sun pipes to let light in. The architect of the project confirmed it was useful to have multiple points of light coming in as it reduced glare and made areas light while reducing energy costs. The Chairman stated it was reassuring to know all aspects of sustainability were being thoroughly looked into. Councillor Yong said the project sounded amazing and she was looking forward to seeing some of the features when they are introduced.

TOWN HALL BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (BMS) UPGRADE

Simon from Aztec Controls gave a brief update on how the Town Hall BMS was progressing. The main points of his update included:

- The project was started by replacing various BMS control panels with Trend IQ4 type controls.
- The new system would be able to speak to any system in almost any language.
- The BMS could be used to monitor energy metering.
- Monitoring could take place from any PC within the RBWM network.
- The timer and temperatures could be adjusted.
- The system showed what the pumps were doing and would also show up any faults.
- The system calculated positions of valves, so the building was not always heated to the maximum which would save on energy and costs.
- Temperatures in different zones could be customised.
- Time scheduling was easily set and the system could schedule special events. Each zone could be individually programmed so that the whole building did not have to be running.

- The system would work based on outside and internal temperatures so it would heat to the correct temperature.

Simon confirmed that it was possible to set a one-time event for each area within the Town Hall as well as having the usual settings in place. The settings could be customised to individual needs to work for evening meetings when just one room needed to be heated. It would also be possible to add other buildings such as the Guildhall to the system and that would work across the ethernet. He added that door entry systems, alarm systems and vending machines could be added as the system used so many languages, it could convert them all into one language so systems could communicate with each other.

Councillor Yong enquired to find out if there could be an educational section in the new leisure centre which showed how the system worked as children would be fascinated with the technology. Simon responded that there could be a large dashboard screen in a public area which showed all the savings and how much energy had been made through the solar panels.

Councillor Sharp asked if the system would know if someone had moved from one room to the other and if there were any overwrite options for the settings. Simon confirmed that the new system took over the existing system so it would not really be able to do that. The system was split into four zones but there were no drawings that showed how mechanically the system was mapped out. In warmer weather, he would switch all but one zone off to map the system and would then be able to work out how the system could manage. Councillor Sharp suggested installing an override switch which would help to move zones as it was not always possible to programme in advance. Simon confirmed it was possible to do that. Temperatures were easily set by clicking on the floor map and then clicking on the individual temperature for the area required and typing the value wanted. Simon stated the air conditioning could also be controlled by zone and if the internet went down, the separate primary systems talked to each other on a separate network and each control panel had a touch screen that could change the heating etc. on the primary system. The Energy Manager said that as facilities set up rooms for meetings, they should be trained in working the system so that evening meetings could be programmed in..

At the end of the item, the Chairman agreed for a local resident to address the panel to talk about water fountains and reducing the amount of single use plastics, such as plastic bottles, in the borough.

The resident introduced herself as Laxmi and stated she lived in the Marlow Road area. She stated she walked through town and regularly saw a build-up of single use plastics, plastic bottles etc. that were disposed of around town; the build-up was worse at weekends and the Borough spent a lot on recycling.

Laxmi requested the Borough install a fountain on the High Street in Maidenhead near the Wilkinson's so that people did not have to buy bottled water; it would help the Council and tax payers save money on recycling costs. Laxmi said she had read a lot of data on reducing single use plastics and requested the reduction of the use of plastic cups at council meetings. She wished everyone could do something about it and she was happy to help..

Councillor Sharp stated the Borough should ask Thames Water to introduce a water fountain in the Borough. Councillor Werner said there were water fountains installed in

a nearby park and it was very well used. The Chairman suggested that fountains should be designed so that bottles could be refilled, not just so people could drink straight from them.

Councillor Sharp stated the Borough should be setting an example and paper cups used in meetings were a very acceptable recyclable option. The Energy Manager said the government's new 25 year environmental plan states that a network of refillable points is going to be formed all over the country and a number of cities had already started rolling out the scheme. The Energy Manager suggested the Maidenhead Town Manager could send details to local businesses to try and garner local support for a potential refill scheme. Councillor Sharp suggested getting residents groups to help the Council with the idea of having a refill network, to help persuade local businesses to allow people to refill their empty bottles with water for free.

- **Action –** The Chairman requested the Democratic Services Manager to ask the external caterer to provide paper cups instead of plastic cups.

ENERGY REDUCTION MANAGER UPDATE

The Energy Manager gave a brief update to the Panel. The main key points were:

- The Energy Manager's focus from April 2018 was on the Energy & Water Strategy 2018-2022
- The four topics within the strategy were listed in paragraph 11.2 on page 15 of the agenda pack
- Page 19 of the agenda pack showed a break-down of topics into actions which formed the backbone of the Strategy
- All work should fall within the actions of the Strategy.

The Chairman requested more information on the business scope supporting role. The Energy Manager confirmed that it included offering the Energy Switch to Save Scheme to businesses or offering energy efficiency advice.

The Chairman said she liked the site targets. The Energy Manager confirmed the work carried out to finish metering all premises the Borough had, had been completed. Councillor Sharp stated he wanted to see how well the Council was doing in terms of energy efficiency at every meeting. The Chairman requested up to date figures on the Council's solar panels be displayed on the screens in libraries. Councillor Sharp commented the screens should be linked with the new BMS system and should show real time figures. That would give residents an incentive to reduce energy at home. The Council should lead by example/ the Chairman stated the displays should be moved from reception to the library as the reception area of the Town Hall did not receive many visitors since most Council services had moved over to Maidenhead Library. The Energy Manager confirmed the solar panels were not linked to the BMS yet but he could look at arranging that. Councillor Sharp stated the new BMS should be publicised as the Energy Manager had done a very good job.

- **Action –** The Energy Manager to provide a monthly update on energy efficiency of Council buildings at every meeting.

The Energy Manager gave Members a brief update on the BMS and explained that the system was up and running and he was now working through a snagging list. The BMS had picked up faults which were being fixed. Further projects had been identified

through BMS such as work on the chiller and upgrading the pumps. He was looking at putting sub metering onto the BMS for monitoring purposes. He added that the LED lighting project had been completed within the Town Hall.

Councillor Sharp stated every time the Borough changed a street light over to LED, that should reduce the electric bill. Therefore, he wanted to know how much the electricity bill had been reduced by. He added that residents should be able to see how much energy the Council is saving. The Energy Manager confirmed that residents could see the half hourly energy consumption online.

The Energy Manager gave a brief update on the Energy Switch to Save Scheme next and explained that he had received the highest number of registrants overall and switchers expected to save up to £9,000 per year collectively. An estimated £20,000 had been saved for residents since the scheme had started.

Councillor Sharp stated the savings and the scheme should be well publicised. The Energy Manager confirmed that he would be publicising the scheme more through the Around the Royal Borough publication. Councillor Yong stated Radian Housing were trying to run a similar scheme so she had told them about the Switch to Save Scheme the Council had been running. Radian had huge housing stock with some less well-off residents; the Council could help with switching those residents and that would help the most vulnerable people with saving money on their energy costs. The energy Manager confirmed he would make contact with Radian Housing to see if there was any way of helping their residents. The Energy Manager added that he was proposing the next scheme in October 2018 to allow enough time to build up interest in the scheme.

The Panel noted that the Energy Manager had delayed the School Energy Saving Competition till early summer 2018. He had contacted schools and was awaiting responses; he was hoping to get enough schools to run the competition.

The Panel noted the work programme which was listed in paragraph 11.18 of the agenda pack. The Chairman stated she would like an update at the next meeting on the performance of the volumisers being installed on the ground floor of the Town Hall to help reduce water consumption, at the next meeting.

DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Panel noted the next meeting of the Sustainability Panel was due to be held on 8 March 2018.

The meeting, which began at 7.00 pm, finished at 8.55 pm

CHAIRMAN…….

DATE…….....