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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Environment, Culture, Tourism & Planning Working Party

Date: Thursday, 6th January, 2022

Place: MS Teams

Present: Councillor C Mulroney (Chair)
Councillors A Bright, D Garston, S George, K Mitchell and
S Wakefield

In Attendance: Councillors B Hooper, A Line, N Ward and P Wexham
A Eastgate, S Dolling, J Gay, J Burr and R Harris

Start/End Time: 6.00 - 7.45 pm

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jarvis (no substitute).

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

3 Notice of Motion: Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Council, concerning the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet be recommended to note the Notice of Motion and formally and publicly support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill and inform the local media of this decision, in conjunction with the decision to join UK100.

2. That Cabinet be recommended to agree that officers liaise with Southend's key stakeholders requesting their public support for the CEE Bill.

3. That Cabinet be recommended to write to the CEE Bill Alliance to formally confirm that the Council fully supports the Bill.

4 Notice of Motion - Going Green

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Council concerning the Southend Going Green Grant Scheme.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

The Working Party generally supported the principle to establish a Going Green grant scheme, subject to clarification on resources and finalising the scope of the scheme. Councillors also discussed how the proposed £85,000 would be allocated and expressed a preference for a single pot that community groups can apply to for schemes across the Borough and not to split the grant funding equally between the 17 wards.

Resolved:

That Cabinet be recommended to note the Notice of Motion and approve in principle the creation of a Southend Going Green Grant Scheme to enable the Council to work with local organisations on local green initiatives and the allocation of £85,000 to the scheme, subject to a further report to be considered by the Working Party which sets out the final scope, application criteria and resources.

5 Notice of Motion - Jet Skis

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Adults and Communities) responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Council, concerning the licensing of Personal Water Craft (PWCs) and Jet Skis.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. The Working Party noted that the licensing and the anti-social behaviour associated with some uses of PWCs was a national problem.

It was noted that there had so far been no progress on the Private Members Bill.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet be recommended to note the Notice of Motion.
2. That Cabinet be recommended to request officers write to Hywel Williams MP for Arfon and the two local MPs (Southend West and Rochford and Southend East) setting out this Council's support for the proposed parliamentary bill calling for greater controls of Personal Water Craft.
3. That, in the event that the current Bill is not being pursued, the local MPs be requested to promote such legislation in consultation with other coastal MPs.

6 Notice of Motion - Use of Glyphosate in Parks and Open Spaces

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Council, concerning the banning on the use of glyphosate in the Borough's parks and open spaces.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

The Working Party welcomed and noted that £120,000 has been allocated to investigate alternative methods for the control of unwanted vegetation. It was noted that there were currently no suitable alternatives to the use of glyphosate at this present time for invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet be recommended to note the Notice of Motion.
2. That Cabinet be recommended to note that alternative methods for the control of unwanted vegetation were being investigated by officers and that further recommendations will be presented once the proposals are fully developed. Any changes will need to be considered as part of future budget setting.

7 Notice of Motion - Net Zero and UK100

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Council concerning Net Zero emissions and joining UK100.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet be recommended to note the Notice of Motion and approve that the Council joins UK100 and reaffirms its pledge towards Net Zero emissions by 2030. The link to the UK100 website will be provided to all Councillors.

8 Notice of Motion - Bee Bus Stops and Green Roofs

The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Council concerning bee bus stops and green roofs.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. Councillors suggested that further work was needed as the report did not fully address the proposals set out in the Notice of Motion.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet be recommended to note the Notice of Motion and that a further report will be presented to the Environment, Culture, Tourism and Planning Working Party covering the wider aspects of the Notice of Motion.
The Working Party considered a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) responding to the Notice of Motion referred by Council concerning bee bus stops and green roofs.

The Working Party asked a number of questions which were responded to by officers. Councillors suggested that further work was needed as the report did not fully address the proposals set out in the Notice of Motion.

Resolved:

That Cabinet be recommended to note the Notice of Motion and that a further report will be presented to the Environment, Culture, Tourism and Planning Working Party covering the wider aspects of the Notice of Motion.

Chair: _____