



MINUTES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday 17 March 2021 TIME: 10.00 am

VENUE: Virtual Meeting - Web ex meeting

Present:

Cllr Phil Awford	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Cllr Brian Robinson
Cllr Matt Babbage	Cllr Colin Hay	Cllr Steve Robinson
Cllr Robert Bird	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Cllr Rachel Smith
Cllr Richard Boyles	Cllr Stephen Hirst	Cllr Vernon Smith
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Cllr Lynden Stowe
Cllr Chris Coleman	Cllr Carole Allaway Martin	Cllr Klara Sudbury
Cllr Dr John Cordwell	Cllr Dr Andrew Miller	Cllr Ray Theodoulou (Chairman)
Cllr Kevin Cromwell	Cllr Patrick Molyneux	Cllr Brian Tipper
Cllr Stephen Davies	Cllr Nigel Moor	Cllr Pam Tracey MBE
Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr David Norman MBE	Cllr Robert Vines
Cllr Ben Evans	Cllr Brian Oosthuysen	Cllr Simon Wheeler
Cllr Bernard Fisher	Cllr Shaun Parsons	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Andrew Gravells MBE	Cllr Sajid Patel	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE
Cllr Kate Haigh	Cllr Loraine Patrick	Cllr Suzanne Williams
Cllr Terry Hale	Cllr John Payne	Cllr Will Windsor-Clive
Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr Alan Preest (Vice- Chair)	
Cllr Joe Harris	Cllr Nigel Robbins OBE	

Apologies: Cllr Graham Morgan, Cllr Keith Rippington and Cllr Eva Ward
Honorary Aldermen Bill Crowther, Terence Parker, Gordon Shurmer

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2021 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) staff and colleagues at the NHS for continuing to provide services to County residents during the Covid-19 pandemic. He also passed on his condolences to the family and friends of those

who had sadly succumbed to the virus, including those of current and former members of GCC staff.

a) Virtual meeting protocol

Simon Harper, Head of Democratic Services, explained the virtual meeting protocol for the meeting and provided guidance on how to use the WebEx remote meeting software.

b) Election 21

The Chairman thanked those members who would be standing down at the May 2021 election, and wished those members standing for re-election the best of luck.

Group Leaders thanked those members of their group who would be standing down at the election.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne in particular made special mention of Cllr Ray Theodoulou, who would be stepping down after 20 years on the Council, during which he served as Cabinet Member for Finance between 2005 and 2019, as well as Cllr Nigel Moor, who was currently serving as Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning.

He also thanked Cllr John Payne of the People Against Bureaucracy Group, who would not be seeking re-election, for his service.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson thanked Cllr John Cordwell in particular, who would be standing down in May after 40 years of uninterrupted service, which included serving as Chairman of Council, as a Cabinet member, and as chair of numerous committees.

Cllr Lesley Williams recognised the work Cllrs Kate Haigh and Brian Oosthuysen of the Labour group who would be stepping down.

Cllr Rachel Smith, who would be stepping down in May, stated that it had been a privilege to serve as a councillor for the last four years, and paid tribute to Cllr Eva Ward who would also be stepping down.

Cllrs John Cordwell and John Payne also spoke of the privilege it had been to serve as councillor for the County.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Thirty seven public questions had been submitted prior to the meeting. The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 3 – Alick Miskin asked the Council to pay attention to LTN1/20 section 444 paragraph 3 outlining the government's intention to get people involved in

active travel. He asked for assurances that the TRO team were ready to act on those suggestions.

Cllr Vernon Smith responded that he would personally ensure that the team were considering that part of the legislation.

Question 4 – Steve Gower raised concerns regarding independent scrutiny of those participating in the Housing First Project. He asked for assurances around how there would be oversight of this work.

Cllr Kathy Williams would provide a written response.

Question 5 – Peter Wormington stated that there were lots of volunteers keen to help the Council implement active travel but needed support and guidance. He asked whether a solution could be put in place such as the Stroud Cycling Forum.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that each councillor had £30,000 to work on highways issues and could work with the community to bring those to fruition.

Question 6 – Peter Wormington asked a question regarding the importance of maintaining streets and roads to keep traffic flowing.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that this was recognised and work had been carried out with schools across the County to ensure that the roads and streets around them were maintained appropriately.

Question 12 – Molly Scott Cato asked what responsibility the Council had to ensure there was proper school provision in communities as well as alternative provision and queried the use of the land at Severn View School in the future.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux replied that the member of the public would be welcome to email himself and officers for a more detailed response. The land in question was leased to the trust so if there was no future for a school at that site, the land would come back to the council. In conjunction with the community there would be discussion as to what would happen to that land. The responsibility was for provision for every child in the county and the Member outlined that the Council wanted to deliver the best possible education for children close to where they live.

Question 13 – Nigel Adcock asked why Britannia Way in Woodmancote had been resurfaced when other areas were more in need?

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that the team worked to the Transport Asset Management Plan looking at how we move forward and get the best value for money in the work carried out. He also detailed the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Plan, noting that the documents were available online.

Question 14 – Nigel Adcock stated he had reported a number of areas of pavement deterioration. He had not received a response and specifically mentioned the corner

of Harvey's Lane, which stretched for around 20 metres. He had been contacting the Council for twelve months with no response.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that they were keen to hear from members of the public. He asked the member of the public to email him and he would get the highways manager to get in touch with him.

Question 15 – Nigel Adcock asked how realistic the figure on highways spend being advertised was and how much had already been spent and how much might still be available for small schemes.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that £150m is a five year programme and major resurfacing was included. Resurfacing was the way to reduce defects on the network.

Question 16 - Chloe Turner referred to the County Council's investments and noted that other major investments had moved away from a strategy of investing in Fossil Fuel companies. She asked if the Council should take more of a leadership role on this.

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that fund managers had a remit and there were expectations on their performance to ensure the Council could make their pension payments. Investments needed to be made. The Council was able to have a dialogue with fossil fuel companies and encourage progress. He suggested that some of the companies would have different business models over the next few years. The Council could take this active role through the Brunel Pension Partnership.

Question 17 - Chloe Turner stated that the Highways and Biodiversity document was excellent. She asked how it was measured and could the Member point to areas of improvement. She also asked if the Council would promote 'NoMowMay?'

Cllr Vernon Smith replied safety measures meant that some cutting needed to be made. Whenever possible they worked with the biodiversity programme.

Question 22 – Penny Kent asked how the County Council felt about a 25 year lifetime of carbon emissions from Javelin Park, with the total amount of carbon emitted being underestimated. She asked how this would affect the pledge for Gloucestershire to become a carbon neutral county by 2035.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that Javelin Park was part of a balanced approach alongside the recycling of more waste material. He had confidence that the savings from waste not going into landfill would be significant.

Question 25 – David Willingham expressed concern that the Council's online Public Rights of Way mapping had incorrectly advised on the location of a footpath and this had led to incorrect advice and delays in the planning process. He asked if the Council would reimburse the costs caused by this error.

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Cllr Vernon Smith asked that the member of the public email in the question due to part of the question being unheard as a result of a technical issue. He would then provide a written response.

Question 28 – David Willingham asked if the written answer to his question would have been different if the question had come from a county councillor. He clarified that he was looking to have a timeline for the highways work at Tennyson Road.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that the Council worked according to the Asset Transport Management Plan to work out when to intervene.

Question 33 – Alan Mossman stated his concerns regarding toxic particle emissions from cars and trucks and stated that this still came from tyres and brakes and would continue from electric vehicles. What would the Council do aside from electric vehicles to combat this and ensure good health outcomes for young children?

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that the Council had been encouraging the take up of electric vehicles and had put in place dedicated cycling routes as well as investing in public transport. There was a robust plan in place. He also stated that sometimes increasing road capacity was about ensuring safety.

Question 34 – Alan Mossman asked if there would be a supplementary technical third part review of LTN 1/20?

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that this was an exciting scheme and officers were fully aware of the policy and understood it.

Question 35 – Alan Mossman asked what was the procedure for resolving conflicting requirements between DfT Circular for setting Local Speed Limits and LTN1/20.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied a detailed response would be provided.

5. CORPORATE PARENTING

Cllr Richard Boyles, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, presented the Corporate Parenting report.

It was understood that the appointment of 7 members as Corporate Parenting champions would take place following the election in May.

6. PETITIONS

No petitions were presented by members.

7. MOTIONS

Motion 870 – Equalities

Cllr Lesley Williams proposed and Cllr Kate Haigh seconded the motion included on the agenda.

Cllr L Williams informed the meeting that she was aware that the council was committed to do everything it could to create a diverse workforce. She informed members that a diverse workforce brought new ideas and experiences; would help inform on the needs of all residents of Gloucestershire; and, help the wider workforce better understand other cultures. She stated that a diverse workforce would also help to reduce unconscious bias.

She stated that by adopting the Rooney Rule, whereby ethnic minority candidates with suitable qualifications were always listed and interviewed when middle and senior management vacancies occur, the council would be setting an example of good practice.

Some members stated that the council maintained an equitable recruitment process, which met the requirements of the Equality Act (2010) with regard to protected characteristics. It was stated that the staff survey would highlight any issues; and that the council already undertook the equality audits that the motion was requesting.

Other members stated that as an institution funded by the public it was important that the workforce represented the communities it served. It was stated that the council's senior leadership was not representative. It was commented that the motion did not address the barriers faced by many people from ethnic minorities when considering applying for posts. It was also stated that it was important to consider how due regard statements were used.

It was stated that whilst recognising the spirit in which the motion was proposed there were concerns with regard to the legality of what was proposed. Cllr Lynden Stowe therefore proposed a motion without notice under standing order 11.1.13 to refer the motion to the Equalities Working Group. The motion without notice was seconded by Cllr Mark Hawthorne.

Cllr Stowe stated that the council had a legal and moral duty to protect against any discrimination of a protected characteristic; this was a fundamental issue. He stated that it would be important to understand the legal position of the Rooney Rule; from one perspective it could be seen as illegal positive discrimination rather than legal positive action. It would also be important to ensure that this rule did not adversely impact any of the other protected characteristics.

Cllr Haigh and Cllr L Williams agreed to accept the motion without notice.

Cllr Haigh stated that whilst agreeing to accept the motion without notice this working group had not yet met and stated that it should do so as soon as possible in the new council to progress this important issue. This was a small step which did not make the council do anything other than consider its position on employment issues.

Having received unanimous support the motion without notice was carried.

RESOLVED that under standing order 11.1.13, motions without notice, Motion 870 'Equalities' be referred to the Equalities Working Group.

Motion 871 – Special Schools

Cllr Patrick Molyneux proposed and Cllr Richard Boyles seconded the motion included on the agenda.

Cllr Molyneux stated that we were lucky to have such excellent schools in Gloucestershire. As the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education and Skills he had been proud to deliver the £100m investment in our schools. There were 1300 children and young people in 10 special schools; for some children being placed in a mainstream education setting was not a suitable option, special schools could make a significant difference. He stated that the £100m would include the delivery of a new special school and allow expansion at others.

He stated that he did not support a one size fits all approach, and it was important to listen to parents who knew their children's needs. He informed the meeting that this had not always been the process followed by this council. Previously councillors had thought that they knew best and had proposed to close two special schools; when the Conservatives took control of this council in 2005 they adopted a new approach to education in this county and scrapped these plans.

He stated that he wanted this council to be able to say that it supported our special schools and that it regretted the previous stance of this council.

Cllr Richard Boyles, seconder of the motion, stated that it was important to reflect on the possible impact of the decisions that were stopped in 2005; how short sighted they were. The value of bespoke support to children and young people could not be underestimated. Parents knew their children well, and that one size did not fit all. He stated that it was important to set this within the context of an increasing number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP), and that it was important to ensure that there were a sufficient number of places for children and young people with SEND.

Some members shared their personal experiences of special school provision; that some children with SEND would not flourish in a mainstream setting; and that parents knew their children best. They also indicated that they supported the initiatives that had been progressed under the Conservative Administration.

A member stated that it was beyond disappointing that the current Administration would drag up an issue from two decades ago and use it for political gain. It was the Conservatives that had starved the system of funding, driving the council into special measures, leaving children at risk. They could not support a motion that was cynically using children with SEND for political gain. They stated that the Liberal Democrat Group would be abstaining from this motion, and that the motion should be withdrawn.

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Cllr Kate Haigh proposed a motion without notice under standing order 11.1.13 to withdraw this motion. Cllr L Williams seconded the motion without notice. Cllr Haigh stated that she thought it unedifying to see the manner in which members were conducting themselves, and that the motion was in poor taste and should be withdrawn. She was of the view that this motion would not achieve anything.

In his right of reply Cllr Molyneux stated that the motion was not intended to be political. He believed that education was one of the most fundamental aspects of this council and that children should be at the forefront of everything this council did.

On being put to the vote the motion without notice was lost.

Returning to the substantive motion the meeting some members talked of their personal (family) experience of special schools; their wish that families with children who have SEND were not put in difficult, stressful situations; and, their activity to prevent the closure of special schools. It was stated that these schools were appreciated by parents.

Other members called into question the statement that we should be proud of all the schools given that many had failed over the previous years; the current Administration had not created a level playing field for all schools. It was stated that the funding mentioned related to capital not revenue, it was revenue that was required to support the increasing number of EHCPs. It was also stated that the rate of permanent exclusions in Gloucestershire remained high.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED

That this Council notes the significant investment into special schools in this year's capital budget, including Alderman Knight in Tewkesbury, and Belmont and Battledown in Cheltenham.

This Council further notes the extremely valuable role these schools play in supporting some of the most vulnerable children in our communities, apologises for the misguided actions of previous councils in seeking their closure, and commits to protect them in future.

Motion 872 – Response to Covid-19 pandemic

Cllr Andrew Gravells proposed and Cllr Carole Allaway Martin seconded the motion included on the agenda.

Cllr Gravells informed the meeting that he was happy to accept the friendly amendment from the Liberal Democrat Group: -

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

This Council puts on record its thanks to the NHS teams leading on vaccination in this county, and to the firefighters, other council staff and volunteers who support them, for their exceptional work in delivering the vaccine across our county.

This Council also notes the exceptional efforts throughout the last year of GCC staff in public health, social care and across the council, who have risen to the challenge of supporting our county at this most difficult time.

Given the extraordinary lengths NHS staff went to in tackling this pandemic, this Council resolves to call on the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressing the council's view that he should follow the recommendations given by the NHS pay review body.

Cllr Gravells stated that the short time frame to reach the point where there was a vaccine available was remarkable, as was the rollout of the vaccine. What has been achieved in Gloucestershire was remarkable; this week it was planned to deliver 55,000 vaccinations. He stated that it was important to recognise, and say thank you for, the hard work of the GPs, the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and the council's own Public Health Team. He informed the meeting that he thought that Edward Jenner would have been proud to see how his work had benefitted people.

Cllr Allaway Martin stated that this had been a tough year for everyone; people had been kept apart from their families. This period had reminded us of how precious our health and community services were to us. She praised the dedication of all involved in the response to the pandemic. She stated that the work of Oxford University was exemplary. It was important to recognise the work of the GPs in the Primary Care Networks in the county, and all the staff and volunteers who have made the rollout such a success. She encouraged everyone to have the vaccine; it was safe.

Cllr Hodgkinson thanked Cllr Gravells for accepting the friendly amendment to the motion. He stated that it was right to take a moment to thank the NHS and all the council staff, particularly the Public Health team, who have been so challenged. The NHS had been tested like never before, and only survived because staff had pushed themselves through the stress. It was important to remember that hundreds of front line staff had died of Covid-19.

Cllr Hodgkinson stated that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had proposed only a 1% pay rise for NHS staff. The NHS Pay Review Body would decide in May 2021 on a proposed pay rise and it would be right that the government listened to and acted on the recommendation from that body.

Members shared their personal experiences of living through the pandemic stated their thanks to both the local and national NHS, and other emergency services. Children's Services and GFRS officers were also thanked for their work during this challenging time.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

RESOLVED

THAT This Council puts on record its thanks to the NHS teams leading on vaccination in this county, and to the firefighters, other council staff and volunteers who support them, for their exceptional work in delivering the vaccine across our county.

This Council also notes the exceptional efforts throughout the last year of GCC staff in public health, social care and across the council, who have risen to the challenge of supporting our county at this most difficult time.

Given the extraordinary lengths NHS staff went to in tackling this pandemic, this Council resolves to call on the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressing the council's view that he should follow the recommendations given by the NHS pay review body.

Motion 873 – Social care funding

Cllr Iain Dobie proposed and Cllr Jeremy Hilton seconded the motion included on the agenda.

Cllr Dobie stated that Adult Social Care was a key service. The associated costs were significant and that it was time that this government took action to redress the consistent under-funding of this service. Adult Social Care needed to be put on a level footing. Cllr Dobie referred to the findings of the Dilnot Commission published in July 2011. The crisis in funding faced by this council was only going to deepen; the time to act was now.

Cllr Hilton stated that the financial impact on the council was unsustainable in the long term, and it was not clear how we could carry on providing the necessary level of support in the long term. Government was not providing the funding needed, and it was not appropriate for the council tax payer to continue to cover the cost. There was the potential for the council to run out of money to cover its statutory duties.

A member stated that whilst they had some sympathy that they could not support this motion. It was important to reflect that the government had had different priorities over the last 12 months so it was understandable that a paper had not been brought forward. It was important to have consensus on what the right answer was otherwise there could be repercussions for this council and some of the most vulnerable people in society. It would be important to have a solution that works for everyone.

A member disagreed with this statement stating that we had been waiting years for the government to provide a paper; we had waited long enough for this. It was important not to forget the 'graph of doom' with regard to adult social care funding. People in care homes had suffered disproportionately because of the lack of investment.

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Cllr Dobie stated that people would be caught out by this cruel lottery. A recent report from the Health Select Committee had indicated that the system was at risk of collapse. This was a worrying issue for this council, and for social care providers and staff.

On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

The council broke for lunch reconvening at 14:05.

8. MEMBER QUESTIONS

Forty One member questions had been received. The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 1 – Cllr Shaun Parsons asked if the cumulative impact of expansion of quarries and specifically HGV movements should be a material consideration in any decision making. How would the County Council ensure this would happen in future?

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that he did agree with the point raised by the member and this would be adopted in the Minerals Local Plan.

Question 2 - Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated, with regards to A429 Fosse Way, that residents had complained about the way the trees had been felled and the mess that had been left in certain places. He asked, how would that mess be cleared away and when?

Cllr Nigel Moor advised that they had received expert advice that had told the Council to leave the material for natural regeneration.

Question 3 – Cllr Andrew Miller asked if the member agreed that there was nothing more important than education for young people and would he join him in wishing Tuffley Primary School success in raising aspirations.

Cllr Patrick Molyneux replied that he fully agreed with the member and education was at the heart of everything.

Question 4 – Cllr Andrew Miller informed the member that there had been further highways improvements at Robinswood Gardens and Ashmore Close and looked forward to further improvements in the next council.

Cllr Vernon Smith replied that so much significant highways work had been undertaken.

Question 6 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson questioned the Leader's response to his question asking how directors moving to the same job or facing legal prosecution equated to moving on to 'bigger and better things'. He expressed concerned about the 100% loss of senior directors over the four year period.

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Cllr Mark Hawthorne explained a number of officers promoted to more senior roles demonstrated the quality in the organisation. He stated that Gloucestershire County Council officers were well regarded elsewhere and offered jobs on that basis and he alluded to high staff turnover in other organisations.

Question 7 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked if having such a high turnover of senior positions in four years was a disaster. He asked what was wrong with the senior leadership at the Council?

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that many of those senior officers had had long tenures at Gloucestershire County Council and he detailed the quality of recruitment into those senior roles.

Question 8 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked how many trees had been planted in 18 months and how many needed to be planted to hit the 35 million target by 2030.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that a figure had been provided in the answer to the question. An ambitious programme was being put together and more information would be available as it came to fruition.

Question 9 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked how the member would know if they had met the tree planting target.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that a daily count was not taken but that figures would be available at a later date.

Question 12 – Cllr Rachel Smith asked if the Council was including a requirement for Electric Vehicles for all parking, highways, and pool cars to be electric as well as using them for school transport?

Cllr Nigel Moor replied this was being carried out on a case-by-case basis and as technology was available.

Question 15 – Cllr Rachel Smith stated concerns that the Council was not carrying out financial checks on some contractors and were heavily reliant on commissioned services. Was the Cabinet Member comfortable with that level of risk?

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that he had trust in the management team to evaluate risk and challenge where appropriate. This was an area that was being looked at in terms of implementing any outstanding actions from the Open Contracting Task Group.

Question 23 – Cllr Rachel Smith expressed concern that a climate emergency was declared but that the action plan was still including actions that were delayed. She asked whether the Cabinet Member understood the emergency and asked how the plan was compatible with an emergency.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that the report to Cabinet showed a great deal of progress and immediate action. He asked the member to read that report.

Question 27 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton asked when the Council was going to get tougher in dealing with Allstone.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that he would provide a response.

Question 28 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton asked for a date for the start of the consultation with the residents for the parking review.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that a written response would be provided.

Question 29 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton referred to a reduction of the highways local budget and asked how that would help footway repairs in local areas.

Cllr Vernon Smith stated that the highways budget had been increased.

Question 33 – Cllr Colin Hay asked whether the Cabinet Member would support a local enquiry into what happened in care homes with regards to Covid-19.

Cllr Kathy Williams replied that Covid-19 was still prevalent and this call for an enquiry was premature. She felt that those in the sector had done their best throughout.

Question 36 – Cllr Colin Hay asked which cabinet members were responsible for the overall risk register and the specific risk in terms of the pandemic.

Cllr Lynden Stowe replied that he would speak to the Monitoring Officer before giving a response.

Question 37 – Cllr Colin Hay asked whether a local enquiry would help draw out the lessons learned from Covid-19.

Cllr Tim Harman replied that Gloucestershire would play its part in a national enquiry at the right time.

Question 38 – Cllr Kate Haigh asked whether the leader agreed that it was the responsibility of councillors to make sure those from diverse backgrounds were welcome in standing for office. What would be put in place for the new Council?

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that parties had a huge responsibility to encourage a more diverse pool of candidates. He outlined the work he had personally done in this area.

Question 39 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked what progress had been made on a parking review and greater enforcement where parking blocks pavements.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that a written response would be provided.

8.1 Scrutiny

Cllr Shaun Parsons, Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, introduced the report which detailed scrutiny activity throughout March 2021.

Cllr Parsons took the opportunity to thank all non-executive members who had participated in scrutiny over the last four years, and highlighted that the Council was deservedly one of the most effective scrutiny authorities in the Country.

Nevertheless, Cllr Parsons recognised that improvements could still be made, and he acknowledged the concerns raised by members particularly regarding the split of health and adult social care scrutiny. He thanked members for contributing to the scrutiny review, which would be taken forward into the new Council for consideration.

Several members thanked Cllr Parsons for his enthusiasm and commitment to scrutiny, as well as for the opportunity to contribute to the review of scrutiny.

In response to a question, Cllr Parsons stated that he supported and felt that there was a continued role for the joint working of scrutiny committees, as well as partnership working amongst organisations in the County.

9. CABINET

9.1 Local Transport Plan

Cllr Nigel Moor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, presented the recommendation from the Cabinet meeting held on 27 January 2021 for Council to approve the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2020-2041.

Members were informed that the revised LTP set out the transport strategy for the County. The LTP demonstrated the commitment to respond to climate change by bringing forward the target to become a net zero county by 2045, and by putting a strong emphasis on active and sustainable transport schemes. There were a total of 152 LTP schemes of which 57 were Active Travel and Health and Wellbeing, 38 were Public Transport, and 57 were Highway schemes. This included vital strategic infrastructure such as the A417 Missing Link and M5 J10.

A public consultation was held on the draft document in early 2020, and the Council responded to feedback by shortening and restructuring the draft LTP.

It was understood that a number of policies and initiatives were already underway, including the development of a strategic outline business case for M5 J9 to allow for the garden town proposal, and securing funding to provide transport services in rural areas.

Cllr Nigel Moor thanked officers for their work in preparing the LTP, and recommended it for approval by the Council.

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One member commented that they felt the LTP was not radical enough to drive down carbon emissions in the County, whilst another expressed the view that the LTP was made up of a repetition of the same schemes.

One member requested a commitment to address the issues relating to accessibility barriers for those with disabilities. Another member asked whether the old railway station at Bristol Road in Stonehouse could be explored as a candidate for a new station between Gloucester and Bristol.

In response to these statements, Cllr Moor reiterated that the LTP provided the overarching framework for bids and was not a bidding document in itself, as well as emphasising the progress that had been made in the past year to address climate change, including cycling schemes.

On being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED

That the Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2020-2041 be adopted.

9.2 Individual Cabinet Member Decision Statements

RESOLVED to note the Individual Cabinet Member Decision Statements for the period 1 February to 28 February 2021.

10. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr Richard Boyles, Chair of the Appointments Committee, presented the recommendation from the meeting held on 5 March 2021 relating to the Pay Policy statement 2021-22.

It was noted that the Council was required to publish a Pay Policy Statement each financial year. The revised statement included an updated list of posts in which the post-holder earns £100k or more and the inclusion of a new section on Travel and Vehicle Provision.

The Committee also discussed the Local Government Pensions Scheme Discretions Policy at its meeting.

RESOLVED to approve the revised Pay Policy Statement 2021-22.

CHAIRPERSON

Meeting concluded at 2.50 pm

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