



# Minutes

## *TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE*

Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 29 May 2018, in Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 12.30 pm.

This meeting was webcast. To review the detailed discussions that took place, please see the webcast which can be found at <http://www.buckscc.public-i.tv/>  
The webcasts are retained on this website for 6 months. Recordings of any previous meetings beyond this can be requested (contact: [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk))

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr S Bowles (Vice-Chairman), Mr N Brown, Mr D Carroll (Chairman), Mr D Dhillon, Mr P Irwin, Mr S Lambert, Ms A Macpherson, Mr P Martin and Mr R Reed and Mr M Shaw

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr M Averill, Mr M Kemp, Mrs R Page, Mr A Swift and Ms K Wager

#### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mrs L Clarke and Mr S Dando.

#### **2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Mr R Reed nominated Mr D Carroll as Chairman. This was seconded by Mrs A Macpherson.

#### **3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman appointed Mr S Bowles as Vice-Chairman.

#### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.



## **5 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **6 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were none.

## **7 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman thanked everyone for working well as a team.

## **8 MUSEUM TRUST**

The Chairman welcomed the following contributors to the meeting to present the report:

- Mr N Brown, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement.
- Mrs R Page, Culture and Leisure Development Manager.
- Mrs S Shave, Museum Director.

Mrs Shave introduced the item and gave an overview of the current areas of focus and developments for the Museum Trust. The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast. The areas highlighted to Members included:

- The Museum Trust were focussing on its self-sustainability, income generation and alternative income streams over the coming years so it would become more independent. This would mean that the Management fee received from the Council would significantly reduce over the next 5 years.
- A Programme of Commercial Development had been developed which included; the registration of the Museum as a wedding venue; an increase in venue hire income; development of further SLA's with other organisations and a focus on school holiday events such as the recent Lego exhibition which was hugely successful.
- Overall visitor numbers had increased, but Members heard that school numbers were lower. Members heard that engagement with schools was an area they were developing. An example of this work was the development of pre-history workshops that were ready to launch.
- There was an increase in donations income from last year at £400, to over £5000 this year.
- Venue hire was up 50% from last year.
- A Community Outreach Officer had just started, who was enhancing community engagement and working with communities to increase awareness and participation.
- A Commercial Manager would be appointed who would be driving forward the income generation work and the sale of venue hire space.

- The Council was thanked for their support and pride in the museum.

Members raised the following areas through their questions and discussion:

- **Museum Resource:** Members acknowledged what a great resource our county museums were. They were told that a recently appointed Marketing Officer would have a significant benefit to boosting further community engagement, participation and awareness of the museums.
- **Accessibility:** Members asked what was being done to support the schools in the South with travelling to the Museum. It was discussed that the museum covered the cost of travel for a few schools and were looking at building a fund for travel and support for more schools. They also heard how Halton Museum Resource Centre, the venue for the prehistory workshops, was an accessible location due to the ability to park coaches there. Members also heard how the Trust was exploring further workshops on different topic areas such as Victorians and Tudors which could be held at different locations across the County.
- **Marketing:** Members asked about digital marketing and donations. They heard that the Trust was working on offering Wi-Fi in its café and making the website more user friendly which was a key area of improvement. Facebook and Twitter were being used widely.
- **Food and beverage offer:** Food and beverage as an income generating option was also discussed. The museum did not have a kitchen which had prevented them from serving hot food but they were exploring the development of their food, beverage and retail offer and the new post of Commercial Manager would help drive this forward.
- **Value for money:** Members asked if the museum was covering its costs. They heard that, costs were covered by the various income generations and funding streams they have and the BCC management fee. They had a good surplus and the Board of Trustees and Board Chairman were currently reviewing and setting their financial targets and accounts.
- Members thanked the contributors for their informative updates and were reassured by their enthusiasm, the areas of development planned and the benefits that the imminent new staff posts would bring.

The Chairman and the Committee thanked the contributors for their informative update and congratulated them on their achievements.

## 9 TFB ANNUAL REVIEW

The Committee thanked Mr M Shaw and his team for their work over the weekend in resolving flooding issues caused by the heavy storms in areas of Buckinghamshire.

The Chairman welcomed the following contributors to the meeting to present the report:

- Mr M Shaw, Cabinet Member for Transportation.

- Mr P Irwin, Deputy Cabinet Member for Transportation.
- Mr M Kemp, Director of Transportation.
- Mr D Stewart, TfB.
- Mr M Averill, Head of Highways, Client.

The Cabinet Member provided an overview of the Transport for Buckinghamshire annual review. The full discussion can be viewed on webcast. The areas highlighted included:

- That Council had invested £120 m from its own budget into the road network.
- The impact of the severe weather over the winter on our road network.
- How the extra £3m received from government was being used to fix potholes and undertake plain and patch work.

Member questions and discussions covered the following areas:

- **Quality and Inspection of repairs:** Members heard that the quality and guarantee of the potholes which were repaired by Velocity were guaranteed by Velocity. The quality was dependent on the weather and the road structures. Quality also depended on whether it was a temporary or permanent repair, for example if a road closure was required, a temporary repair would be carried out in the meantime, in the interests of safety a quick repair would be put in place.
- **Plain and Patch repair:** Members heard that this year the plain and patch programme would enable larger areas to be fixed so that by next year TfB would have caught up with pothole repairs from the destructive winter.
- **Communication Issues:** Members highlighted that access to information on timings of programmes of works was required by Members to manage public expectations. Members were encouraged to speak with their Compliance Officers who had been briefed to address this with their staff to avoid future repeat issues.
- **Grass cutting frequency:** Members raised concern over the number of grass cuts and the time it had taken for some of the first cuts to be completed, e.g. in south of the county. Members heard that there would be 4 cuts completed which were started at the end of April through to October. Rural areas only get one cut a year unless there were exceptional safety circumstances that meant that an area required a further cut. Members were concerned about the safety of footpaths that were over grown and used by school children. TfB advised that they would focus on the school paths if they were reported. The Cabinet Member encouraged Members to feed back their local knowledge of areas that posed safety risks, so that that information could be used to schedule additional cuts where appropriate.
- **Contract management and customer expectations:** Members heard how the contract management team has increased from 1 person 3 years ago, to 5 now providing much more effective contract management. The customer experience would see an improvement due to the Member's portal going live to all Parish Councils in July. Roadshows were being rolled out to the public to encourage engagement and interaction with this portal.
- **Street Lighting:** Members raised concerns about the time it takes to fix defects in street lighting and stumps not being removed. They were told that this is an area of

focus for improvement. Members agreed that they would examine this area further with a detailed agenda item to come back to Committee in September. Members also heard that a new street lighting manger was in post which would help drive improvements.

- **Gulley Cleaning:** Members raised concern over perceived lack of gulley cleaning highlighted by the recent flooding. Members were told that gulleys were being cleared every day and that an additional £125,000 had been approved in Feb which was being used for pipe cleansing. Members heard that the Gully cleaner was not coping with the recent flooding's and TfB were investing in pipe cleaning to ensure that where gulleys were cleared the pipes were also clear. Members confirmed that Gulley Cleansing and maintenance would be on their work programme for the 6<sup>th</sup> November meeting where they would examine this in more detail.
- **Hs2 and investment in roads:** Members raised concern over issues surrounding concrete roads around the County and their poor conditions as well as the lack of clarity on HS2 and any deals agreed with them to mitigate the impact of their freight on the County's roads. Members were told that there were no actual deals in place about what HS2 were doing at present.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and his team for their update and confirmed that areas of Street Lighting and Gulley Cleaning would be examined in detail in upcoming meetings.

## 10 DRAFT FREIGHT STRATEGY

The Chairman welcomed Mr A Swift to the meeting and commended him on his great work on the Strategy.

Mr P Irwin provided an overview which included:

- The need for a holistic strategy which balanced the needs of the economy with those of the environment and communities. The new strategy was a long term and would evolve.
- Funding had been received to appoint an officer to deliver and implement the strategy. This role and a dedicated budget allocated would mean that BCC would be prepared and on the front foot in its planning for this.
- It was predicted that the amount of LGVs would double by 2040.
- A Members briefing was to be held on the 27<sup>nd</sup> June.
- TfB had a dedicated Parish Liaison Officer working hand in hand with HS2.
- The draft Freight Strategy had been acknowledged for its vision and simplicity.

Areas raised through Member questions and discussion included:

- **The use of S106 contributions to mitigate the impact of HGVs from developments on the road network:** Members were told that the Highways Development Management Team was looking at this and a new guidance document was being produced.
- **How we were working with neighbouring authorities.** Members were told that the Council had consulted with neighbouring authorities and had addressed cross county

movement within the strategy. They also heard that the team were commissioning modelling work to look at the impacts of cross county movements with HGV flow.

- **Governance:** Members asked whether the key decision should be taken by Cabinet as a whole rather than the Cabinet Member. The Cabinet Member told Members that he was confident that an open governance process had been followed and that a Member briefing would be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June to ensure all Members were aware.
- **Engagement with HS2:** Members asked how this work would link with the HS2 team. Members were told that the new Liaison Officer post would work directly with the HS2 team to address issues of HGVs resulting from HS2 to help mitigate impacts on communities and businesses. The HS2 team had been involved in addressing this issue within the strategy development.

The Chairman thanked all involved for their report and feedback.

## **11 SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY PROPOSAL**

The Committee agreed that they would like to examine the topic of street lighting within the formal committee meetings as a detailed agenda item.

## **12 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

Members agreed Street Lighting and Gulley Cleaning as future detailed agenda items. Ms K Wager to develop these items.

Members agreed they would send any further suggestions to Ms K Wager.

## **13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July at 10:00 in Mezzanine Room 1.

**CHAIRMAN**