

Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 15th October, 2018.

Present: Cllr Derrick Brown (Chairman), Cllr Paul Weston (Sub for Cllr Sonia Bailey) (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE

Officers: Iain Robinson, Graham Clingan (EGD), Craig Willows, Edward Tannahill, Dale Rowbotham (CFA), Gary Woods, Marianne Sleeman (DCE)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Sonia Bailey

PLA 36/18 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

PLA 37/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

PLA 38/18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th September 2018

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2018.

In relation to PLA 31/18 (Scrutiny Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group), it was noted that Cabinet will not now be considering the Committee's final report in October 2018, and that Thirteen will be invited to a future Committee meeting to discuss recent developments.

AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendments:

- Attendance: Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley and Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE be removed from the 'Present' list as they were not in attendance at the September 2018 meeting.
- PLA 29/18: Cllr Paul Weston's declaration of interest be amended to 'personal prejudicial', and reference to him being an ex-employee be amended to 'employee'.
- PLA 36/18: To be removed (duplication of PLA 28/18).

PLA 39/18 Scrutiny Review of River-Based Economy

As referenced at the last Committee meeting, following the emergence of a piece of work (commissioned by the Council) in relation to this topic, it had been agreed for the Committee to receive an overview of this work to enable Members to consider the context, findings and potential priorities for the Council in the future regarding the river-based economy.

Members received information regarding the River Tees Delivery and Management Framework from representatives of the Council's Economic Growth and Development Service which included:

- Background: Previous major studies resulted in significant development of key sites (e.g. Tees Barrage White Water Centre, Air Trail, North Shore and RSPB Saltholme). But many remaining recreational and leisure opportunities to contribute to economic growth and enhance the image of the Borough and wider Tees Valley.
- Scope of Study: evaluate ideas from previous studies, identify realistic opportunities, and provide a framework for partnership working to ensure delivery and support ongoing management and development.
- Vision: The River Tees and surrounding river corridor to offer accessible, diverse and welcoming settings and attractions that promote economic activity and facilitate the enjoyment and participation of visitors, local people and businesses.
- Sites within scope: 9 sites were named between Portrack Marsh and Yarm Quay.
- Consultation: views / ideas sought from Stockton's River User Group and other partners / stakeholders, including: environmental organisations, river-based businesses, user groups and community organisations.
- Emerging Principles: making the most of existing assets, building on existing assets and creating new assets with more aspirational projects. The Framework also identifies a series of zones along the river corridor.
- The Framework also addresses wider (whole river) issues and makes some key recommendations for connecting the river, river quality, safety and security, maintenance and marketing/promotion.
- Proposed partnership arrangements involving a new governance structure: Framework Management Board, River Tees Forum and River Tees Framework Coordinator.
- Next steps: complete commission and consult Cabinet Member; review of proposals in context of emerging River Tees Initiative; input into River Tees Initiative process.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- An extensive list of interested parties have been consulted (included within the Framework).
- The responsibility for clearing debris on the river sits with the Environment Agency and the Canal and River Trust (who would be part of the proposed Framework Management Board).
- Since Endeavour left, was there a possibility of acquiring some masts or a sculpture of masts so the view of the river would be the iconic image of Stockton to enhance the Riverside culture offer?
- The proposed partnership arrangements would enhance the existing River Tees Users Group which would be included within the River Tees Forum.
- Clarification on land ownership required as a number of landowners will not give permission to cross their land.
- Is a map of the River Tees available; where it goes, passes and ends, where is access allowed? This would be part of future marketing/promotion plans – a lot of information already exists but it is not all in one place and is not always user-friendly.
- What aspirational ideas were aimed for the future? The document does

not identify specific items for the future; the Framework recommends longer-term aspirational schemes.

- Could pressure be applied to the owners of St Mark's Basin; one asset which requires clearance, it could be a 'night time quarter' or 'restaurant quarter'.
- The ability to attract national and international events to the White Water Course and the river – will need a detailed body of work to make the economic case.

Officers were thanked for the information provided and it was requested that further developments in relation to this Framework, and the points reflected at this meeting, were brought back to a future Committee meeting.

AGREED that the information be noted.

PLA 40/18 Scrutiny Review of Bring Sites (Recycling)

Consideration was given to the draft scope and project plan of the Scrutiny Review of Bring Sites (Recycling).

The main issues in relation to the scope discussed were as follows:

- Previously directed to a national website for bring sites when searching for one in the Borough – need to look at the current website/communications offer as this may be impacting usage.
- Concerns around the frequency of cleaning bring sites – servicing timeliness important as if units are full, people more likely to dump their items at the side.
- Historically, Stockton have supported local sites even though neighbouring Local Authorities have made decisions to reduce provision.
- Has research been carried out on the impact of removal of bring sites in other Local Authorities?

AGREED that the draft scope and project plan of the review be approved.

PLA 41/18 Work Programme 2018-2019

Consideration was given to the Work Programme. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for the 12th November 2018.

Members were given an update in relation to the ongoing Scrutiny Review of Parking on Grass Verges (Task & Finish). Three evidence-gathering sessions had now been held which had proved very productive, and a final meeting is scheduled for tomorrow (16th October 2018). The final report will be presented to Committee at the next meeting in November 2018.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.