

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 25 June 2019 at 4.30 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillors Steve Pitt (in the Chair)
Dave Ashmore
Suzy Horton
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg
Matthew Winnington
Rob Wood
Lee Hunt

62. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE and Councillor Jeanette Smith.

63. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no pecuniary interests but Councillors Darren Sanders, Matthew Winnington and Suzy Horton were members of some of the organisations involved in "Let Pompey Breathe". Councillor Rob Wood knew Mr Dobson who was making a deputation and Councillor Dave Ashmore as Cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change had met with Mr Dobson on various issues.

64. Assessment of Air Quality - Annual Statement Report 2019 (AI 3)

Richard Lee, Regulatory Services Manager, presented the report on behalf of the Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services, setting out the background to the statutory Local Air Quality Management process which required the Annual Statement Report to be published by 30 June 2019. He reiterated the key actions, as set out in section 4 of the report, which included delivering a new comprehensive plan to tackle air pollution by 31 October 2019 (a correction was noted that the ASR should be published by 30 June 2019 not 2018). The data being published was only used where at least 3 months monitoring had taken place. Whilst there had been no significant deterioration in air quality in Portsmouth as a whole, new areas of pollution which had not been monitored before where being found. Section 8 of the report set out the expectations of DEFRA which included benchmarking PCC action to bring these in line with EU directives on Clean Air Zones and work was taking place with colleagues in Transport on this. Priority was being given in tackling exceedances of NO₂ (monitored at 120 locations in the city), and there was regular engagement with DEFRA.

With regard to the publishing of required documents it was noted that some of these were already available on the PCC website. Section 10.1 set out the 5 key conclusions of the 2019 Annual Statement Report.

A deputation was made by Mike Dobson; this is not minuted in full but can be viewed as part of the webcast/livestream of the meeting:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785/Full-Cabinet-25Jun2019/videos/192997260>

Mike Dobson supported the work of the officers to tackle and monitor air quality but wished to point out some disconnect between departments and the different models used and the social inequality issues raised.

The Cabinet Members thanked Mr Dobson for his detailed deputation and asked that a copy of this be made available to them, and they also thanked Richard Lee for this comprehensive report. Their concerns included:

- The wards of low car ownership have worse air quality
- Clogged roads and the air quality had an impact on life expectancy, with marked variances between wards
- There is a need for government funding to give PCC more control
- Public health issues such as the AQ impact on those with asthma, cyclists and potential child deaths
- The dramatic increase in car ownership in the city which is not sustainable and those on lower income have lower car ownership but oldest cars which have higher emission levels, including vans used by the self-employed who would feel the impact of a government imposed Clean Air Zone and the need to offer assistance to them
- The continued need to promote sustainable alternative transport and encouragement of public transport use, with bus usage being at low levels compared to other parts of the region

Councillor Pitt summed up the Cabinet Members' frustration at the targets being set for Portsmouth that did not reflect the island geography and restrictions.

Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, clarified that different models were used for different purposes.

Hayley Trower, the Air Quality Lead for Transport, responded to some of the points made regarding addressing low income groups and the need for the Air Quality Plan to be evidence based, such as in responding to a daily charge for drivers as part of an initial survey before a full consultation process was carried out.

DECISIONS The Cabinet approved:

- (1) The submission of the 2019 Annual Statement Report (as attached as Appendix 1 of the report) to DEFRA**
- (2) The publication of the documentation set out in Section 9.4**

- (3) That the relevant lead officers for Air Quality and Cabinet Members are given a copy of the deputation made by Mr Dobson; it is recognised that different models and modelling techniques are used by Local Authorities and Government for different purposes and inconsistencies can arise in the way that Government require the Council to assess, for example, traffic growth forecasts and the subsequent impacts upon Air Quality and other forecasts. Where such inconsistencies arise, the Council will endeavour to provide an explanation in reports and decisions.**

65. Southsea Flood Defences - Detailed Design Contract (AI 4)

Councillor Pitt, as Deputy Leader and chairing the meeting, varied the order of agenda items to take this item first.

Guy Mason, Infrastructure (Coastal and Drainage) Manager, presented the Director of Regeneration's report, explaining the approval sought to appoint the new designer, for which there was approved funding in the Capital Programme.

DECISIONS The Cabinet approved:

- (1) the appointment of the new designer, Haskoning DHV to continue to develop the project in the detailed design stages.**
- (2) Haskoning are internationally recognised design consultants with expertise in the delivery of coastal flood defence schemes both in the UK and abroad. This work is already fully funded through the Council approved Capital Programme, with £2m provided by way of Portsmouth City Council contribution and a further £3.5m of Capital Funding provided by the Environment Agency. Contract value is expected to out-turn at circa £3.6m.**

66. City of Sanctuary (AI 5)

Caroline Hopper, Armed Forces Covenant Programme, gave a brief introduction to the report before Councillor Steve Pitt announced that whilst the Cabinet would wish to voice its support, there was further work needed on how the project could be resourced. Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, confirmed that this should be a short exercise.

The Cabinet deferred making a decision, so that this report could be brought back with more detailed information on resource implications, to a forthcoming Cabinet meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.34 pm.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council