

Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 6 June 2018

PRESENT:

Councillor Morris, in the Chair.

Councillor Fletcher, Vice Chair.

Councillors Buchan, Carson, Churchill, Cook, Mavin, Stevens and Wheeler.

Also in attendance: Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), Councillor Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), Ross Jago (Senior Panel and Partnerships Advisor), Kevin McKenzie (Policy and Intelligence Advisor) and Helen Prendergast (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 5.00 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

Please note: This meeting was webcast and can be viewed following the link below-
https://plymouth.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/356328

1. To Note the Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair

The Committee noted the appointment of Councillor Morris as Chair and Councillor Fletcher as Vice Chair for the current municipal years 2018/19.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cook declared a personal interest in respect of minute number 5 due to his employment.

3. Chair's Urgent Business

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

4. Terms of Reference

The Committee noted its terms of reference.

5. Brexit Overview

Kevin McKenzie (Policy and Intelligence Advisor) presented an overview of current issues relating to the United Kingdom leaving the European Union and highlighted the key risks and opportunities for the City.

The key areas of the report included –

- current issues;
- local developments;
- risks and opportunities;
- repeal of the European Communities Act and incorporate EU law into UK law;
- restricted supply of migrant labour;
- foreign direct investment;
- domestic and international connectivity;
- loss of direct EU support;
- impact on higher education;
- Welcoming City;
- preparedness.

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- (a) whether regular engagement with the business community was being undertaken by the Council regarding the risks and opportunities associated with Brexit;
- (b) the implications of restricting immigration post Brexit in such areas as the NHS and health/care sectors;
- (c) the implications of additional burdens being place on local authorities (in relation to employment, procurement, health and safety and the environment) due to the devolvement of powers following the repeal of the European Communities Act;
- (d) concerns regarding the retention of skilled workers within the City, particularly associated with regional/national infrastructure schemes, such as Hinkley Point nuclear power station;
- (e) whether the associated risks and opportunities appertaining to the United Kingdom leaving the European Union with ‘no deal’ were being planned for by the Council.

The Committee agreed to include the following (Brexit) items on its work programme -

- (1) staffing in NHS, health and care sectors;
- (2) economic sector;
- (3) hospitality and tourism;
- (4) environmental legislation;
- (5) higher education;

- (6) construction, skills and apprenticeships;
- (7) meeting with MPs;
- (8) cohesion issues within the City.

6. **Fishing and Fisheries Overview**

Kevin McKenzie (Policy and Intelligence Advisor) presented an overview of the impact of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union in terms of the Common Fisheries Policy and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

The key areas of the report included –

- Plymouth's fishing industry;
- future needs and possible actions;
- role of the Council;
- questions that scrutiny may wish to consider (including what would the Council like to see in the Fisheries Bill, what should the balance be between environmental protection and food production and how should the Council support the fishing industry towards sustainable growth).

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- (a) measures that the Council could put in place (following the demersal discard ban) to encourage the fishing industry to use different fishing gear (as in Norway);
- (b) whether the Council would have an opportunity to respond to the Fisheries Bill.

The Committee agreed to hold a Select Committee Review into fishing and fisheries.

Order of Business

With the permission of the Chair, the order of business was amended, as set out below in the minutes.

7. **Transport Infrastructure Overview (Presentation)**

Councillor Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) and Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) provided an overview of the transport infrastructure.

The key areas of the report included –

- the spatial strategy/Plymouth policy area;

- transport investment short to medium term to deliver the Joint Local Plan;
- traffic management;
- transport schemes including Derriford, Sandalls Way (signal upgrade), Charlton Road (junction), Charles Cross, Forder Valley link road, northern corridor Mannamead (junction improvements), eastern corridor Plymouth Road (junction improvements);
- updates on schemes including Woolwell to the George, Morlaix Drive, Pomphlett to The Ride;
- local network and A38 pipeline schemes;
- Road Investment Strategy 2;

The key areas of questioning from Members related to –

- (a) the feasibility of including Deep Lane in the proposed network map detailing both local and major roadworks/schemes;
- (b) the breakdown of how the Council would be funding its contribution of £4.47m towards the Forder Valley Link Road;
- (c) whether the landscaping for the Derriford transport scheme would replace the significant amount of trees/vegetation lost due to these improvement works;
- (d) whether there had been a problem with the lack of skilled labour and a reduction in the number of contractors responding to tender invitations;
- (e) the species of trees that would form part of the landscaping scheme at Derriford and whether the Council's natural infrastructure officers would be consulted;
- (f) whether the Council had any influence over the statutory undertakers (utilities/telecom companies) undertaking work on the highway;
- (g) if the uncompleted works associated with the Derriford scheme (such as the ramps, uncompleted curbing, resurfacing) would be completed as part of the signal upgrade for Sandalls Way;
- (h) the reasons why the Council had been unsuccessful in securing funding as part of the Government's Road Investment Strategy (round one) for enhancement works to the A38.

8. **Work Programme**

Please refer to minute 5.

The Committee agreed that the Democratic Advisor/Policy and Intelligence Advisor in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair draft its work programme for the current year.