

**Extract from the minutes of the Policy Panel meeting of 21 September 2022**

**57. Work Programme**

Rory Doyle, Assistant Director (Environment), addressed the Panel to explain that Cabinet and officers were working on development of the new Strategic Plan, with a programme being planned to consult and survey the views of residents, focus groups, businesses, and local organisations. The suggestion was made that the Panel's meeting scheduled for 23 November 2022 could be promoted and used as an avenue for garnering the views of residents, businesses and organisations to feed into the creation of priorities for the new Strategic Plan.

The Panel agreed that it was important to involve the wider community in creating the Strategic Plan, and stressed the importance of giving as much notice as possible so that people had the opportunity to contribute. It was also noted that public expectations would also need to be managed. A Panel member urged the Panel to work with the Cabinet, avoiding confrontation and considering ideas and feasibilities free from ideological concerns.

The Panel urged officers and Cabinet to create better, more engaging names for plans and strategies. The Assistant Director agreed, and confirmed that Cabinet also agreed. Language used was important and it was recognised that strategic documents needed to use effective language to catch people's interest and make documents easily understandable. Councillor Adam Fox, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Local Economy and Transformation, agreed with the points on language use, and gave assurance that this would be heeded when wording the Strategic Plan. This would make it clear that the Plan would address what people wanted Colchester to look like by 2030, and what they wanted the Council to do.

The Assistant Director explained why the draft Green/Blue Infrastructure Strategy could not be brought for the Panel to consider at this meeting, with the Portfolio Holders wanting more work to be done to the draft before it was looked at by councillors. It was proposed that this Strategy be examined by the Panel at its meeting on 23 November 2022.

It was confirmed that updates on city status ramifications and celebrations were planned for future Panel meetings. Other potential subjects for consideration by the Panel were raised.

*RECOMMENDED* to CABINET that Policy Panel be given permission to consider the following subjects: -

- a) Council support for small local businesses
- b) Proposals for a Colchester Rapid Transport System, including design, plans

and connectivity [subject to the Monitoring Officer's advice]

*RESOLVED* that the Policy Panel will: -

- a) Receive continuing updates on city status matters
- b) Receive an item on the Green/Blue Infrastructure Strategy at its meeting on 23 November 2022
- c) Use its meeting on 23 November 2022 as an opportunity to gain views from residents, business and organisations for inclusion in the drafting of the Council's new Strategic Plan