

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF POLICY AND PUBLIC INITIATIVES PANEL HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2019

23. Work Programme 2018-19

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Director Policy and Corporate giving details of the Panel's Work Programme, updated since the last meeting.

The Panel had three matters of business for consideration (Sustainable Transport; Business Improvement District - enhancing the walls in the town centre; Responsible Dog Owners Policy) and needed to confirm whether it would be feasible to include each of these at the Panel's next meeting in March, which would be the last meeting in the current municipal year.

The Chairman confirmed that Councillor Scott-Boutell had offered to discuss the matter of responsible dog ownership with the Environmental Protection Manager with a view to this being scheduled for consideration by the Panel in the new municipal year.

The Chairman also referred to the matter raised by Ali Wilkin as a potential new idea/initiative for the Panel, namely for the Panel to conduct a Cumulative Impact Assessment on the effect of austerity on working age disabled adults. He was aware that the council had already undertaken work on the impact of Universal Credit and accordingly proposed that this be included in the Panel's work programme for consideration in the new municipal year, with the emphasis being on how the Council's welfare team can help residents who are suffering or feel they are being forgotten.

Councillor Laws asked the Panel to consider facilitating an open discussion about the River Colne. He considered the river was underutilised from a social sporting point of view and referred to a forthcoming planning application at East Bay and the obstacles when using the river to make the journey from Colchester town centre to Wivenhoe. He asked for the Panel to consider the issue in the context of encouraging more healthy lifestyles

Councillor Buston referred to the Wivenhoe Trail and speculated why this couldn't be extended from the Hythe and the need to make more of this stretch of the river.

Councillor Luxford Vaughan supported the views expressed in relation to the navigation of the river but she also referred to problems associated with jet ski use and the management responsibilities associated with them. She also referred to wildlife and the impact of the Local Plan and the need for mitigation measures.

Councillor Harris supported the proposal made by Councillor Laws to encourage greater use of the river as well as the wildlife concerns expressed by Councillor Luxford Vaughan.

RESOLVED that the work programme be amended to reflect the following changes:

- (i) Sustainable Transport and Business Improvement District - enhancing the walls in the town centre continue to be scheduled for consideration at the Panel's next meeting in March 2019;
- (ii) Next steps in options for Colchester High Street be scheduled for the Panel's next meeting in March 2019;
- (iii) Responsible Dog Ownership Policy be re-scheduled for consideration early in the new municipal year.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that approval be given for the following items to be included in the Panel's work programme at an appropriate time in the new municipal year:

- (i) The impact of Universal Credit / Austerity;
- (ii) The use of the River Colne in terms of encouraging more effective use from environmental and activity aspects.