

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel (to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 14 January 2025

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor S P Ingram (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs T L Ellis (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: C A Bainbridge, Mrs L M Birkett, J M Englefield, A M J Murphy and A West

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies of absence were received.

2. MINUTES

It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel held on the 15 October 2024 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcement:

On the 4 February 2025, the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel will be considering a scoping report which will accompany an invitation to Everyone Active to attend that Panel scheduled for the 25 March 2025. Officers will recommend to that Panel that the scoping report will ask Everyone Active to include information in their presentation to the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel that will be of relevance to the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

As this Panel has discussed the Leisure Centre's role in reducing the Council's overall Co2 emissions on several occasions, an invitation to attend the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel on the 25 March 2025 will therefore be sent to Climate Change Scrutiny Panel Members in the coming days.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

A deputation was received from a Mr Bob Murphy, representing Fareham and Gosport Friends of the Earth.

Mr Murphy was thanked by the Panel for his deputation.

6. COASTAL PARTNERS PROJECT UPDATE

The Panel received a presentation from the Coastal Partners; Lyall Cairns, Jane Ryan, Mark Stratton and Andy Pearce, who provided an update on the service, climate change, information on current projects and maintenance of the day-to-day Fareham Borough Council coastal assets. (A copy of this presentation is appended to these minutes).

Councillor West enquired as to why Fareham's contributions were lower than some other authorities. Jane Ryan explained that the fee is based on the proportion of resources needed that each authority is responsible for, and that Fareham's resource need is less than that of the other Partners but similar to Gosport BC at 11%.

Members raised concern over the frequency of storms that the UK now faces, and the increasing severity of them and enquired as to how these risks to resident's properties are being managed. Mark Stratton confirmed that due to the low number of properties affected in Fareham compared to other areas, potential schemes within Fareham do not readily attract funding from the Government as the relevant 'cost-benefit thresholds' are not met. However, Coastal Partners ensure the emergency planning teams are prepared for such events, and that communication is put out to any at risk residents providing advice on how to protect themselves, and we actively signposting residents to where they can get information on flooding. He also stressed that a behavioural change is needed for residents to be more proactive and take greater responsibility for protecting their homes.

Councillor Bainbridge raised an issue surrounding coastal erosion on legacy landfill sites, in particular the site in Portchester which has seen an increased risk of the landfill contents becoming exposed along the shoreline. Mark Stratton confirmed that these sites are closely monitored and that they are lobbying government to ensure that this is brought onto their agenda. Lyall Cairns addressed the Panel to confirm that this is an issue nationally and the risk in Fareham is much lower than in other parts of the country. He stated that Coastal Partners are keen to be at the forefront for any solutions that the Government put in place to tackle this issue.

RESOLVED that Members note the contents of the presentation.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Panel received a presentation from the Policy, Research and Engagement Manager updating Members on the progress of the Climate Change Action Plan. (A copy of the presentation has been appended to these minutes).

RESOLVED that Members note the contents of the presentation.

8. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The Panel considered the Executive items of business which fall under the remit of the Planning and Development Scrutiny Panel, specifically in relation to Climate Change, including Executive Member decisions and Officer delegated decisions that have taken place since the last meeting of the Panel.

The Panel considered the decisions at items 8(1) and 8(2).

(1) Hook Lake Coastal Management Study

There were no comments received.

(2) Hill Head to Portsmouth Harbour Beach Management Plan

There were no comments received.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES

The Director of Planning and Regeneration addressed the Panel on this item and confirmed the items that are programmed for the next meeting as follows: Climate Change Action Plan update, Environmental Strategy update.

He then provided Members with an opportunity to put forward any items of business they would like to consider a future meeting.

Councillor Mrs Ellis requested an update on the activities of the Titchfield Greening Campaign initiative being led by local residents. The Policy, Research and Engagement Manager confirmed that an update on this would be provided at that the next meeting.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.53 pm).

..... Chairman

..... Date