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Uttlesford District Council

Chief Executive: Peter Holt

SUPPLEMENTARY PACK

Council

Date: Tuesday, 18th July, 2023
Time: 7.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber - Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER

Chair: Councillor G Driscoll
Members: Councillors M Ahmed, A Armstrong, G Bagnall, S Barker, N Church, M Coletta, A Coote, C Criscione, J Davey, A Dean, B Donald, J Emanuel, J Evans, C Fiddy, M Foley (Vice-Chair), R Freeman, R Gooding, N Gregory, N Hargreaves, R Haynes, P Lees, M Lemon, J Loughlin, T Loveday, S Luck, C Martin, D McBirnie, J Moran, E Oliver, R Pavitt, A Reeve, N Reeve, B Regan, G Sell, R Silcock, M Sutton and M Tayler

ITEMS WITH SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION PART 1

Open to Public and Press

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To receive matters of report from the Leader and members of the Executive.

- Report from the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Climate Change.

12 Motion: HGVs and Satellite Navigation 5

To consider the Member Motion as submitted by Councillor Barker regarding Heavy Good Vehicles and Satellite Navigation.

- Amendment as submitted by Councillor Hargreaves.



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For information about this meeting please contact Democratic Services

Telephone: 01799 510369, 510410, 510460 or 510548

Email: Committee@uttlesford.gov.uk

General Enquiries

Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4ER

Telephone: 01799 510510

Fax: 01799 510550

Email: uconnect@uttlesford.gov.uk

Website: www.uttlesford.gov.uk

Councillor Neil Reeve

Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Report to Full Council 18 July 2023

This report reflects the highlights of the Portfolio from May 2023 to July 2023

The main activity during this short period has been spent familiarizing myself with the portfolio. This has included starting to frame the relevant portfolio items for the upcoming new Corporate Plan.

The first All Member Environment and Climate briefing was held on Tues 6 June, with an additional Environmental Services briefing on 20 July.

Environmental Services

I have made a visit of the Little Canfield depot site, meeting staff and familiarizing myself with the vehicle fleet. I also saw the vehicle washing facilities, and workshop. The moves from Dunmow, and Saffron Walden Shire Hill are now well embedded.

On 13 June I attended the Essex Waste Partnership - Member Advisory Board, together with the lead Officer. The agenda included:

- progress reports on Joint Working projects (across Local Authorities) for example primary road litter picking services, and food waste and food recycling
- the upcoming 'Waste Strategy for Essex' (which will largely form basis of UDC's strategy).

The team had a presence at the Saffron Walden Common Eco/Green Fair on Saturday 10 June.

There have been some disruptions to our normally reliable services in recent weeks. These have been caused by a number of factors. In January, our vehicles that collect residual and recyclable waste have been redirected to Braintree rather than Gt Dunmow. This follows the closure of the Great Dunmow waste transfer station. In April our garden waste crews were redirected by the County Council to unload at Birch near Tiptree / Colchester, rather than Haverhill or Ongar. Both of these changes have meant that our collection rounds needed to be amended to ensure that works can be completed. This is not a quick process to undertake, and it is complex without causing multiple day changes for residents. It has been necessary to test amended collections rounds to ensure that they are balanced between crews and are achievable. It is regrettable that our residents have been impacted by these changes but as we work through these issues, collections are returning to normal. Alongside the changes to tipping locations, we have also had some temporary staffing issues and vehicle breakdowns especially during the hot weather. Hopefully these are now largely resolved.

Air Quality

On 19 June a meeting was held of the Clean Air Stakeholder Strategy Group. UDC was awarded a two-year £0.5 million grant by DEFRA, running from 2023 to December 2024. Progress updates were received under the three main work packages of Pollution Awareness; Active Travel; and Traffic Management. Work is currently on schedule and is also providing input to the Local Plan.

Climate Change

The Climate Change Team, have been progressing the actions in the Climate Change Action Plan, and the Air Quality project (above).

I attended a meeting of the Essex Districts and Borough Climate Forum on 5 July. Highlights were a report on Climate Actions in South Essex; a briefing on the 'Carbon Cutting Essex' app; a briefing on the 'Carbon Literacy Project'; and a preview of the Essex Autumn Climate Summit scheduled for 31 Oct.

Possibly the main item for me has been thinking with the team about how to embed Climate Change mitigation as a concept that runs through all Council staff and activity, and to include this concept in the upcoming new Corporate Plan, and flow through to the staff Service Plans.

A highlight was to receive **UDC's first all-electric vehicle**, a large van that will be used by the ground maintenance team. This vehicle was on display at the Saffron Walden Common Eco/Green Fair on Saturday 10 June. Also on display were electric assist cargo bikes, that could be trialled (hopefully for local families and businesses) and much literature on the broader environment and climate change.

A personal climate change note

My wife and I live in the rural village of High Easter. A few years ago we had solar panels installed on the roof of a building in the curtilage of a listed building. More recently we had storage batteries installed. During this time we have replaced our two cars by all electric vehicles. Whilst expensive (still) they are very cheap to run. Our average power from the public network is now just over one unit (kWh) per day (i.e. also including charging the vehicles). Like most of the rest of the village, we still use oil for heating. Our next step is to improve our roof insulation, and replace the heating by a heat pump (air or ground source?)

Amendment as submitted by Councillor Hargreaves - Full Council, 18 July: HGVs and Satnavs

Amended Motion (bold italics denotes additional wording – wording to be removed has been struck through):

“This Council believes that HGVs using standard car Sat Navs collide with local infrastructure, such as railway bridges, or become stuck on narrow roads, causing major disruption and is costly to local communities. They often take significant amounts of time and resources to free, causing major congestion across the Essex road network generating more emissions and disrupting local rail services.

~~This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Government and call on them to work with Satellite Navigation companies and others providing road information to remove By Ways, By Roads and other similar roads from their systems.~~

This Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Government in support of the Local Government Association call to take urgent action to require all HGV drivers by law to use specialist satnav devices rather than currently only advising that they do. These are widely available devices which include bridge heights, narrow roads, and roads unsuitable for trucks, so that vehicles are only guided along suitable roads.”

Proposer: Councillor Hargreaves