

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in the Authority Chamber - No.1 Mann Island, Liverpool, L3 1BP on Wednesday, 19th June, 2019 the following Members were present -

Councillor Louise Whitley	Labour	Halton BC
Councillor Kevan Wainwright	Labour	Halton BC
Councillor Bill Woolfall	Labour	Halton BC
Councillor Edna Finneran	Labour	Knowsley MBC
Councillor Tom Crone	Green	Liverpool CC
Councillor Tricia O' Brien	Labour	Liverpool CC
Councillor Christine Howard	Labour	Sefton MBC
Councillor Sam Marshall	Labour	Sefton MBC
Councillor Paula Murphy	Labour	Sefton MBC
Councillor Andy Bowden	Labour	St Helens MBC
Councillor Robyn Hattersley	Labour	St Helens MBC
Councillor Helen Cameron	Conservative	Wirral MBC
Councillor Dr John Pugh	Liberal Democrat	LCR Opposition Group
Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE	Conservative	LCR Opposition Group

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR 2019/20

The Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, Jill Coule opened the meeting and invited nominations for the appointment of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing year 2019/20.

Councillor Dr John Pugh and seconded by Councillor Tom Crone nominated Councillor Sir Ron Watson as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

A vote was taken, when there appeared –

For – 5

Against – 10

The first nomination was lost.

Councillor Sir Ron Watson and seconded by Councillor Tom Crone nominated Councillor Dr John Pugh as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

A vote was taken, when there appeared –

For – 4
Against – 10

The second nomination was lost.

Councillor Tom Crone and seconded by Councillor Dr John Pugh nominated Councillor Tom Crone as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

A vote was taken, when there appeared –

For – 5
Against – 10

The third nomination was lost.

Councillor Tom Crone and seconded by Councillor Dr John Pugh nominated Councillor Helen Cameron as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

A vote was taken, when there appeared –

For – 5
Against – 9

The fourth nomination was lost.

The Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, Jill Coule advised the Committee to adjourn the meeting which would provide the members with an opportunity to discuss how the meeting should proceed.

The Committee agreed with the advice and the meeting was adjourned at 10.21am.

The meeting resumed at 10.30am.

The Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, Jill Coule advised the Committee that following the adjournment the members had agreed a way forward relating to appointing a Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20 and that the previous decisions taken relating to the appointment of a Chair would need to be rescinded.

A vote was taken and the previous decisions relating to the appointment of a Chair were rescinded and agreed unanimously.

Councillor Tom Crone and seconded by Councillor Dr John Pugh nominated Councillor Tom Crone as the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

A vote was taken, when there appeared –

For – 4

Against – 0

Abstained – 10

The nomination was agreed.

Resolved that Councillor Tom Crone be appointed Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR 2019/20

The Chair, Councillor Tom Crone invited nominations for the appointment of Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing year 2019/20.

Councillor Bill Woolfall and seconded by Councillor Paula Murphy nominated Councillor Kevan Wainwright as the Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

Resolved that Councillor Kevan Wainwright be appointed Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

The Chair, Councillor Tom Crone invited nominations for the appointment of a second Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the ensuing year 2019/20.

Councillor Kevan Wainwright and seconded by Councillor Louise Whitley nominated Councillor Paula Murphy as the second Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

Resolved that Councillor Paula Murphy be appointed the second Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2019/20.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carl Cashman, Gillian Flatley, Patrick Hurley, Jimmy Jackson, Adrian Jones and Jean Stapleton.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2019

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6th March 2019 be approved as a correct record.

6. PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE

Councillor Liam Robinson, Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality provided an update relating to the portfolio to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members enquired about the following: -

- Liverpool South Parkway Interchange and London trains stopping at the station in the future
- Liverpool South Parkway Interchange car parking facilities
- High Speed 2 and the effect on the west coast line and the Runcorn Station
- Leveraging bus companies to provide low emission vehicles
- Bus stops being downgraded in areas with no seats and shelters that are affecting the elderly
- Off peak travel on the bus network for residents on lower incomes
- Disabled accessibility across all stations
- Funding for the St Michael's Station upgrade
- Partnerships and Franchising
- Ditton Station redevelopment
- Concessionary bus passes for the elderly
- London Services and operator alternatives and flexibility
- New trains and airline type seating
- Northern trains and services via Southport to Manchester
- Young People using buses and the student population
- Connection to HS2 economy boost
- Air Quality
- Bus Network at Ince Blundell
- Bus operators across the City Region

Councillor Robinson informed the Committee of the following: -

- Liverpool South Parkway Interchange would benefit from London stops in the future as well as lengthening the platform and improving the disability access.
- Liverpool South Parkway Interchange car parking facilities will also be looked at to determine who parked there and the use of public transport.
- The capacity on the west coast mainline and HS2 will be increased to develop and grow the freight services to be more sustainable.
- Merseytravel did not have complete leverage on the procurement of vehicles at the moment with the bus operators but were working with the bus companies to purchase and invest in newer vehicles with cleaner fleets including the introduction of new technologies and hybrid vehicles with electric power.
- A "trial" will soon be introduced with hydrogen vehicles to fuel the transport network which would be funded through Government bids.
- Travelsafe Partnership work was ongoing with Merseytravel, the Police, bus and train operators and the British Transport Police to target and reduce vandalism before taking away the shelters and seats.

- The ticketing strategy is about to be refreshed and the concerns raised will be looked at.
- 60% of the City Region stations were DDA compliant but there was a vision for 100% to be made DDA compliant.
- Funding had been received for 5 further stations to be made DDA compliant including Hunts Cross, St Michael's, Broadgreen, Birkenhead Park and Hillside.
- There were 9 remaining stations that were completely inaccessible.
- Ditton Station was one of 30 stations in the rail strategy but it would be up to Halton BC to decide.
- Partnerships and franchising needed to be an evidence based approach and a recommendation would be submitted in the spring.
- Tribute paid to the passenger group and a lot more work to do and a wider argument to take place about the routes to Manchester and Southport.
- Operation to London would probably bring it back to the public sector as privatisation has not worked including the high fares.
- Liverpool has one of the highest demands in the north, despite it being an hourly service and vice versa from London to Liverpool.
- Putting in place what the passengers wanted relating to the seating as a result of the consultation group.
- Buses are full before 9.30am and if operators were to allow more elderly passengers on the network so early, then it would need to put more buses on the routes and this comes at a cost.
- Speaking to other operators in other cities about how things are done and the business models across the regions.
- Everyone under 19 years of age is included in the Young People's fare, breakdowns and figures can be made available.
- Economic breakdown relating to HS2 will deliver for the whole City Region including jobs, houses and a transport network.
- About 25 bus operators across the network with Arriva and Stagecoach making up the majority.
- 15% of the network is subsidised by Merseytravel.
- Bus network in Ince Blundell, engage in the consultation currently underway.
- Currently undergoing some feasibility studies to look at line speed and capacity across the Bootle network relating to capacity and freight.

The Committee noted the portfolio update from Councillor Liam Robinson and thanked him for his attendance.

7. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY MEMBERS TO THE AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2019/20

The Committee considered a report presented by the Statutory Scrutiny Officer, Trudy Bedford relating to the appointment of scrutiny members to the Liverpool City Region Audit and Governance Committee for 2019/20.

The report recommended that four members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising of two Labour Councillors, one Liberal Democrat Councillor and one Conservative Councillor to sit on the Audit and Governance Committee for 2019/20 and four substitute members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising of two Labour Councillors, one Liberal Democrat Councillor and one Conservative Councillor to act as substitutes on the Audit and Governance Committee for 2019/20.

Resolved that the following members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be appointed to the Audit and Governance Committee for 2019/20: -

Members

Labour – Councillors Edna Finneran and Paula Murphy

Liberal Democrat – Councillor Dr John Pugh

Conservative – Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE

Substitute Members

Labour – Councillors Samantha Marshall and Louise Whitley

Liberal Democrat – Councillor Carl Cashman

Conservative – Councillor Helen Cameron

8. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2019/20

The Committee considered a report presented by the Statutory Scrutiny Officer, Trudy Bedford relating to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2019/20.

Members discussed the proposed Work Programme for 2019/20 and the subject areas for the Task and Finish Groups and possible Workshops taking into account the suggestions made in the end of year questionnaire for 2018/19.

The following outcomes were proposed: -

Task and Finish Groups

LEP Review/Economic Development

Workshops

Joint Ticketing

Amendments to the Work Programme 2019/20

Apprenticeships – November 2019

Budget – preliminary information – November 2019

Low Carbon and Renewables 2040 – September 2019

Bus Act 2017 – to be determined

Resolved that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: -

- a) agree the Committee's Work Programme for 2019/20 as amended following the discussions;

- b) agree a LEP and the Economic Impact Task and Finish Group Review as part of the Work Programme for 2019/20;
- c) agree a Workshop be held to discuss and be informed of the progress being made relating to Joint Ticketing;
- d) agree that reports/updates on Low Carbon and Renewables and the Bus Act 2017 be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings during the course of this municipal year, with a view that if further scrutiny is required that consideration be given to respective Task and Finish Group Reviews being arranged;
- e) agree that reports/updates on the Apprenticeships Programme and Budget Preliminary Information for 2020/21 be submitted to the 6 November 2019 meeting and the amendments be made to the Work Programme for 2019/20;
- f) agree that the following members participate in the LEP and the Economic Impact Task and Finish Group Review: -
 - **Labour** – Councillors Paula Murphy, Kevan Wainwright, Tricia O’Brien, Christine Howard and Edna Finneran.
 - **Liberal Democrat** – Councillor Dr John Pugh

9. PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE

Councillor Andy Bowden left the meeting.

The Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, Jill Coule advised the Committee that it was now an inquorate meeting and that the following item would be noted and the discussions documented.

Councillor Gillian Wood, Deputy Portfolio Holder for Low Carbon and Renewable Energy provided an update relating to the portfolio to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members enquired about the following: -

- Tidal and targets
- Air quality monitoring and measurements
- Carbon targets
- Ice Cream vans left idling in the presence of children
- Mersey Tidal Project and the ecological impact
- Climate emergency

Councillor Wood informed the meeting of the following: -

- The business case for Tidal is still being formulated and will be presented next year in 2020.
- Hydrogen buses will be on the roads towards the end of next year in 2020.

Mark Knowles informed the meeting that there were fixed dates for all the projects described and all are underway with the first delivery being in May 2020. The timetable can be shared with the Committee, if required. He also stated that the environmental management team includes specialist consultants who are experts in the various fields and the findings will be included in the business case being presented next year.

Councillor Robinson informed the Committee that in relation to the Air Quality Task Force is being progressed well and looking at best practice in Liverpool and Sefton which would be fed back to the Committee in the future.

Councillor Wood informed the meeting of the following: -

- Ice Cream vans were currently being looked at locally at the Wirral Borough Council through proposed changes to policy and practices.
- Also looking at new vehicle types which is ready for market with zero emissions through the use of a fuel cell, while serving customers, but not just for ice cream vans but also for a range of services including delivery vans.
- The Mersey Tidal Project business case, is currently being developed. The business case will include consideration of a number proposals or options and any associated impacts. This means that whilst the business case is in development, it is not possible to comment.

Resolved that: -

- a) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the portfolio update from Councillor Gillian Wood and she be thanked for her attendance;
- b) the timetable relating to the delivery of the projects be shared with the Committee; and
- c) any policy related information relating to the issues raised regarding ice cream vans with engines left idling in the presence of children and other planned improvements be shared with the Committee.

Chairperson of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

(The meeting closed at 12.35 pm)