

SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT, AND COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

20 October 2016

Councillor Adrian Chandler (Chairman)
* Councillor Pauline Searle (Vice-Chairman)

* Councillor Christian Holliday	* Councillor Tony Phillips
* Councillor Liz Hooper	* Councillor David Quelch
Councillor Jennifer Jordan	* Councillor David Reeve
* Councillor Nigel Kearsse	Councillor David Wright
* Councillor Dennis Paul	* Councillor James Walsh

*Present

Councillors Michael Illman (Lead Councillor for Finance), Nikki Nelson Smith (Lead Councillor for Internal Business Systems, Heritage and the Arts), Caroline Reeves, Tony Rooth (Lead Councillor for Housing and Social Welfare) and Jenny Wicks were also in attendance.

S23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adrian Chandler and Jennifer Jordan.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 23(j), Councillor Mike Parsons attended as a substitute for Councillor Chandler and Councillor Philip Brooker attended as a substitute for Councillor Jordan.

S24 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest.

S25 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016. The Vice-Chairman signed the minutes.

S26 SMART CITIES: AN ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY PERSPECTIVE

The Lead Councillor for Internal Business Systems, Heritage and the Arts introduced the speakers, and noted that the meeting would provide the Board with the opportunity to embrace knowledge of new technologies and gain an understanding of what an increasingly interconnected world might mean for Guildford.

The Energy and Sustainability Officer gave a presentation on the importance of sustainability, energy management and climate change and provided definitions of a Smart City, examples of potential improved sustainability for the future and factors for the EAB to consider.

Tim Pope, Senior Manager at PwC, gave a presentation summarising five global mega trends that would shape the future, which included rapid urbanisation, demographic and social change, climate change and resource scarcity, a shift in global economic power and technological breakthroughs.

Professor Jeremy Watson, President of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and Nigel Ward, past IET Trustee and Honorary Treasurer, gave a presentation covering the work of the IET, how developments in technology would shape the cities of the future and the interdependency between technology and society.

Questions from the Board raised the following points and information:

- The Smart City approach would change the way that housing was supplied. Components would be manufactured off-site; these components could then be assembled quickly and cheaply.
- The cost of technology had reduced significantly since the 1960s. Therefore, new technologies such as sensors that would help elderly people to live independently for longer would become easily affordable. This had the potential to provide huge savings for central and local government. Regulations could be set out requiring all new homes to be fitted with these technologies.
- In the U.S approximately 500 driverless cars were being used daily and their use could be adopted quite quickly worldwide.
- Smart meters were a fundamental part of future cities and in the future all meter readings would be sent through the cellular network. The University of Surrey was the leading university for 5G cellular communication and received a lot of funding from Telefonica and the Ordnance Survey. It would be useful for the Council to link up with the University to discuss this.
- The Council should take an open view towards opportunities that the Smart City agenda could bring, rather than formulating a Smart City strategy.
- The establishment of a cross-party working group to examine possible opportunities for the Council by speaking to academics and companies could prove beneficial. This would prove valuable to technologists, by helping them to identify needs as well as allowing the Council to discover available technology.
- Although in its infancy, personal energy storage would become a viable proposition, and Elon Musk, the founder of SpaceX was planning to use battery technology as local energy storage in homes. This would prevent over-reliance on the national grid.
- The Board noted that the Guildford car club was very useful. In order to encourage people to use the club it was important to be able to offer something attractive and different, such as personal user profiles incorporated into the cars.
- Board members raised concerns that older residents would not have access to certain technology. Solutions should be designed which do not require a high level of digital literacy and were far more convenient than any traditional methods. Some of the assumptions surrounding digital exclusion were no longer valid, as many people had adapted to new technologies.
- The concept of Resilient Cities was becoming more important. Systems could be connected together in order to improve resilience, as a failure in one system could be compensated by another system.
- Predictive maintenance was becoming more available. Instead of fixing technology when it was broken, performance was monitored and if an anomaly were detected, maintenance workers would be sent in. This reduced risk and cost.
- There were concerns about the resilience and robustness of cities, and the Board was informed that cities may become a stranded asset as the ability to connect digitally was advanced. Following the development of high-resolution telepresence, which could provide a feeling of personal contact remotely, people may not need to live in cities.

- New technologies developed would have an impact on job opportunities in the future, however this would not result in additional leisure time, as it was likely that new professions would be devised.
- Autonomous mass transit was likely to be easier to implement and have a faster take up than driverless cars.

Following this discussion, the EAB asked that the Lead Councillor for Internal Business Systems, Heritage and the Arts to consider these matters with the other members of the Executive at the relevant time.

S27 EAB WORK PROGRAMME

The Board considered and noted the EAB work programmes.

S28 UPDATE/PROGRESS WITH MATTERS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE SOCIETY, ENVIRONMENT, AND COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

The Board considered progress with matters previously considered by the EAB.

The meeting finished at 9.02 am

Signed

Date

Chairman