

## **Environmental Services Committee – 5 June 2003**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **5 June 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr J E Grey (Chairman)  
Cllr C G Seagers (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs T J Capon  
Cllr R G S Choppen  
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn  
Cllr Mrs S A Harper  
Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr A J Humphries  
Cllr R A Oatham  
Cllr J M Pullen  
Cllr Mrs M S Vince  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

### **VISITING MEMBERS**

Cllrs C I Black, T G Cutmore, Mrs M D McCarthy, D G Stansby, Mrs M A Starke, M G B Starke, D A Weir.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

S Scrutton	- Head of Planning Services
S Clarkson	- Head of Revenue and Housing Management
J Bourne	- Leisure & Contracts Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

### **246 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **247 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs M D McCarthy, Mrs M A Starke, M G B Starke and Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in item 9 by virtue of their membership of the Joint Health Partnership Board with Castle Point.

### **248 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

#### **(1) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan – Environmental Appraisal**

The Committee considered the report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 17 April 2003.

With respect to policy LT5, Members believed that the planting of trees in Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park would have a positive effect on the

atmosphere and that this should be reflected in the Local Plan.

On a motion moved by Cllr Mrs L Hungate and seconded by Cllr Mrs M J Webster it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the Environmental Appraisal of the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan be agreed, subject to the following amendment:-

- That in Table 7: Policy Evaluation – Leisure & Tourism Policies a tick be placed in the Atmosphere column for Policy LT5. (HPS)

### **249 ROCHFORD DISTRICT REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN – CHERRY ORCHARD BRICK WORKS, ROCHFORD**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' approval for the Cherry Orchard Brick Works site and adjacent land to be allocated in the First Deposit Replacement Local Plan for the provision of a new hospital, specifically a Diagnostic and Treatment Centre.

Responding to Member concern about the possibility of the site being allocated for housing or industrial development in the event of a decision being taken to site the hospital elsewhere, Officers stated that the Local Plan would clearly specify that no alternative uses for the site would be sought.

Members raised the following additional concerns:-

- there would need to be adequate public transport and car parking provision for the site
- possible contamination of land on the site associated with the former brick works
- a wildlife survey of the site should be conducted.

Officers confirmed that these issues would be dealt with as part of any planning application for a new hospital on the site.

### **Resolved**

That a 6 hectare site comprising the Cherry Orchard Brick Works site and adjacent land be shown on the First Deposit Rochford District Local Plan proposals map for the provision of a Diagnostic and Treatment Hospital, and that a new policy as outlined in the report be incorporated in Chapter 10 of the Plan. (HPS)

### **250 SATELLITE DISHES AND OTHER ANTENNAS – ODPM CONSULTATION PAPER**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on Government proposals for amendments to the General Permitted Development Order (GPDO) relating to the treatment of satellite dishes and other antennas.

#### **Resolved**

That the Council's response to the consultation paper be as outlined in the report. (HPS)

### **251 ESSEX WASTE STRATEGY – ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) advising Members of the Annual Waste Strategy Conference and to seek approval for the allocation of spaces to attend this event.

#### **Resolved**

That Members note the content of this report and agree to allocate the places on the Annual Conference as follows:-

- Cllr J E Grey
- Cllr P K Savill
- Cllr C R Morgan
- Cllr Mrs M S Vince
- Cllr R A Oatham
- Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
- J Bourne, Leisure & Contracts Manager
- D Timson, Property Maintenance & Highways Manager (CD(F&ES))

### **252 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee considered the joint report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management and the Corporate Policy Manager on the second phase of the partnership arrangement with Essex County Council (ECC) to develop and expand on community transport in the District.

Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of being a Member of the Essex County Council Highways & Transportation Policy Development Group.

Members paid tribute to Officers for all their hard work in developing community transport within the District. While noting the value of this initiative for those residents living in areas poorly served by public transport, Members nevertheless stressed the importance of ensuring that the service was not

abused by individuals but was freely accessible to all those who were eligible to use it.

Responding to Member concern that the eligibility criteria were too broad, Officers stressed that community transport schemes run throughout Essex were analysed and it was best practice not to introduce forms of social exclusion into such schemes. The Transport Co-Ordinator would be using an Essex-wide bookings system and would carefully monitor all bookings for any instances of possible abuse.

Officers confirmed that there would be a big launch for the initiative as it was important to encourage people to use the service and to encourage volunteer drivers to come forward. It would be possible to advertise the service in *Rochford District Matters* and *Your Home*.

The Committee agreed a motion, moved by Cllr Mrs T J Capon and seconded by Cllr Mrs M A Starke, on the nomination of Cllr T Livings as a Member of the Trust Board. It was also agreed that a press release be issued with respect to the scheme.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That a Community Transport Scheme for the Rochford District be established initially by working in partnership with RAVS who should set up a Community Transport Trust within 12 months.
- (2) That a grant of £10,000 for 2003/2004 be made to RAVS to establish the provision of Community Transport. This to be funded from the grant from ECC.
- (3) That this Committee registers a bid for the 2004/2005 Budget so that this level of funding be guaranteed for a further two years beyond 2003/2004.
- (4) That the minibus be transferred into the ownership of RAVS for scheme administration.
- (5) That this Committee nominates Cllr T Livings as a Member to the Trust Board.
- (6) That a press release be issued with respect to the scheme. (HRHM)

### **253 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management providing Members with a summary of the performance of the Taxi Voucher Scheme after the first year of operation. Members commended Officers on their hard work and agreed that a press release should be released with respect to the scheme.

### Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted and a further report be prepared after 18 months' operation of the scheme.
- (2) That a press release be issued with respect to this scheme. (HRHM)

### 254 DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT ACTION PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management advising Members on the current position on implementing Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement (DPE) in the Rochford District. Members were also requested to consider the DPE action plan appended to the report.

Members were informed that within 3 to 4 months the issue of accommodation for Transportation staff would arise as office space was already cramped. A report on accommodation proposals would be brought to this Committee for consideration in September/October.

Responding to a Member enquiry, Officers confirmed that the next six monthly update report would include proposals for outsourcing the parking patrol elements of the scheme. It was also stressed that, as part of the scheme, there would be a fast response unit to deal with any reported instances of parking violations. It was further confirmed that patrol officers would also report instances of road tax violation to the DVLA.

On a motion moved by Cllr J E Grey it was:-

### Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report and the attached action plan be noted.
- (2) That a further report on accommodation for Transportation Unit staff be provided to this Committee in September/October.
- (3) That a further update be provided to this Committee in 6 months' time. (HRHM)

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....