

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 12 February 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **12 February 2003** when there were present:

Cllr P A Capon (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs R Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr R A Amner
Cllr C I Black
Cllr C A Hungate

Cllr P K Savill
Cllr Mrs M A Weir

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs R S Allen and P F A Webster

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr J M Pullen

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S Scrutton	Head of Planning Services
A Meddle	Team Leader (Local Plans)
Miss C Evans	Trainee Solicitor
Mrs M Martin	Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICER PRESENT

K Bristow District Manager, Highways, Essex County Council

REPRESENTING HULLBRIDGE PARISH

Cllr Mrs K Morgan

64 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

65 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee received the schedule relating to progress on previous decisions.

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 12 February 2003

Proposed Footway Improvement Websters Way, Rayleigh

A scheme has been submitted by Essex County Council, but not yet received Committee approval or funding approval and allocation. Until this occurs, the scheme cannot be committed to a specific year in the Locally Determined Programme.

Outstanding issues were carried forward.

66 TWICE YEARLY UPDATE FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

The Committee received the report of the Area Manager, Highways and Transportation Group, Essex County Council which informed Members of progress on the Locally Determined Programme 2002/03 and the Highway Maintenance and Capital Programme 2002/03.

Locally Determined Programme

Members noted the details appended to the report which outlined the schemes and the latest progress on each. Also appended to the report was a list of additional schemes that could be added to the programme during the current financial year, should existing schemes not progress satisfactorily or be completed below budget.

In response to Member questions, the County officer agreed to supply Members with the following updated information for the next meeting of this Committee:-

- (1) Progress report on the continuation of Coventry Hill, Hullbridge footway works.
- (2) A completion date for the Zebra Crossing Ashingdon Road – vicinity of Wedgewood Way.
- (3) An estimated date for commencement of the feasibility study and design for the proposed mini roundabout at the Downhall Road/Hambro Hill, Rayleigh junction.
- (4) The name of the County Councillor with whom consultations were made regarding the Traffic Regulation Order at 509-519 Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon not proceeding.
- (5) Anticipated date when the rural footway providing link between Oldbury Cottages, Southend Road, Great Wakering to junction with Star Lane could be completed, should funding become available.
- (6) Anticipated date when pedestrian facility (zebra crossing) at the junction of Ashingdon Road/Wedgewood Way, Ashingdon could be completed, should funding become available.

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 12 February 2003

Review of the Highway Maintenance and Capital Programme 2002/03

Members noted the allocation of funds for the maintenance of highways in the District for the year 2002/03, together with the approved special maintenance budget and capital programme.

During debate, the following points were noted and/or additional information requested:-

- Environmental Maintenance – the original budget had been increased and the County Officer agreed to supply a new figure, details of which would be published in the Members' Bulletin.
- Winter Maintenance – during the recent bouts of severe weather, all bus routes had been salted, including at regular intervals on certain routes, but that salting in itself had only limited capabilities.
- The footway reconstruction/resurfacing works were all either completed or almost completed, with the exception of Cheapside West, Rayleigh. The County officer agreed to update Members.
- The County Officer agreed to update Members with regard to the programmed dates for the carriageway reconstruction/resurfacing works at Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh and Spa Road, Hockley.
- The budget for surface dressing was overspent but it was noted that an underspend in another local authority released some more money to be used in this District. The County officer agreed to provide Members with a progress update on each of those areas listed in the report.
- Members requested a progress update on the Walking scheme in Plumberow Avenue, Hockley.

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

That the following additional schemes within the Locally Determined Programme 2002/03 be progressed, should funding become available:-

- 'Kill Your Speed' programme – continue and monitor its effectiveness.
- Oldbury Cottages Southend Road, Great Wakering – to complete rural footway, providing link from the cottages to junction with Star Lane.
- Pedestrian facility (Zebra crossing) Ashingdon Road/Wedgewood Way, Ashingdon – advertising and construction.
- Lower Road, Hullbridge – Coventry Hill footway works. (Area Highways)

67 HULLBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – LITTER BINS AND TREES

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided Members with further information in respect of

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 12 February 2003

the provision of litter bins and trees, as requested at the meeting of this Committee held on 21 January 2003.

The Vice Chairman reported that a site meeting with County officers had been arranged for the following day and on a Motion moved by Cllr Mrs R Brown and seconded by Cllr P K Savill it was resolved that discussion of this item be deferred pending the outcome of the site visit.

Members were concerned that the final stages of the enhancement scheme in Hullbridge be closely monitored and on a Motion moved Cllr C A Hungate and seconded by Cllr Mrs R Brown it was agreed that a Hullbridge Village Sub-Committee be formed.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group wished it to be noted that his Group would defer their place on that Sub-Committee to the Labour Group.

Resolved

- (1) That the item on litter bins and trees for the Hullbridge town centre enhancement scheme be deferred pending a site visit.
- (2) That a Hullbridge Town Centre Sub-Committee, comprising 5 Members, be formed to oversee the final stages of the enhancement scheme, including the provision of litter bins and trees. (CD(F&ES))

68 PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE BILL – IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND REGIONAL PLANNING GUIDANCE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services which provided Members with information about the transitional arrangements and the implications for Rochford for the move from the current system of development planning to the new system proposed in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill which was introduced to Parliament on 4th December 2002.

Members noted that:-

- the Government anticipated that the earliest the development plan reforms could come into force would be Spring 2004, but wanted to ensure that local authorities prepare in advance for the introduction of the new arrangements.
- The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had written to all local authorities with initial guidance on the implications for regional planning guidance and development plans of the new Bill prior to the commencement of the Act.

Resolved

That the preparation of the replacement Rochford District Local Plan continue as required by current legislation, but that where transitional changes can be accommodated to take account of the new planning framework, such changes be introduced as outlined in the report. (HPS)

69 REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN - INTRODUCTION, OBJECTIVES & CORE STRATEGIES

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services which sought Members' views on a new chapter to be included in the First Deposit Draft of the Replacement Local Plan, which would replace the existing Rochford District Local Plan First Review and provide a policy basis for the control of development in the District up to 2011.

Members noted that:-

- the first chapter within the Replacement Local Plan is made up of three main parts, following the standard format, which outlines the corporate and planning objectives and examines the relationship between the Replacement Structure Plan aims and objectives and the local plan.
- The main part of the chapter is devoted to the core strategies, together with their supporting and explanatory text.
- These strategies would have a significant impact on most chapters of the Replacement Local Plan, which is a departure from the Introduction chapter of the Rochford District Local Plan (First Review).
- The new approach adds value to the plan, as the core strategies are also policies.

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

That the proposed text for the introductory chapter Rochford District Replacement Local Plan, including the core policies, be approved. (HPS)

70 REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN – OBJECTIVES FOR APPROVED CHAPTERS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services which sought Members' views on objectives for three chapters to be included in the First Deposit Draft of the Replacement Local Plan, which would replace the existing Rochford District Local Plan First Review and provide a policy basis for the control of development in the District up to 2011.

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 12 February 2003

Members noted that:-

- this Committee had approved the text for three chapters, but that they did not follow the common format
- two other minor changes had been made to each of the chapters, which related to the insertion of a statement referring readers to any relevant Local Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance, together with a select bibliography and website links and to replace the phrase 'statutory undertaker' where it occurred in other chapters, as agreed by this Committee at its meeting in December 2002.

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

That the revised text for the chapters of the replacement local plan dealing with Rural Issues, Building Conservation and Archaeology and Shopping, Advertisements and Town Centres be approved. (HPS)

71 REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN – LEISURE AND TOURISM

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services which sought Members' views on a new chapter to be included in the First Deposit Draft of the Replacement Local Plan, which would replace the existing Rochford District Local Plan First Review and provide a policy basis for the control of development in the District up to 2011.

Members noted that:-

- This chapter contained 25 policies and supporting text.
- A number of changes had been made to bring the existing leisure and tourism chapter up to date, although much of the focus remained unchanged.
- New policies had been added where needed for provision and protection and old policies had been dropped or merged as appropriate.

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

That the draft leisure and tourism chapter be approved for inclusion in the replacement local plan. (HPS)

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 12 February 2003

72 ROCHFORD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN – TRANSPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services which sought Members' views on a new chapter to be included in the First Deposit Draft of the Replacement Local Plan, which would replace the existing Rochford District Local Plan First Review and provide a policy basis for the control of development in the District up to 2011.

Members noted that:-

- The transport chapter of the Rochford District Local Plan had undergone considerable changes.
- This chapter updated the existing local plan approach and policies and took on board current statutory guidance, reflected on the local situation.

Recommended to Environmental Services Committee

That the proposed text for the transport chapter of the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan be agreed. (HPS)

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Chairman

Date