

Transportation & Environmental Services - 28 November 2001

Minutes of the meeting of the **Transportation & Environmental Services Committee** held on **28 November 2001** when there were present:

Cllr V H Leach - Chairman

Cllr R F R Adams
Cllr R S Allen
Cllr Mrs J E Ford
Cllr Mrs J M Giles
Cllr J E Grey
Cllr D R Helson
Cllr Mrs J Helson
Cllr A Hosking
Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr C C Langlands
Cllr R A Pearson
Cllr S P Smith
Cllr M G Starke
Cllr P D Stebbing
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr D A Weir

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from PC D Downing – Essex Police Traffic Management Unit

DISTRICT OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts – Corporate Director, Finance and External Affairs
G Woolhouse - Head of Housing, Health and Community Care
S J Clarkson -Head of Revenue and Housing Management
S Scrutton - Head of Planning Services
D Timson – Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
M T Goodman - Principal Solicitor
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT

N McCullagh – Area Manager, Transportation and Operational Services
T Tite – District Engineer
L Harvey – Assistant District Engineer

422 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2001 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

423 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Committee received the schedule relating to decisions.

Rectory Garth, Rayleigh – Proposed Extension to Waiting Restrictions

A Member raised the concern that the process of finalising these traffic orders and waiting restrictions was lengthy. The County Area Manager confirmed that work was almost completed. Members would shortly be advised of the outcome.

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement

A meeting of the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement Working Group was held on 15 November at which it emerged that the DPE implementation timetable was considerably delayed.

Resolved

- (1) That concern about the implementation delay and lack of a clearly defined timetable should be expressed in a letter to be sent to Essex County Council. (HRHM)
- (2) That the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee should refer the issue of the DPE implementation delay to the Essex Association of Local Authorities for urgent debate. (HRHM)
- (3) That, in the interim period, research should be conducted to establish what powers this Council might have in respect of the enforcement of yellow lines within its town centres. (HLS)

It was noted that the Working Group intended to report to the next meeting of this Committee.

Rochford District Replacement Local Plan – Telecommunications Masts

The Head of Planning Services confirmed that the revised policy would be considered by the next meeting of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee.

Since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, the Government has published a Planning Policy Guidance Note No. 8 on Telecommunications. Members noted that PPG8 indicated that local planning authorities should not seek to implement their own precautionary principles by way of imposing a ban on new telecommunications developments or insisting on minimum distances between new telecommunications developments and existing developments. Key extracts from this Guidance Note would be copied to Members.

Junction Improvements A129 London Road/Downhall Road/Creswick Avenue, Rayleigh

The County Area Manager confirmed that the surface water problem would be addressed by re-surfacing the road in this vicinity. He further affirmed that these works were not part of the locally determined programme, rather a joint County/District capital scheme.

Civic Amenity Sites

Southend on Sea Borough Council have not responded to a request for a meeting date and have not provided the monitoring report subsequent to the 6-month trial. It was confirmed that the Chief Executive would be raising this matter with the Chief Executive of Southend on Sea Borough Council.

Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group

An update report will be considered by the Environmental Health Sub-Committee in January.

Local Transport Panel – Member Nominations

The County Area Manager confirmed that minutes of the Local Transport Panel would be circulated to Members within the next week.

Refuse Collection – Block Scheduling

Members were concerned that there had been instances of residents not receiving notification letters relating to the changes in refuse collection. Additionally, some residents who had completed forms confirming that they were unable to move their refuse bins as a result of disabilities, did not have their bins moved and emptied by Service Team.

It was confirmed that an update report on block scheduling and on Christmas and New Year refuse collection would be considered by this Committee in January. The Service Team would, in addition, attend the Environmental Health Sub-Committee meeting in January.

Christmas and New Year Refuse Collection

Leaflets notifying residents of revised collection dates during this period would be distributed by Rochford District Council staff, through letter boxes.

424 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee received the Minutes of the following Sub-Committees and considered the recommendations contained therein.

(1) Planning Policy Sub-Committee – 31 October 2001

Minute 122 – Presentation

Resolved

- (1) That consideration be given to the compulsory purchase of 50-54 West Street, Rochford at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee to be held on 6 December 2001.
- (2) That the report to the Finance & General Purposes Committee include a copy of the report submitted to the Planning Policy Sub-Committee. (HPS)

Minute 123 – Rochford District Replacement Local Plan Inner Green Belt Boundary Study

Resolved

That, subject to the inclusion of Member comments listed in the Minutes of the Sub-Committee, the revised criteria for assessing Green Belt sites be approved. (HPS)

Minute 124 – Rochford District Replacement Local Plan – Further Draft Policies

Resolved

That, together with the addition detailed in the Sub-Committee Minutes, the policies appended to the report be included in the Replacement Rochford District Local Plan First Deposit Draft (HPS).

Minute 125 – 50-54 West Street, Rochford

Resolved

That, subject to a Planning application, in principle acceptance be given to the change of use of the shops at 50-52 West Street to residential. (HPS)

Minute 126 – Rochford District Replacement Local Plan Modifications to Green Belt Boundaries

Resolved

- (1) That the Green Belt Boundary for land at Park Gardens, Hawkwell; Canewdon View Road, Ashingdon; Ashingdon Hall, Church Lane, Ashingdon and Ashingdon Heights, Ashingdon be modified as outlined in the report.

- (2) That the remainder of the report be noted. (HPS)

425 PRESENTATION BY ALFRED MCALPINE ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Committee received a presentation by David Lumley and Stuart Livingstone relating to Contract 2000, the legal agreement entered into by the County Council with Alfred McAlpine Asset Management Services, who are responsible for delivering all highway works in the county. A copy of the presentation is appended to the Minutes.

During the subsequent discussion, the following issues emerged:-

- Potholes likely to cause injury or inconvenience would be repaired within 24 hours of being reported.
- Visual inspections of highways are conducted both on foot and by vehicle.
- Surveys of major roads and town centre roads would be conducted on a monthly basis; surveys of roads in rural areas would be conducted one a year.
- McAlpine's also have responsibility for maintaining streetlights, although currently are not legally able to carry out repairs in respect of live cables. Such repairs are conducted by 24 Seven.
- Details of the Street Lighting Helpline contact telephone number would be included in the Members' Bulletin.
- The utility companies have an electronic link to an Essex County Council database used to co-ordinate street and road works. However, there are gaps in information provided.
- The County Council will provide information relating to utilities' works on the Internet.
- McAlpine staff will remove bollards and barriers not removed once works are completed, when such instances are reported.
- Visual inspections of 6% of the highways appeared inadequate.
- A nighttime inspection of lighting in Hall Road, Rochford would be beneficial.

426 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing & Revenue Management on a scheme proposal recommended by the Dial a Ride Working Group to provide a substitute service using Taxi Vouchers.

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The following additions were made to the operational details of the scheme:-

- Vouchers will be non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash.
- Vouchers can be used for ordinary, as well as specialist taxis.

Resolved

- (1) That the Taxi Voucher Scheme set out in the Appendix to this report be approved and introduced from 1 April 2002, subject to the additions noted above.
- (2) That pre-registration be invited from existing Dial a Ride users and that the scheme be publicised.
- (3) That £33,000 be included in the Draft Estimate for 2002/3. (HRHM)

427 BRAYS LANE, ASHINGDOWN/ROCHFORD PROPOSED REVOCATION OF EXISTING SPEED LIMIT DE-RESTRICTION ORDER (PART)

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services, Essex County Council, asking Members to consider an objection to the advertised proposal, to revoke part of the existing speed limit de-restriction order on Brays Lane Rochford/Ashingdon.

Responding to concern raised about high-sided vehicles striking the speed limit sign in Brays Lane, the County Area Manager confirmed that the new sign would be mounted differently.

Resolved

That, notwithstanding the objection received, the Traffic Regulation Order be made as recommended in accordance with the County Council's Standard Order Marking Procedure. (County Highways)

428 PASSENGER TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services, Essex County Council, asking Members to consider a proposal to trial a higher level of bus stop maintenance in the Rochford District.

The County Area Manager confirmed that the section in his report relating to urban bus shelters was not relevant to this Council. Bus shelters are the responsibility of parish councils.

In response to concern raised that the bus companies should take responsibility for the maintenance of bus stops, the County Area Manager confirmed that bus companies were responsible for timetable notices.

The County Area Manager was unable to provide costings for the trial, but confirmed that, once available, these would be provided to Members.

The trial would be conducted over a 12-month period and an audit conducted at the end of this to determine whether points 4.1 and 5.1 in this report are valid.

Resolved

That the Committee supports in principle the proposal to trial a higher level of bus stop maintenance in Rochford District, subject to information about the scheme's costs being provided. (County Highways)

429 PREPARATION OF THE LOCALLY DETERMINED PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services, Essex County Council demonstrating how the preparation of the Locally Determined Programme is carried out. It also clarifies how consultation with Parish, District and County Councillors is carried out, demonstrating best value in terms of schemes and funding available.

Responding to a Member query about the maintenance of high streets, the District Engineer confirmed that a new category, namely Town Centre Maintenance, would be created.

Resolved

That the Committee notes the format for the preparation of the Locally Determined Programme. (County Highways)

430 REVIEW OF LOCALLY DETERMINED PROGRAMME 2001/2002

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services, Essex County Council informing Members of progress on the Locally Determined Programme 2001/2002.

New and Improved Footway Facilities – Stambridge Road

The County Area Manager, responding to Member concern, confirmed that funding would not be spent in the current financial year on the footpath near the post office in Stambridge Road, as a result of the

requirement for a compulsory purchase order which would take approximately 6 months to progress. The project would be rolled forward into the locally determined programme for 2002/03.

Residential Zones

It was confirmed that a date had not yet been arranged in December for a meeting of the working party.

Kill Your Speed Campaign

It was confirmed that parishes other than Hawkwell would be updated on the change in colour and style of the Kill Your Speed Campaign signs.

Rayleigh Town Centre – Review of Traffic Regulation Orders

On a motion moved by Cllr Mrs J Helson it was **resolved:-**

That a report on traffic regulation orders in Rayleigh Town Centre should be considered by Full Council in December. (County Highways)

Resolved

That Members note progress and agree the revised programme for this year's Locally Determined Programme. (County Highways)

431 OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC ORDERS IN DIRECT DISTRICTS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services updating Members on the latest position with regard to the transfer of responsibility for dealing with Traffic Regulation Orders from the County Council to the District Council.

Resolved

That Essex County Council be advised that Rochford District Council agrees to accept the responsibility for determining Traffic Regulation Orders, subject to the preparation of the notices, consultation arrangements and associated administrative arrangements being dealt with by the County Council. (HPS)

432 CONTAMINATED LAND – UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care updating Members regarding the implementation of the Council's statutory contaminated land strategy and the joint initiative of the Essex Environmental Protection Study Group (EPPSG) and the Essex County Council (ECC) (joint initiative).

Resolved

That £30,000 be included in support of the contaminated land regime within the draft revenue estimates for 2002/03. (HHHCC)

433 AIR QUALITY REVIEW – UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care updating members regarding statutory air quality reviews and the joint initiatives being considered by the Essex Air Quality Consortium.

Resolved

- (1) That the initiative of the Essex Air Quality Consortium be supported in assessing areas where joint working by authorities and institutions within the county may be beneficial under the Government's Air Quality Strategy.
- (2) That £9,000 be included in support of the air quality review within the draft revenue estimates for 2002/03. (HHHCC)

434 DTLR CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – ABANDONED VEHICLES

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) informing Members of the aims of the consultation document on abandoned vehicles produced by the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions and seeking approval of the Council's proposed response to the questions asked in the document.

Resolved

That Members note the content of this report and agree to the suggested response detailed in section 4 of this report to be sent in reply to the DTLR's consultation document. (CD (F&ES))

435 HOCKLEY TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) seeking agreement to the release of capital funding in order to progress the above scheme.

On a motion moved by Cllr A Hosking and seconded by Cllr P D Stebbing it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That it be agreed that the scheme goes ahead as outlined in the report.

- (2) That the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services), in consultation with the Hockley Town Centre Working Group, be given delegated authority to agree changes for the scheme in order to ensure it remains in budget.
- (3) That the Council contribution be fixed at a maximum of £150,000. (CD (F&ES))

436 HULLBRIDGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) seeking approval to implement the village centre improvement scheme in Hullbridge.

Resolved

That Members agree to the Hullbridge scheme proceeding as detailed in the above report, subject to a maximum expenditure by this Council of £100,000. Works to be managed and undertaken by Essex County Council. (CD (F&ES))

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Chairman

Date