

## **ISSUES ARISING FROM ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19 NOVEMBER 2002**

### **1 TAXI TARIFF – CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS**

- 1.1 This item of business was referred by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 19 November back to this Committee, in order that they might reconsider their earlier decision.
- 1.2 Members are reminded that at the meeting of this Committee held on 7 November 2002 they had reached the following decision relating to the above. The report relating to that decision is attached as Appendix 1.
  - (1) That the Hackney Carriage tariff set at the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 5 September 2002 (Minute 401/02 refers) be the new tariff.
  - (2) That the effective date of the Hackney Carriage tariff be 2 December 2002.
  - (3) That the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee be reconstituted as a consultative forum, meetings to be held twice yearly – in July to consider tariff charges and in January/February to consider licensing fees and charges associated with the trade.
  - (4) That the Chairman and one other representative from the Association of Circuit Company Owners in the Rochford District and the Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers Association be invited to attend meetings with the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee as appropriate.
  - (5) That the question of whether further consideration be given to future usage of the National Private Hire Association tariff model be discussed at the next meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee.
- 1.3 At that meeting on 7 November Members had been advised that legal fees in connection with any appeal to the Magistrates Court were likely to be in the region of £700. However, an appeal in such circumstances can only relate to changes in licence conditions; there is no appeal against setting a tariff except by way of judicial review. This would involve appeal to the High Court on a point of law or procedure; it

would not provide a means to challenge the merits of the decision itself.

- 1.4 Pursuant to Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15, the decision was called in for scrutiny by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 19 November.
- 1.5 Members of that Committee did not disagree with the decision reached by the Policy Committee but noted that full information with regard to the right of appeal might not have been clear at the time.
- 1.6 The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee referred the matter back to the Environmental Services Committee to reconsider their decision in the light of the above information.

## **2 REVIEW OF HOCKLEY, HULLBRIDGE AND ROCHFORD CENTRE IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES**

- 2.1 This item of business was referred by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 19 November to this Committee, with the recommendation that an officer from the County Council be appointed as a Clerk of Works. A copy of the report from County Highways is attached as Appendix 2.
- 2.2 Members were disappointed that scheme costs had proved to be much higher than originally estimated, but remained committed to ensuring that these schemes are completed as originally agreed by the Town Centre Working Groups.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the Environmental Services Committee **RESOLVES**

That an officer from the County Council be designated as Clerk of Works to oversee the District's town centre enhancement schemes.  
(County Highways)

## **3 RESIDENTIAL ZONES AND THE ASSESSMENT AND RANKING**

- 3.1 This item of business was referred by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 19 November to this Committee, with the recommendation that the assessment scoring sheet be used as the basis for prioritising future requests for Residential Zones. A copy of the report from County Highways is attached as Appendix 3.
- 3.2 Members noted that discussion meetings had been held with Ward Councillors to agree items that needed to be taken into consideration in developing the assessment procedure.

- 3.3 Members were concerned that as part of the consultation process, residents were made aware of any measures that would be immediately outside their property.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the Environmental Services Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That the assessment scoring sheet be used as the basis for prioritising all future requests for Residential Zones.
  - (2) That the first zone to be initiated by Pooles Lane, Hullbridge, as determined using the assessment scoring sheet.
  - (3) That the procedure for progressing successful schemes, including the method of public consultation, be as detailed in Section 4 of the report. (County Highways)

#### **4 ASSESSMENT OF PLAYING PITCHES IN ROCHFORD DISTRICT**

- 4.1 This item of business was referred by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 19 November to this Committee, with the recommendation that, subject to clarification of the accuracy, the Playing Pitch Assessment document be adopted as Local Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance. A copy of the Officer's report is attached as Appendix 4.
- 4.2 A detailed assessment of pitch provision in the District had now been prepared using methodology endorsed by Sport England. A copy of the study had been placed in the Members Lounge, Rayleigh.
- 4.3 It is proposed that the Environmental Services Committee **RESOLVES**
- That the Playing Pitch Assessment document be adopted as Local Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance and that arrangements be made to incorporate the following points into the replacement Local Plan:-
- Disaggregating the required standards for the provision of sports pitches from those for the provision of open space.
  - Adopting specific standards for provision in individual sub-areas of the District (Rayleigh, Hockley, Hullbridge, Canewdon, Rochford and Great Wakering).
  - Policy protection for existing pitches to prevent alternative use and to maintain provision.
  - That consideration be given to using developer contributions to assist with the improvement of existing sports pitches and ancillary facilities. (HPS)

Sarah Fowler

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**Background Papers:**

None

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