

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 4 July 2001

Minutes of the meeting of the **Transportation & Environmental Services Committee** held on **4 July 2001** when there were present:

Cllr V H Leach

Chairman

Cllr R S Allen

Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr R F R Adams

Cllr C C Langlands

Cllr R A Amner

Cllr R A Pearson

Cllr Mrs J M Giles

Cllr S P Smith

Cllr J E Grey

Cllr M G B Starke

Cllr D R Helson

Cllr P D Stebbing

Cllr Mrs J Helson

Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr A Hosking

Cllr D A Weir

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs J E Ford, K A Gibbs and D Downing, Essex Police Traffic Management Unit.

The Committee noted the resignation of Cllr D M Ford, expressed their thanks for all his work for the Council and extended their best wishes to him.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr C R Morgan

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllr Mrs M A Weir

DISTRICT OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S J Clarkson	Head of Revenue and Housing Management
S Scrutton	Head of Planning Services
G P Woolhouse	Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
M T Goodman	Principal Solicitor
J Bostock	Principal Committee Administrator
S Worthington	Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT

N McCullagh	Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services
Miss J Martyn	District Manager, Transportation & Operational Services

223 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr V H Leach declared a non pecuniary interest in point 5 of the item on minor capital programme 2001/2002, by virtue of his daughter using Hall Road as a cycle route.

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Cllr M G B Starke declared a non pecuniary interest in item on civic amenity sites by virtue of being a resident of Stambridge.

224 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 22 March 2001 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

225 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Committee noted the progress of the outstanding issues, together with the following update:-

Page 8.1 – Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works (Minute 167)
The N-Viro plant would not be cleared completely until autumn. There were many complaints about the treatment works from local residents. The Working Group would meet in the autumn in order to protect the interests of local residents.

Page 8.1 – Development Plan for Foulness and New Ranges (Minute 178)
The Committee noted concern about the involvement of Southend on Sea Borough Council in the development plan for Foulness.

226 CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP TO WORKING GROUPS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Administrative & Member Services seeking agreement to changes in membership of two Working Groups.

Resolved

- (1) That Cllr T G Cutmore replace Cllr C C Langlands as a member of the Hockley Town Centre Working Group.
- (2) That Cllr R E Vingoe replace Cllr R S Allen as Chairman of the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement Working Group. (HAMS)

227 REPORT OF URGENT ACTION

The Committee received and noted the reports of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care and the Head of Planning Services which advised Members of urgent action taken relating to the following:-

- (i) Consultation – Application by Cory Environmental Ltd. to Discharge Trade Effluent in Storm Conditions from Barling Quarry into a Tributary of the Tidal River Roach

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- (ii) Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 - Consultation Draft

228 RURAL AND URBAN BUS CHALLENGE FUNDS 2001

Note: The Chairman admitted this as an item of urgent business in view of Essex County Council's deadline for the submission of bids.

The Head of Planning Services reported on a letter received from Essex County Council outlining the availability of funds for the next two years to provide rural bus transport.

Members noted the information and agreed that a bid be submitted for a rural bus to provide a link between Wallasea and Battlesbridge.

Resolved

That a bid be submitted for a rural bus to provide a link between Wallasea and Battlesbridge. (HPS)

229 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

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

(1) Environmental Health Sub-Committee – 5 June 2001

Minute 106 - Recommendations from the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group

Resolved

That a report on the status of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works be prepared for a future meeting of Transportation & Environmental Services or Planning Services Committee. (HHHCC)

Minute 107 – Future Waste Strategy

Resolved

- (1) That the Essex County Council be advised that this Council would wish to participate in the new Waste Management Contract in accordance with the development of option 5 in order to continue our current method of operation.
- (2) That progress updates be included in *Rochford District Matters*.
- (3) That the issue of sources of funding for recycling targets beyond 2004 be addressed through the Local Government Association. (CD(F&ES))

(2) Planning Policy Sub-Committee - 6 June 2001

Minute 112 – Rochford Economic Audit

Resolved

That the Rochford Economic Audit document be considered in the context of the Economic Development Strategy and the Draft Local Plan. (HPS)

Minute 113 – Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 – Sport, Open Space and Recreation - Consultation

Resolved

That, subject to the inclusion of the additional comments detailed in the minute preamble, this report forms the basis of the Council's response to the consultation on the revisions to PPG17. (HPS)

Minute 114 – Rochford District Replacement Local Plan – Telecommunication Masts

Resolved

That, subject to the inclusion of the additional comments detailed in the minute preamble, a revised policy on telecommunications masts be prepared for inclusion in the replacement Local Plan that seeks to control the provision of masts and intensification of base stations within close proximity to residential areas or school premises. (HPS)

(3) Transportation Sub-Committee – 20 June 2001

Minute 169 – Road Safety – School Pedestrian Crossings

A Motion moved by Cllr Mrs J Helson and seconded by Cllr Mrs J M Giles, was carried on the casting vote of the Chairman and it was:-

Resolved

That, if the remaining balance of £26,200 cannot be used for the provision of a crossing outside the school at Love Lane, Rayleigh, it be transferred to the District Council's Community Safety Budget.

Minute 170 – 'Bar-N-Bus' Vehicle at Websters Way Car Park, Rayleigh

Resolved

- (1) That permission be granted for the 'Bar-N-Bus' vehicle to continue to park in Websters Way car park on Thursday evenings for an indefinite period.

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- (2) That Officers periodically consult with the Trust and the Police to monitor the effectiveness of this initiative.
- (3) That six-monthly reports be made to the Transportation Sub-Committee. (HRHM)

Minute 171 – Hackney Carriage Rank – Golden Cross Parade, Rochford

Resolved

- (1) That the proposal for the revised Hackney Carriage Rank at Golden Cross Parade as set out in the report be adopted.
- (2) That the proposals be advertised in a newspaper circulating in the District and objections be invited. (HRHM)

Minute 172 – Hackney Carriage Tariff Review

Resolved

That the terms of reference of the Taxi Licensing Working Group be widened to include taxi fares. (HRHM)

230 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2001/2002

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services, Essex County Council, on the allocation of funds for the maintenance of highways in the Rochford District Council area for 2001/2002, together with the approved Special Maintenance budget and capital programme.

In response to a Member enquiry as to whether carriageway resurfacing / reconstruction works on the southbound carriage of the A130 was a high priority, in light of the re-routing of the A130, the Area Manager confirmed that this was essential interim carriageway repair work. He also confirmed that work on the Eastwood Road/Daws Heath Road roundabout and zebra crossing would take place during the school summer holiday.

Members raised the following concerns which were not addressed by the report:

- Pools Lane in Hullbridge needs re-surfacing work
- Hall Road footway is incomplete after the rail bridge, between Keddies and the graveyard.

Resolved

That the anticipated expenditure on basic maintenance, special maintenance and from the minor capital programme for the Rochford District in 2001/2002 be noted, subject to the above comments. (Area Highways)

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231 JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS A129 LONDON ROAD/DOWN HALL ROAD/CRESWICK AVENUE, RAYLEIGH

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services, Essex County Council, on the proposals for improvements at the junction of A129 London Road, Down Hall Road and Creswick Avenue.

The Area Manager confirmed that there was likely to be a shortfall in expenditure, which would be shared equally between the Council and County Highways.

Resolved

That, subject to advice from Safety Audit, the following options be implemented:-

- Upgrade existing "Zebra" crossing in the vicinity of the junction to a "Puffin".
- Highlight "Keep Clear" markings.
- Minor Carriageway realignment in Down Hall Road.
- Mark out "right turn" lane. (Area Highways)

232 CIVIC AMENITY SITES

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which provided an update following the resolution passed at Full Council on 24 April 2001 (Minute 177/01).

During debate, Members expressed a number of concerns about the Southend on Sea Borough Council's stance. Comments included:

- Information should be provided about the weight of waste left at Stock Road.
- Information should also be provided about the number of tickets sold, compared to the number actually claimed by residents.
- Southend on Sea Borough Council does not appear to be working in partnership with the Rochford and Castle Point District Councils.

Resolved

- (1) That further progress reports be made.
- (2) That Essex County Council be advised that in the event of a scheme being agreed which would allow access for Rochford residents to use the Southend civic amenity sites at no charge, this Council would wish all residents of the District to be included in the scheme.
- (3) That when arrangements for a Member level meeting are made, this Council's representatives be Group Leaders, or their nominees, and

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the Chairman of Transportation & Environmental Services Committee.
(HHHCC)

233 CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY (Min 122/01)

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care seeking formal adoption of the Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy for Rochford District Council.

Resolved

- (1) That the Statutory Contaminated Land Strategy be formally adopted and published by the Council.
- (2) That further consideration be given to the long term resource implications of the contaminated land regime in due course. (HHHCC)

234 HOCKLEY TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS

The Committee considered the report of Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) advising on progress made to date by the Hockley Town Centre Working Group in suggesting improvement works to the town centre.

Resolved

- (1) That the design for the Hockley Town Centre Improvement Scheme be agreed and Essex County Council instructed to proceed with the design of the scheme.
- (2) That a report be made to this Committee with a fully costed design for the scheme.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Working Group, to conclude any final minor aesthetic considerations. (CD(F&ES))

235 HULLBRIDGE VILLAGE CENTRE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on work carried out by the Hullbridge Village Working Group in suggesting improvement works in the village.

Member concern was expressed that improvements to private shop frontages were included in the scheme. Funding for similar improvements had been rejected for the Rayleigh Town Centre enhancement scheme on the basis that it would be an inappropriate use of public funds.

The Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) confirmed that new legislation relating to the wellbeing of the District had recently been introduced

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which made it possible to deploy public funds in this way.

Resolved

- (1) That the design for the Hullbridge Village improvement scheme be agreed.
- (2) That the proposed resurfacing works to the shop frontages be agreed to be carried out at the expense of the Council.
- (3) That Essex County Council be instructed to proceed with the design of the scheme.
- (4) That a report be made to this Committee with a fully costed design for the scheme once prepared by the County Council.
- (5) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services, in consultation with the Working Group, to conclude any final minor aesthetic considerations. (CD(F&ES))

236 FLORAL DECORATIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on work being carried out by Rayleigh Town Council in the Mill Hall Car Park and whether the Council would wish to contribute towards the costs.

The Rayleigh Chamber of Trade has made a similar bid to the Council for £500 against an annual fund for initiatives which would improve the economic environment of the town centres.

During debate the following points were noted:-

- There was no budget available for such a contribution to be made.
- The Rayleigh Town Centre Enhancement Scheme may have some funds available as a result of penalty payments for work delays.
- Railings were required around the windmill.

Resolved

- (1) That the work carried out by the Town Council be noted.
- (2) That all funding bids for floral decorations, including those from Chambers of Trade, should be deferred and referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee. (CD(F&ES))

237 ROCHFORD TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME (Min 114/01)

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services which provided details of the public consultation exercise carried out between 1 – 15

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June 2001 into the proposals for the enhancement of Rochford Town Centre and sought agreement to the implementation of the scheme, subject to amendments.

In response to a Member query about additional County Council funding, District Manager, Highways confirmed that £50k had been allocated under County's capital maintenance programme to address public safety hazard issues in Rochford town centre. Resurfacing would be done in the Square and along West Street.

Members felt that it would be appropriate to undertake further consultation and:-

Resolved

- (1) That this report should be deferred, for further consultation with Rochford Parish Council, Rochford Chamber of Trade and Rochford Hundred Amenities Society.
- (2) That a meeting of the Rochford Town Centre Working be convened to consider the outcome of these further consultations and to report back to this committee or a meeting of Full Council.
- (3) That a study be undertaken to analyse car parking time patterns in the Market Square, to be considered by the Working Group.
- (4) That work be undertaken on the potential loss of parking spaces in the square to be compensated for by allocating free spaces in Back Lane, to be considered by the Working Group.
- (5) That the Working Group considers bus routes, in consultation with Arriva.(HPS)

238 LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE – THE NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services on whether Rochford should sign up to the Nottingham declaration on climate change.

Members noted that signing up to the declaration would have considerable resource implications for the Council.

On a motion moved by Cllr V H Leach and seconded by Cllr J E Grey it was:-

Resolved

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- (1) That the Council aspires to the principles of the Nottingham declaration on climate change but, in view of resource considerations, delays signing up to the declaration at this time. (HPS)

239 PAVEMENT PERMISSIONS (Min 113/01,292/97,413/97 & 437/98)

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which addressed pavement permissions.

At the previous meeting of the Committee, Members resolved that the Rayleigh Town Centre Monitoring Panel debates the issue of "A" boards fully and report back to the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee (minute 113/01).

Resolved

- (1) That complaints about "A" boards and articles places on the pavement be referred to the Highway Authority with a request that they enforce where they consider that there is a hazard or obstruction.
- (2) That the Pavement Permission provisions should only apply to applications for permission from catering establishments to site tables or chairs and associated furniture for the consumption of refreshments. (HHHCC)
- (3) That a further meeting of the Rayleigh Town Centre Forum should be arranged. (HPS)

240 SOUTHEND BOROUGH REPLACEMENT LOCAL PLAN ISSUES REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning on the contents of an Issues Paper published by Southend on Sea Borough Council as a precursor to the replacement Borough Local Plan.

Resolved

That the Borough Council be informed that this Council's key concerns are:-

- The need for an up to date Housing Needs Survey to inform affordable housing provision
- The impact of major employment land at Fossets Farm and Shoeburyness on traffic in South East Essex
- That there should not be a ring road. (HPS).

241 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

That the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of

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Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

242 MECHANICAL SWEEPER MONITORING

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on the use of the mechanical sweeper within the Street Cleansing contract operated by Serviceteam Ltd.

Members had previously indicated their concern over the effective use of the mechanical sweeper.

It was noted that specific monitoring of the sweeper would now take place during the following week.

During discussion, the following observations were made:

- There were some overflowing bins.
- Rayleigh Town Centre Forum should be provided with a schedule for the sweeper.
- There was a problem with flyposting and a vehicle using the Websters Way car park.
- It would be preferable if the Council crest was on all vehicles.

Resolved

- (1) That the contract monitoring team continue with programming periodic detailed monitoring of the mechanical sweeper as part of their overall monitoring schedules.
- (2) That representatives of Serviceteam be invited to the Environmental Health Sub-Committee to provide feedback on the operation of the refuse collection and street cleaning contracts.
- (3) That representatives of Serviceteam be invited to the Leisure Sub-Committee to provide feedback on the operation of the grounds maintenance contract.(CD(F&ES))

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman

Date