

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 20 April 2005

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **20 April 2005** when there were present:-

Cllr P K Savill (Chairman)
Cllr P A Capon (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs S A Harper
Cllr K H Hudson
Cllr C A Hungate

Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr M G B Starke

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton - Head of Planning Services
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

176 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

177 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors K H Hudson and M G B Starke each declared personal interests in the item on London Southend Airport – Draft Master Plan by virtue of being Council representatives on the London Southend Airport Consultative Committee.

178 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee received the schedule relating to Progress on Decisions.

Serviceteam Update (Minute 495/05)

It was noted that a report on the possibilities for providing residents with disposable bags for putting out papers would be submitted to a meeting of the Waste Management and Recycling Sub-Committee in May.

Proposed Further Changes to Planning Fees (Minute 28/05)

It was noted that the overall increase to planning fees had worked out at 39% (fees being proportionally more for larger applications).

179 LONDON SOUTHEND AIRPORT – DRAFT MASTER PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services, which sought views on a draft Master Plan intended to set the scene for the future development of London Southend Airport.

In presenting the report/responding to questions, the Head of Planning Services advised that:-

- From evidence associated with airfields in other parts of the country, any increase in passenger numbers usually occurred very rapidly. There remained concerns amongst residents of the Rochford District and Southend-on-Sea Borough areas on the impact of expansion on residential amenity.
- The planning permission associated with the new terminal building at the airport has restrictions on the hours of use including no arrivals or departures outside the hours of 6.30am to 11.00pm (Mondays to Saturdays). However, no such restrictions apply to the use of the existing terminal building, although there is a condition in the planning permission requiring that public passenger traffic should go across to a new building, the implication being, as indicated in the draft master plan, that the old terminal would be used for private business traffic.
- The planning authority had just received an application for the construction of a commuter car park at the airport.
- Any extension to the current terminal would need formal planning consent, and applications would need to be accompanied by further traffic impact reports.
- The arrangements for the provision of the new railway station were subject to negotiation with various bodies including the Strategic Rail Authority. It was understood that the airport operating company would be required to fund the construction of the station.
- Surface access to the airport is a subject that would have to be examined and addressed in detail.

During debate it was observed that, whilst many favourable aspects could be associated with a successful airport, there were a number of questions that would need to be addressed, particularly in the context of any rapid growth. These would include the location of any new terminal building and arrangements for additional car parking. It was also observed that, unlike the situation with many other airports where users do not always know the locality and would follow airport signage, the users of London Southend Airport are likely to approach the airport along local routes known to them.

In reviewing the proposed comments on the plan it was agreed that it would be important to clarify that, within the statement on access, reference to the “east of Southend” is meant to be reference to the “east of Rochford”. It was also agreed that there would be merit in asking representatives of the London Southend Airport to give a detailed presentation on airport proposals to all Members of the Council at an appropriate point in the near future.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to inclusion of a request for clarification that reference to the “east of Southend” within the statement on access is meant to be reference to the “east of Rochford”, the comments within the report of the Head of Planning Services form the basis of a response to the consultation on the London Southend Airport – Draft Master Plan.
- (2) That representatives of the London Southend Airport be asked to give a detailed presentation on airport proposals to all Members of the Council at an appropriate point in the near future. (HPS)

180 REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE PLANNING SERVICES COMMITTEE – SCOPING REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services on the issues to be considered during the review of the operation of the Planning Services Committee.

In considering the proposed scoping form, the Committee concurred with the observation of the Chairman that it would be appropriate for all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be included in site visits to other authorities.

Resolved

That, subject to all Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee being included in site visits to other authorities, the scoping form, as appended to the report, be agreed as the framework for the review of the operation of the Planning Services Committee. (HPS)

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman

Date