

## **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 11 February 2004**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **11 February 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr P K Savill (Chairman)  
Cllr C A Hungate (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr C I Black  
Cllr Mrs R Brown

Cllr T E Goodwin  
Cllr P F A Webster

### **VISITING MEMBERS**

Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn and C L Lumley.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P A Capon and K H Hudson.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllr M G B Starke

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S Clarkson	- Head of Revenue & Housing Management
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning Services
J Bourne	- Leisure & Contracts Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

## **71 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the words 'Recommended to Environmental Services Committee' in minute 40 being replaced by 'Resolved'.

## **72 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS**

**(Note:** Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in the item on Rochford town map by virtue of being a Member of Rochford Parish Council).

The Committee received the schedule relating to progress on decisions.

### **Rochford Town Map (Minute 524/03)**

Officers advised that no advertising would appear on the town map. No decision had yet been taken as to where the map would be located, as discussion needed to take place with Ward Members.

Officers did, however, note Member concern relating to the possibility of vandalism should the town map be sited in Market Square.

### **73 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue & Housing Management on the progress of the Community Transport Scheme since its introduction on 6 October 2003. The scheme is operated by Rayleigh, Rochford and District Association for Voluntary Service (RAVS) with support from the Council and other statutory bodies.

During debate, it was the general consensus of Members that the Access Committee for the Disabled should be included on the scoping form in the list of witnesses. Members further concurred that the Community Transport team should be set targets relating to the total number of journeys per month and to total membership of the Community Transport Scheme.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the scheme drivers, officers confirmed that the Department of Transport had advised that Community Transport Schemes such as this one were not subject to the driver licensing regime. However, this Authority ensures that all scheme drivers are fully insured and receive full criminal checks.

In response to a further query relating to the Essex Disabled Persons Association, officers advised that they would write to the 18 members of the Association who live within the Rochford District explaining the details of the Community Transport Scheme and inviting them to join.

Responding to a Member concern about marketing the scheme, officers confirmed that there would be personal visits by officers to sheltered housing schemes distributing promotional leaflets to residents and that RAVS were producing similar promotional material that they planned to circulate to various social clubs.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the progress of the Community Transport Scheme be noted and that further scrutiny, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report be undertaken, subject to the inclusion of the Access Committee for the Disabled in the list of witnesses.
- (2) That the following targets for the Community Transport team be agreed:-
  - Maintain level of 300 journeys per month for the first six months.
  - Increase membership of the scheme to 100 in the first six months.
  - Increase the level of journeys to 500 per month in the second six months.

- Increase membership of the scheme to 150 in the second six months. (HRHM)

### **74 A LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR ROCHFORD DISTRICT**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' approval to the arrangement for the preparation of the Rochford Local Development Scheme.

During debate, Members noted that the reference to Park School on page 8.7 of the report should be deleted.

Responding to Member concern relating to the future requirement for the Authority to produce an Annual Monitoring Report, officers confirmed that the intention was for the new planning system to be more dynamic than the current arrangements. The Annual Monitoring Report would be part of an ongoing review process that would include a requirement to produce regular, detailed monitoring reports indicating the Authority's progress in implementing its policies.

Members expressed concern about the amount of work the introduction of the Local Development Scheme would entail for officers and particularly with respect to the Statement of Community Involvement and the production of Local Development Documents.

Members were further concerned about the requirement to produce major site development briefs prepared jointly with Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, although it was recognised that only one of these, that relating to London Southend Airport, had the potential for difficulties.

Concluding the debate, officers advised, in response to a Member concern about the Local Plan, that Local Plans would be phased out over a period of time. A report would come to a future meeting of this Committee seeking Members' views on whether or not to push forward with adopting a final Local Plan for the District.

#### **Resolved**

That, subject to the above comments from Members, the arrangements for the preparation of the Local development Scheme be agreed, and that the final LDS document be presented to a future meeting of the Committee for approval. (HPS)

### **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 8 of

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

### **75 KERBSIDE RECYCLING EXPANSION/ADDITIONAL DEFRA FUNDING**

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing Members with proposals for an expansion to the Council's kerbside recycling service, following the approval of extra funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) via an Essex County Council partnership bid.

It was the general consensus of the Committee that the proposals contained within the exempt report had significant financial implications for the Authority in both the medium and long term. It was deemed that there would be merit in setting up a Recycling Sub-Committee in order to conduct more extensive research into the proposals before taking a final decision. Mindful of the requirement to make a prompt decision in order to not jeopardise the DEFRA funding, Members concurred that the Sub-Committee should examine the proposals in detail and make appropriate recommendations to this Committee by April.

#### **Resolved**

That a Recycling Sub-Committee be formed, comprising Cllrs C A Hungate, C J Lumley, P K Savill, M G B Starke and one Member from the Labour Group to examine the recycling proposals in the exempt report in detail and to make appropriate recommendations to this Committee by April. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....