

## **Transportation & Environmental Services Committee - 21 September 2000**

---

Minutes of the meeting of the **Transportation & Environmental Services Committee** held on **21 September 2000** when there were present:

Cllr D M Ford  
Cllr Mrs J E Ford

Chairman  
Vice Chairman

Cllr R S Allen  
Cllr R A Amner  
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn  
Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr D R Helson  
Cllr A Hosking  
Cllr C C Langlands

Cllr V H Leach  
Cllr R A Pearson  
Cllr S P Smith  
Cllr M G B Starke  
Cllr P D Stebbing  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr D A Weir

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Mrs J M Giles and Mrs L I V Phillips

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllrs Mrs R Brown, Mrs J Helson and P F A Webster

### **VISITING MEMBERS**

Cllrs R E Vingoe and Mrs M A Weir

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

J Bourne	Leisure & Contracts Manager
D Deeks	Head of Financial Services
M J Goodman	Solicitor
S Scrutton	Head of Corporate Policy & Initiatives and Acting Head of Planning
G P Woolhouse	Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
Mrs M A Martin	Committee Administrator

### **274 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 June 2000 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **275 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr R A Amner declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 - Consultation Paper: Control of Noise from Civil Aircraft - by virtue of his involvement with the Airport Authority.

**276 OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

**Height Barriers at Civic Amenity Suite, Castle Road, Rayleigh (Minute 373/99)** - CCTV to be installed in the first quarter of next year. Members were disappointed at the lack of support demonstrated by the reply from Essex County Council regarding Members' concerns about the site. (Minute 177/00). The Head of Housing, Health & Community Care agreed to pass to the County Council any further problems that came to the attention of Members.  
(Area Highways/HHHCC)

**Rayleigh Town Centre Proposed Variation to Waiting Restrictions (Minute 201/99)** The survey work for the review of the Traffic Regulation Order would shortly be complete. A report back would be made to the next meeting of this Committee. (Area Highways)

**Land at Golden Cross Parade (Minute 178/00)** - Report back to this Committee. (Area Highways)

**277 SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL - OUTER BYPASS**

The Chairman admitted the following item of urgent business on the grounds that Members should be made aware of new information which could affect this District.

At a recent meeting of regional Highway Authorities, to which this Council had not been invited, comments had been made by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council in respect of the provision of an outer bypass. Members were in general agreement that it would be useful to take this opportunity to reiterate the Council's opposition to the provision of an outer bypass.

On a Motion moved by Cllr D R Helson and seconded by Cllr V H Leach it was:-

**Resolved**

- (1) That a letter be sent to Lord Whitty of Camberwell expressing concern about any proposal from Southend in respect of the provision of an outer bypass which might affect District boundaries.
- (2) That this item be referred to the next meeting of Council, allowing time for Officers to gain more information about the proposals. (HCPI)

**278 REPORT OF URGENT ACTION - URBAN CAPACITY STUDY**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which informed Members of urgent action taken under the procedure agreed by Council on 25 July 2000 (Minute 254/00).

The Planning Policy Sub-Committee had considered on 22 August 2000 a report outlining a project brief for an urban capacity study of the District. It was noted that, given the timetable for publication of a Deposit Draft, there was an urgent need to appoint consultants to begin work on the study.

Members noted that the necessary Member agreement to taking urgent action had been obtained and arrangements were being made to appoint consultants.

## **279 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 - 22 August 2000**

#### **Minute 89 - Urban Capacity Study**

##### **Resolved**

- (1) That the terms of reference and project brief for an urban capacity study of the District be agreed, and that arrangements be made to appoint consultants as soon as is practicably possible.
- (2) That legal clarification be sought concerning the extent to which the consultants' report would need to become a publicly available document.
- (3) That assessment of the tender submissions for the contract to produce the urban capacity study be carried out by Members of this Sub-Committee. (HCPI)

### **(2) Environmental Health Sub-Committee - 5 September 2000**

#### **Minute 97 - Appointment of Advisers to the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group**

##### **Resolved**

That a representative from: Friends of the Earth, National Farmers' Union, Sludgewatch and Stambridge Parish Council, together with County Councillor Mrs T Chapman be appointed advisers to the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group. (HHHCC)

#### **Minute 98 - Waste Management Advisory Board for Essex and Southend**

##### **Resolved**

**Transportation & Environmental Services Committee -  
21 September 2000**

---

- (1) That Cllr A Hosking attend the Waste Management Advisory Board meeting on 25 September 2000 and that Cllr R A Pearson attend subsequent meetings.
- (2) That attendance at the Board Meetings is an approved duty for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances. (HHHCC)

**Minute 99 - Local Authority Conference on Action for Climate Change**

**Resolved**

That the Council sends a senior officer to attend the conference. (HHHCC)

**Minute 100 - Rochford Farmers' Market**

- (1) That a monthly Farmers' Market be established in Rochford Town Centre.
- (2) That officers approach other appropriate organisations with a view to handing over administration of the market. (HCPI)

**Minute 101 - Association of Essex Councils - Local Agenda 21 Members' Group Update**

**Resolved**

- (1) That the progress of the Association of Essex Council's Local Agenda 21 Member Steering Group be noted with interest.
- (2) That the consultation document provide the framework for the Essex-Wide Local Agenda 21 Strategy. (HCPI)

**Minute 102 - Local Agenda 21 Strategy**

**Resolved**

That the Rochford Local Agenda 21 Strategy be agreed. (HCPI)

**(3) Transportation Sub-Committee - 6 September 2000**

**Minute 140 - Road Passenger Transport Revenue Support**

**Resolved**

- (1) That the County be requested to consider setting up a working party with District Member representatives to explore options for better use of the transport subsidy.

**Transportation & Environmental Services Committee -  
21 September 2000**

---

- (2) That, subject to the comments above, the District's concerns about rural bus services and community transport be forwarded to the County as part of the developing debate on the future arrangement for the subsidy of such services. (HCPI)

**Minute 141 - Approach Car Park, Rayleigh - Capital Works**

On a Motion moved by Cllr D R Helson and seconded by Cllr V H Leach, it was:-

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Capital Allocation of £30,000 remain in the Crime and Disorder Budget.
- (2) That £30,000 be included in the capital programme bid for the financial year 2001/2002 for resurfacing and improvement works to the Approach Car Park.
- (3) That a report be brought to the Transportation Sub-Committee on the lighting situation at District car parks. (HRHM)

**Minute 142 - Bellingham Lane/Mill Hall Car Park, Rayleigh**

**Resolved**

- (1) That following completion of the improvement works, the new parking spaces at the Mill Hall Car Park be designated as a short stay facility.
- (2) That the required work be carried out as a matter of urgency.
- (3) That each part of the Car Park be suitably identified as 'short stay' and 'mixed period parking' with signage and two additional ticket issuing machines.
- (4) That the Finance and General Purposes Committee identify appropriate funding. (HRHM)

**Minute 144 - Taxi Rank in the Approach, Rayleigh**

**Resolved**

That the future of the Taxi Rank in The Approach, Rayleigh be debated at the Transportation & Environmental Services meeting on 21 September 2000. (HRHM)

**Minute 146 - Christmas Taxi Campaign**

**Resolved**

- (1) That as part of its Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, the Council supports a campaign for a period of twelve months, encouraging the avoidance of drinking and driving and promoting the use of public transport, including taxis and seeks a joint venture with all concerned.
- (2) That public awareness of the measures taken to enhance personal safety of passengers in taxis be promoted. (HCPI/HRHM)

**Minute 147 - Dial-a-Ride Withdrawal**

**Resolved**

That the Council consults with registered users of the SEEDAR service, elderly persons and disabled organisations, and sheltered housing schemes in this District concerning the withdrawal from Dial-a-Ride and its replacement with a taxi voucher scheme to determine the service delivery requirement. (HRHM)

**(4) Planning Policy Sub-Committee - 7 September 2000**

**Minute 92 - Rochford District Replacement Local Plan - Report on Issues Paper**

**Resolved**

- (1) That, together with Members' views as outlined in these minutes, the responses to the Issues Paper be considered during the review of the Local Plan, and that there be a future report on the Green Belt Boundary Review.
- (2) That extensive press coverage, inviting further submissions from the District's residents concerning the Issues Paper, be undertaken. (HCPI)

**280 RAILTRACK PRESENTATION PER RAYLEIGH STATION**

The Head of Corporate Policy & Initiatives informed Members that no representative from Railtrack had been available to speak at this meeting, and that concern about this had been expressed to them in writing. Members registered their disappointment that despite having three busy railway stations within the District, Railtrack had not responded to this invitation.

During debate, Members agreed that the following items be brought to the attention of Railtrack prior to the next meeting:-

- earthworks
- new ramp
- bus interchange
- ticket machines
- disabled facilities
- loudspeaker at unsociable hours
- noise related to works

**Resolved**

That a representative from Railtrack be invited to attend the next meeting of this Committee on 16 November 2000 to answer Member questions on current works at Rayleigh Station. (HCPI)

**281 TAXI RANK IN THE APPROACH, RAYLEIGH**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which asked Members to review the operation of the Taxi Rank in the Approach, Rayleigh and consider whether it should be made permanent. This item had been referred from the Transportation Sub-Committee meeting of 6 September 2000 for further consideration.

At that meeting some Members had been of the opinion that it was important to have a taxi rank on that side of the station to avoid carrying luggage over the railway bridge on a return from London. Others felt that it would be appropriate to wait until the current work being undertaken by Railtrack at Rayleigh had been completed. Members of this Committee were of a similar view.

**Resolved**

That a decision on the future of the taxi rank at The Approach, Rayleigh be deferred until the current works at Rayleigh station are completed and the outcome of the bid for the 2001/2002 Capital Programme is determined. (HCPI)

**282 SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL - CONSULTATION ON PARKING DECRIMINALISATION**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which informed Members that a letter had been received from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council seeking this Council's views in respect of a proposed application for decriminalised parking enforcement powers. Members were invited to give their views on these proposals.

Whilst Members agreed that this had been a very interesting report, they felt that as this Council had agreed in principle to the County Council carrying out more detailed work on the concept of decriminalised parking enforcement powers

being introduced in this District, that no objections would be necessary at this stage.

**Resolved**

That this Council offers no objections to the application by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council for decriminalised parking enforcement powers. (CD(F&ES))

**283 DEALING WITH ABANDONED VEHICLES - THE WAY FORWARD**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which informed Members of the current number of abandoned vehicles reported so far this year. This item had been referred from Council on 25 July 2000 who had resolved that an update report be submitted to this Committee.

Members were informed that the Officer Working Group meeting scheduled for 19 September 2000 has been postponed due to the recent fuel crisis. However officers would be able to attend the re-arranged meeting.

Members were advised that the increase in numbers of abandoned vehicles was due in part to criminal activity, as well as the decrease in value of scrap metal and that this problem was common to all District Councils.

On a Motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr J E Grey it was:-

**Resolved**

- (1) That the progress on the development of processes and responsibilities to deal with abandoned vehicles on a Countywide basis be noted.
- (2) That it be further noted that Essex County Council have accepted responsibility for the storage and disposal of abandoned vehicles. (CD(F&ES)).

**284 CONTROL OF NOISE FROM CIVIL AIRCRAFT - CONSULTATION PAPER**

Note:- Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn, R A Pearson and D A Weir declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of being members of the Southend Airport Consultative Committee.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which brought to Members' attention the Government's consultation paper which detailed proposals for changing some provisions of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 and for creating new powers. These powers would help airports to enforce mitigation measures for noise and enable local authorities to



enforce noise agreements. Members complimented Officers on a very comprehensive report.

During debate, Members commented that the following issues should be very strongly addressed:-

- proposals for dealing with ground noise
- funding of the initial costs of local authorities for the setting up of amelioration schemes.
- confirmation that small airfields would also be included.

### **Resolved**

That, subject to the comments above, the responses detailed within this report be made to the consultation paper "Control of Noise from Civil Aircraft". (HHHCC)

## **285 LAND NORTH OF THE MARKET SQUARE, ROCHFORD**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which sought Members endorsement for possible uses of the land north of the Market Square, Rochford in order to enable the landowners to take forward negotiations with prospective developers.

Appended to the report was a map detailing the two adjacent sites; Site A - jointly owned by Essex County Council and Wimpey Homes and Site B - wholly owned by Essex County Council.

A planning brief has been prepared for Site A which outlined how the site could be developed for retail development. However, the availability of the additional Site B would enable a larger development to be considered. Members were informed that one option might be to use part of the site for the provision of a new library.

A firm of consultants had reported back on the retail situation in the town in October 1999. There had also subsequently been consultation associated with the STAR project which had identified a lack of retailing opportunity in Rochford Town Centre as being a key concern for residents. These issues would be brought to the attention of the County Council. The Head of Service confirmed that no additional consultation was intended at this stage. Several retail consultants had already expressed interest and this information had been passed on to the County Council and Wimpey Homes.

### **Resolved**

- (1) To inform the landowners of the land north of the Market Square, Rochford that the Council supports in principle the provision of a retail

foodstore and associated development on the land as outlined in the report.

- (2) That the landowners be encouraged to fully explore the potential for such a development, including market testing and provide the Council with a detailed progress report within 6 months.
- (3) That the results of the investigations be reported back to the Council for consideration. (HCPI)

**286 ARRANGEMENTS FOR TOWN CENTRES/ADVISERS TO WORKING GROUPS**

Note:- Cllrs D M Ford and Mrs J E Ford both declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of Cllr Ford's employment on Foulness Island.

The Committee considered the joint report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives and Head of Administrative and Member Services which outlined for Members the proposed work programme and reporting arrangements for the Rochford, Rayleigh and Hockley Working Groups and the project arrangements for Hullbridge. It also asked Members to consider whether to appoint advisers to the Working Groups.

Members were informed that there was no time limit on the capital budget allocation for Rochford, Hockley and Hullbridge; being funded from capital receipts allowed the items to be carried forward.

On a Motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn, it was agreed that a Hullbridge Town Centre Working group be formed to comprise eight District Council Members; 3 from the Conservative Group, 2 from the Labour Group, 2 from the Liberal Democrat Group and one from the Independent Group.

On a Motion moved by Cllr D R Helson and seconded by Cllr V H Leach it was agreed that the number of advisers to the Working Groups be limited to one per Parish Council and one per other organisation. Members agreed to a subsequent amendment to increase the number of Parish representatives to two per Parish Council.

Advisers to this Committee's Working Groups were agreed as follows:-

Foulness Working Group  
Foulness Parish (2)

Hockley Town Centre Working Group  
Hockley Parish (2)

**Transportation & Environmental Services Committee -  
21 September 2000**

---

Hockley Chamber of Trade (1)  
Hockley Residents' Association (1)

Rayleigh Town Centre Working Group  
Rayleigh Town Council (2)  
Rayleigh Chamber of Trade (1)  
Mr D Barnes

Rochford Town Centre Working Group  
Rochford Parish Council (2)  
Rochford Chamber of Trade  
Rochford Amenities Society

Members agreed that, where appropriate, the County Councillor and a representative from County Highways would also be invited to meetings of the Working Groups.

**Resolved**

- (1) That a Hullbridge Town Centre Working Group be formed.
- (2) That the number of advisers to this Committee's Working Groups be limited to two per Parish Council and one per other organisations.  
(HCPI/HAMS)

**287 NOMINATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE STAMBRIDGE  
SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS LIAISON COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which asked Members to consider nominations to meetings of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Liaison Committee.

The Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Party on 14 March 2000 had considered an invitation by the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Liaison Committee for three Members of the District Council to attend future meetings. This had been resolved at the meeting of Transportation & Environmental Services Committee on 21 March 2000. Members were now asked to consider three nominations for this municipal year.

On a Motion moved by Cllr R A Pearson and seconded by Cllr P D Stebbing it was:-

**Resolved**

- (1) That Cllrs D M Ford, A Hosking and Mrs M J Webster be nominated to attend meetings of the Stambridge Sewage Liaison Committee.

**Transportation & Environmental Services Committee -  
21 September 2000**

---

- (2) That attendance at these meetings be an approved duty for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances (HHHCC)

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....