

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 18 July 2002

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **18 July 2002** when there were present:

Cllr P A Capon (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs R Brown
Cllr C A Hungate
Cllr P K Savill

Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr Mrs M A Weir

SUBSTITUTES

Cllrs Mrs J R Lumley and J M Pullen.

NON-MEMBERS ATTENDING

Cllrs Mrs T J Capon, T G Cutmore, A J Humphries, T Livings and Mrs M S Vince.

COUNTY MEMBERS PRESENT

County Cllr R M Williams, for item 7 of the agenda.

DISTRICT OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	-	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S Scrutton	-	Head of Planning Services
D Timson	-	Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
J Bourne	-	Leisure & Contracts Manager
T Metcalf	-	Audit & Process Review Manager
P Denholm	-	Solicitor
J Kevany	-	Audit Officer
S Worthington	-	Principal Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT

J Martyn	-	Senior Engineer, County Highways
T Tite	-	District Engineer, County Highways
L Harvey	-	Assistant District Engineer, County Highways

338 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2002 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

Review of Hockley, Hullbridge and Rochford Centre Schemes (Minute 267/02)

Bullet point one should read:-

There was no gold paint on the street furniture, and that this had been hand painted rather than powder painted for durability.

Bullet point 4 should read:-

Bollards outside the Hullbridge Gardens Association had been placed too far apart with the result that lorries were continuing to park on the pavement.

339 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J M Pullen declared a personal interest in items 9 and 10 of the agenda by virtue of his granddaughter attending Rayleigh Primary School, Love Lane, Rayleigh.

Cllr T Livings declared a personal interest in item 10 of the agenda by virtue of using the shopping facilities on Grove Parade.

340 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Committee received the schedule relating to decisions.

Overall Work Programme (Minute 120/02)

The review of taxi licensing would be completed by the end of the summer.

341 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH THE COUNTY PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORTATION

The Committee welcomed County Cllr R M Williams, Portfolio Holder for Transportation, to the meeting. County Cllr R M Williams was in attendance to discuss transport issues affecting the District and to answer Members' questions.

Bus Services

Responding to Member concern about a change in bus timetable for Canewdon/Stambridge which meant that from the first week in August the earliest bus would run from Canewdon at 9.45 am and the last bus to take passengers to Canewdon would run at 1.30 pm, Cllr Williams confirmed that the County Council was faced with the prospect of the withdrawal of many bus services around the county, particularly in rural areas.

Unfortunately, due to poor passenger numbers, many of the rural bus services were not commercially viable. Last year the County Council

approved a bus strategy to support such services where the cost per passenger per journey did not exceed £5, and which had more than 3 passengers on a journey. This year, however, 80% of bus services have gone out to tender with a resultant increase in cost of £500,000 to maintain the same level of service. There were no funds in the public transport budget to wholly meet this increase.

Responding to a further issue raised by Members relating to instances of tickets not being punched by the bus ticket machines, Cllr Williams confirmed that, in addition to considering bus usage data provided by the bus companies, a series of spot checks were carried out by County Officers.

County Cllr Williams further noted the following issues raised by Members:-

- That the County Council should advocate a national body to monitor the buses.
- That spot checks should be carried out on early morning bus services transporting passengers to school and work and on bus services on the new timetable so that a direct usage comparison might be made.

County Cllr R M Williams confirmed that he would respond in writing to the Committee with respect to their concerns about the changes to the Canewdon/Stambridge bus service within the next few days.

Highway Maintenance and Capital Programme

Responding to a Member question relating to poor use of the Hall Road cycle path, County Cllr R M Williams confirmed that the County local transport plan was tasked with including provision for alternative means of transport, and specifically cycling and walking, in order to comply with Government objectives. He further confirmed that the cycle path would be funded from the local transport allocation.

County Councillor R M Williams thanked the Committee for giving him the opportunity to speak to them and to hear their views about transportation issues.

342 PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE LOCALLY DETERMINED SCHEMES: INTRODUCTION OF A 3 OR 5 YEAR PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, County Highways asking Members to consider adopting a three or five year programme for future Locally Determined Programmes.

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Members considered that a three year locally determined programme would be preferable, given that each year there were likely to be minor changes to the membership of the Council.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P K Savill it was:-

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

That a three year programme be adopted for future Locally Determined Programmes. (County Highways)

343 PROPOSAL FOR PROVISION OF A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – LOVE LANE, RAYLEIGH

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, County Highways asking Members to consider proposals for the provision of a pedestrian crossing in Love Lane, Rayleigh.

During debate, Members identified that the main problem with the stretch of highway outside the school on Love Lane was parents parking on the pavements. No accidents had been reported there, but the Police should be asked to investigate the parking problem.

On a motion moved by Cllr P A Capon, amended by Cllr Mrs M S Vince and seconded by Cllr Mrs M A Weir it was:-

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

- (1) That no pedestrian crossing be provided in Love Lane, Rayleigh. (County Highways)
- (2) That a letter be sent to the Police highlighting the Committee's concerns about parking on the pavements outside the school in Love Lane. (CD(F&ES))

344 MOTION FROM FORMER COUNCILLORS D R HELSON AND V H LEACH RE: LOVE LANE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND CCTV AT GROVE ROAD AND HAMBRO HILL LOCAL SHOPPING PARADES (Min 43/02)

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive seeking Members' views on the proposed funding of CCTV at Hambro Hill and Grove Road local shopping parades using funds from the Love Lane pedestrian crossing proposal.

While noting the Police view was that there was no requirement for the installation of CCTV at the Hambro Hill and Grove Road shopping parades, Members believed that CCTV in these areas could act as a

deterrent to youths congregating there. The Police should be asked whether they believe CCTV would act as a crime deterrent to youths. Members furthermore deemed it worthwhile contacting shopkeepers in these areas with a view to them contributing towards the costs of CCTV.

Resolved

That a further report addressing these issues come to this Committee at a later date. (CD(F&ES))

345 ON-STREET PARKING, ENFORCEMENT OF YELLOW LINES

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management updating Members on on-street parking enforcement following consultation with the Head of Legal Services.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr PA Capon it was:-

Resolved

That six monthly progress reports on Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement be considered by this Committee. (HRHM)

346 ABANDONED VEHICLE UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing Members with details of the progress being made in dealing with the removal of abandoned vehicles and the arrangements for receiving funding from Essex County Council.

Resolved

That Members note the contents of this report in relation to the processing and financing involved with the process of dealing with abandoned vehicles in the District. (CD(F&ES))

347 RECYCLING AND WASTE STRATEGY MOTION

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing information regarding a Notice of Motion received from former Cllrs A Hosking, V H Leach and Mrs J Hall on the apparent continuing differences between Essex County Council and the Waste Collection Authorities in respect of the Waste Plan and the emerging Waste Contract Strategy.

Resolved

That the content of this report, with particular reference to the progress being made by the Waste Management Advisory Board, be noted.
(CD(F&ES))

348 REVIEW OF REFUSE COLLECTION POLICIES RELATING TO BAG COLLECTIONS AND LARGER HOUSEHOLDS

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) asking Members to consider a review of the current refuse collection policy.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to bag collections, Officers confirmed that 8% of households had bag collections. The majority of these regularly put out 4 to 5 bags for collection and a small proportion of households put out up to 12 bags a week.

Officers informed the Committee that there were less than 100 larger households requiring an additional bin. The additional charges involved for the Council amounted to £26.00 for collection, per bin.

During debate there was a consensus of opinion that residents should be entitled to additional bins, provided that they were willing to pay the cost of purchasing the bin and the collection costs. It was perceived that limiting the number of bins or bags of refuse to households would not necessarily encourage an increase in waste levels; people would dispose of waste by other means.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr Mrs R Brown it was:-

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

That residents be granted the right to have 2 wheelie bins of either 120 litres or 240 litres, provided that they pay the purchase and collection costs. (CD(F&ES))

It was further:-

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

That residents choosing to purchase an additional bin should not be bound by collection charges over a ten year period. (CD(F&ES))

349 LITTER BIN CONDITION SURVEY

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) appraising Members of the results of the

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Condition Survey that was recently carried out on the various types of litter bin located around the District and provides details of the costs that would be required for replacement.

During debate Members were supportive of the proposal to replace litter bins in the District, although surprised at the high costs associated with installing the bins.

On a motion moved by Cllr Mrs Brown and seconded by Cllr C A Hungate it was:-

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

- (1) That the litter bins be replaced as detailed in section 3 of this report, a copy of which is attached to the signed Minutes.
- (2) That the installation of bins should be put out to tender again within six months. (CD(F&ES))

350 KERBSIDE RECYCLING SCHEME UPDATE / RECYCLING ISSUES

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing Members with an update on the progress of the Council's kerbside recycling scheme that has been implemented in various parts of the District.

During debate Members, while recognising that the existing recycling scheme had been well received by residents, believed that there were insufficient independent figures available with respect to the recycling of waste from this District.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P A Capon it was:-

Recommended to the Environmental Services Committee

- (1) That a further report come back to this Committee with proposals for addressing the complaints from residents outlined in point 3.6 of the report, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of the Minutes.
- (2) That the Committee be provided with information about the financial benefits gained from recycling.
- (3) That Members note the progress made in the Council's level of recycling following last year's expansion of the kerbside scheme.

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- (4) That there be no further expansion of the recycling scheme in this District during this financial year. (CD(F&ES))

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

351 AUDIT REPORT

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Chief Executive which drew Members' attention to the completed audit investigation of waste recycling strategy and provided an update of audit recommendations.

Resolved

That the updated information on the audit recommendations be agreed.
(C Ex)

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____