

Environmental Services Committee – 4 September 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **4 September 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr J E Grey (Chairman)
Cllr R G S Choppen (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Cllr Mrs L Hungate
Cllr A J Humphries

Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs S A Harper and R A Oatham

SUBSTITUTES

Councillors P A Capon and Mrs J R Lumley

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton	- Head of Planning Services
S J Clarkson	- Head of Revenue and Housing Management
J F Crawford	- Transportation Manager
J Bostock	- Principal Committee Administrator

390 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 July 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

391 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C G Seagers declared a personal interest in the item on the Rochford District Council Heritage Design and Conservation Awards 2003 by virtue of being a Member of Great Wakering Parish Council.

392 HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on proposals for increasing the existing authorised fare tariff recommended by the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee.

Prior to discussion, Members welcomed Joanne Crawford to her first meeting of the Committee.

Responding to Member questions, Officers advised that:-

- There had not been a detailed study of the effects of proposals on the Taxi Voucher Scheme. However, in terms of daytime travel, increases would be marginal and should have no impact on voucher scheme flexibility/the ability to journey.
- The taxi licensing quarterly newsletter was to be re-introduced. An early edition could include reference to a decision to reduce the charge for the carriage of animals.

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff increase, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved and advertised.
- (2) That the new Fare Tariff be implemented on Monday, 3 November 2003. (HRHM)

393 ON THE MOVE: BY FOOT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services on a discussion paper prepared by the Department of Transport on options for improving the conditions for walking, and increasing the number of journeys made on foot.

During debate, Members recognised that it was possible to identify issues specific to the District, such as poor footpath provision on housing developments and challenging gradients for an ageing population. Reference was made to the value of welcoming any funding for walking projects/schemes. Comment was also made on the role which fear of crime may play in decisions to walk.

Resolved

That, subject to recognition that there can be localised issues such as poor footpath provision on housing developments and challenging gradients for an ageing population, the comments set out in the report form the basis of this Council's response to the Department of Transport discussion paper 'On the Move: By Foot'. (HPS)

394 DEVELOPMENT MONITORING SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services on a proposal from Essex County Council to provide a development monitoring service for the District in the three years from April 2004 to March 2007.

During debate, it was recognised that the three year time frame associated with proposals provided appropriate room for review.

Resolved

That Rochford District Council enters into a service level agreement for the provision of a development monitoring service on the basis outlined in the report. (HPS)

395 ROCHFORD HERITAGE, DESIGN AND CONSERVATION AWARDS 2003

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services on the nominations received for the annual Heritage, Design and Conservation Awards.

Members concurred with the view of the Chairman that it would be expedient for a Sub-Committee to be convened to give detailed consideration to the recipients of the Awards with a view to presentations being made to Full Council. Given the nature of the awards, it would be inappropriate to appoint to the Sub-Committee on a pro-rata basis.

Resolved

That a Sub-Committee be established to determine the recipients of the Heritage, Design and Conservation Awards 2003 with a view to presentations being made to Full Council. The Sub-Committee to comprise Cllrs. Mrs H L A Glynn, A J Humphries, J M Pullen (Chairman) and Mrs M S Vince.

The meeting closed at 7.59pm

Chairman

Date