

## **TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 22 June 2000**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Transportation & Environmental Services Committee** held on **22 June 2000** when there were present:

D M Ford - Chairman

Cllr R Adams	Cllr C C Langlands
Cllr R S Allen	Cllr V H Leach
Cllr Mrs J E Ford	Cllr R A Pearson
Cllr K A Gibbs	Cllr Mrs L I V Phillips
Cllr Mrs J M Giles	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr P D Stebbing
Cllr D R Helson	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr A Hosking	

### **VISITING MEMBERS**

Cllrs Mrs J Helson, T Livings, R E Vingoe and P F A Webster.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

G Woolhouse	Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
S Scrutton	Head of Corporate Policy & Initiatives
R Cornwell	Chief Assistant (Engineering)
D Timson	Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
Mrs M Martin	Committee Administrator
N McCullagh	District Manager, ECC Highways
Ms L Harvey	ECC Highways
Ms T Mills	ECC Highways

Councillor R A Pearson informed the Committee of former Councillor V D Hutchings' deteriorating state of health. The Committee asked that their good wishes be conveyed to Mrs & Mrs Hutchings.

### **175 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 May 2000 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **176 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn and V H Leach both declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 - Notice of Motion re. Golden Cross Parade, Ashingdon due to shopping at that parade.

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Cllrs D M and Mrs J E Ford both declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8(1) due to Cllr D M Ford's employment on Foulness Island.

Cllr D M Ford declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12 by virtue of using Sutton Road/Shopland Road whilst driving to and from work.

Cllr D R Helson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12 by virtue of using Station Road, Rayleigh on his way to and from work.

### **177 OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

**Websters Way Car Park - Working Party** - Minute 149/00 was carried forward. (HCPI)

**Notice of Motion - (T&ES 18/11/99)** - Minute 443

Members were informed that a small Working Party had been convened and had met on three occasions. A report would be brought back to this Committee. (HCPI)

**Height Barriers at Civic Amenity site, Castle Road, Rayleigh**

**(T&ES 23/9/99)** - Minute 373 - Cllr Mrs J M Giles declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item due to living in Castle Road. A representative from County Highways informed Members that Closed Circuit Television was due to be installed at this site and a progress report would be brought back to this Committee after that. Members expressed concern about various problems surrounding the site, such as

- long queues at busy times in a residential area
- reports of abusive behaviour from staff
- some users being questioned about whether they lived within the District

Whilst it was felt that the installation of CCTV may help to alleviate some of the problems, Members were assured that a strong letter would be sent to County regarding these issues. (HHHCC)

**Rayleigh Town Centre Proposed Variation to Existing Waiting Restrictions - Minute 201 - (T&ES 3/6/99)** - A representative from County Highways informed Members that the survey work for the review of the Traffic Regulation Order would commence during July 2000 and a report would be brought back to this Committee. (ECC Highways)

### **178 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES**

The Committee received the Minutes of the following Sub-Committees and considered the recommendations contained therein:-

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**8(1) Planning Policy Sub-Committee - 13 April 2000**

**Minute 80 - Development Plan for Foulness and New Ranges**

**Resolved**

- (1) That the establishment of a Foulness Working Party as outlined above be agreed in principle, the Membership to be determined after the District Council's May elections.
- (2) That arrangements be put in place after the Elections for regular meetings with Members from Southend to discuss the development plan for Foulness and New Ranges. (HCPI)

**8(2) Transportation & Environmental Services Urgency Sub-Committee -  
13 April 2000**

**8(3) Environmental Health Sub-Committee - 6 June 2000**

**Minute 93 - Biodiversity Action Plan**

**Resolved**

- (1) That, subject to additional points above, the draft Rochford Biodiversity Action Plan be agreed.
- (2) That additional species as identified, for example slow worms, adders, other amphibians be included in the surveys.
- (3) That a wildlife forum be created via the LA21 Forum with local schools and other interested groups being invited to participate. (HCPI)

**Minute 94 - Green Business Project**

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Project Report contained in the Appendix be noted.
- (2) That Officers seek further external funding to continue the project on other industrial estates within the District. (HCPI)

**Minute 95 - Hawkwell Recycling Trial - Phase Two Update**

**Resolved**

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- (1)a. That families with five or more in the household be entitled to an additional blue box on request.
- b. That families with six or more in the household who reported difficulty storing their waste be entitled to more storage capacity; in the first instance this would be a second blue box, subsequently if this is not sufficient, an additional green bin and only if they still had an excess of non-recyclable waste a further 120 litre grey bin.
- (2) That the trial continues until 31st March 2001, to be funded from the Recycling Credit Reserve.
- (3) That provision be made over the Christmas 2000 period to ensure residents receive their normal collection frequency, the cost to be met from the Recycling Credit Reserve.
- (4) That if budget is subsequently agreed to allow implementation of the recycling provisions within the new refuse collection contract, then the trial round should receive the new contract recycling service from 1st April 2001.
- (5) That appropriate publicity be given to the Hawkwell Recycling trial including advising the Government Office for the Eastern Region and that a request be made for further funding for recycling which should be ringfenced within the Standard Spending Assessment. (HHHCC)

**8(4) Transportation Sub-Committee - 7 June 2000**

**Minute 134 - Matters Arising - Minute 131, Transportation Sub-Committee,  
7 March 2000 - Bar-n-Bus Vehicle at the Bellingham Lane Car Park,  
Rayleigh**

**Resolved**

- (1) That authorisation be given to the Bar-n-Bus to park their vehicle for a 13 week trial period commencing on 22 June 2000 between the hours of 7.30 pm and 10 pm on Thursday evenings in the Websters Way Car Park, Rayleigh.
- (2) That a report be brought back to this Sub-Committee regarding the outcome of this venture, including details of patronage and the views of the Police. (HRHM)

**Minute 136 - Annual Review of Taxi Fares**

**Minute 137 - Land at Golden Cross Parade**

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Head of Legal Services start to open negotiations for the acquisition of and agreement for the terms of lease of the small parcel of land in front of 1,2 and 3 Golden Cross Parade, Ashingdon.
- (2) That a further report would be brought back to this Sub-Committee for approval. (HLS/HRHM)

**8(5) - Planning Policy Sub-Committee - 8 June 2000**

**Minute 85 - Draft Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RP69)  
Proposed Changes**

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Head of Service's report as considered by the Sub-Committee, together with Members' comments as outlined above, form the basis of this Council's comments on the Draft Regional Planning Guidance for the South East. (RP69)(HCPI)
- (2) That consideration be given at the next meeting of Member Budget Monitoring Working Group to funding sufficient resources to enable a comprehensive review to be undertaken of factors likely to affect the demand for, and provision of, future housing and associated infrastructure. (HCPI)

**Minute 86 - Chelmsford Borough Council - Local Plan Second Issues  
Report**

**Resolved**

That Chelmsford Borough Council be informed of this Council's concerns about the impact of 2000 houses at Battlesbridge upon the infrastructure in Rochford District. (HCPI)

**179 RECTORY GARTH, RAYLEIGH - PROPOSED EXTENSION TO WAITING  
RESTRICTIONS**

Members considered the report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services which asked Members to consider again an item discussed previously at the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee of 21 March 2000. This had been subsequently referred to Full Council on 18 April for 2000 for decision.

Full Council had noted that Members of the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee had not appreciated that a decision to change waiting restrictions would only apply to part of the Rectory Garth location and that it was likely the proposed changes would cause confusion. To assist Members a copy of the Transportation Sub-Committee Minute 128 together with the report to that Sub-Committee were appended to the report.

Mr Nick McCullagh, District Highways Manager, reported that if the District Council agreed to support Essex County Council's application to transfer parking enforcement from the police (to be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of Extraordinary Council), this would lead to the County Council looking at the whole issue of waiting restrictions across the District.

A Motion proposed by Cllr D R Helson and seconded by Cllr Mrs J M Giles that the extension of waiting restrictions as per drawing TRA/11/2183A cover the hours between 8 am and 6 pm was lost on a show of hands.

**Resolved**

- (1) That Mr McCullagh report back with details of all outstanding requests regarding waiting restrictions and that until such time no more be progressed.
- (2) That the current waiting restrictions in Rectory Garth, Rayleigh be extended to cover the hours between 8 am and 9 pm every day as per drawing number TRA/11/2183A attached to the report. (ECC Highways)

**180 REVIEW OF LOCALLY DETERMINED PROGRAMME 1999/2000 AND  
LOCALLY DETERMINED PROGRAMME 2000/2001**

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, ECC Highways which reviewed the locally determined programme for 1999/2000 and asked Members to approve the locally determined programme for the 2000/2001 financial year based on the budget allocation of £75,186.

In answer to Member questions, it was confirmed that:-

- a Traffic Review would take place in Rayleigh in September
- the programme for layout improvements at Golden Cross Parade, Hawkwell would be put into action immediately

On a Motion proposed by Cllr D R Helson and seconded by Mrs J M Giles and a further Motion proposed by Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn and seconded by Cllr D M Ford it was recommended that:-

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- The proposals for pedestrian crossings at Daws Heath Road, Grove Road and Clarence Road, Rayleigh be progressed in favour of one at Station Road, Rayleigh (Appendix B).
- That representatives from the District Council, Ward Members and County representatives meet to discuss the arrangements for improvements to the Downhall Road junction, including the area along to Station Road, Rayleigh.
- That a Traffic Regulation Order for the lay-by in North Street, Rochford be given high priority.

### **Resolved**

That, subject to the recommendations above, the proposed programme be adopted as the 2000/2001 Locally Determined Programme for Rochford district. (ECC Highways)

## **181 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2000/2001**

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, ECC Highways, which appraised Members of the allocation of funds for the maintenance of highways in the Rochford District Council area for 2000/2001, together with the approved Special Maintenance budget.

In answer to Member questions and comments concerning the Special Maintenance section, it was confirmed that:-

- individual sites would be looked at if Members supplied examples to Mr McCullagh.
- an alternative site could be considered instead of Larkfield Close, Rochford.

### **Resolved**

That, subject to the additional comments above, the anticipated expenditure on basic maintenance, special maintenance and surface dressing in the Rochford District for the financial year 2000/2001 be noted. (Area Manager, ECC Highways)

## **182 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME 2001/02 TO 2005/06**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which outlined the proposed programme of major highway schemes and initiatives for the 5 year Local Transport Plan.

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The County Council had prepared a report (appended) outlining their conclusions regarding the appropriate major schemes that should be included in the programme with a total cost of more than £250,000.

Attention was drawn to the fact that all Rochford's schemes fall below this amount. The intention would be to bring these to the attention of Essex County Council and to try to ensure as positive a settlement as possible. Rochford would receive a block grant. Once this amount had been determined, funding for particular schemes would be considered.

### **Resolved**

That, the issues raised in this report form the basis of a response to the County Council on the proposed five-year Local Transport Plan programme. (HCPI)

## **183 TOWN CENTRE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2000**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which proposed the submission of an entry to the Town Centre Environment Awards organised by the British Council for Shopping Centres, for the work undertaken in Rayleigh Town Centre.

Whilst Members were pleased to commend this submission, the following comments were noted:-

- a deterioration in the cleanliness of the footways had been observed
- whilst an award for 'Transport and Accessibility' could be gained, this would not necessarily indicate that the traffic situation in Rayleigh was satisfactory.

### **Resolved**

That an entry for the enhancement project of Rayleigh Town Centre be submitted to the British Council for Shopping Centres Town Centre Environment Awards 2000. (HCPI)

## **184 DEALING WITH ABANDONED VEHICLES - THE WAY FORWARD**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which informed Members of the significant changes that had been occurring in the numbers of vehicles being abandoned, particularly on the Public Highway, and to a lesser extent on other land. The report also informed Members of the likely costs to be incurred in the future and the need to ensure that officers are empowered to seek full recompense from Essex County Council for the cost of collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles.



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The Property Maintenance & Highways Manager informed Members that the local police are extremely co-operative in this matter.

On a Motion proposed by Cllr R A Pearson and seconded by Cllr K A Gibbs and a further Motion proposed by Cllr V H Leach and seconded by Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn it was:-

**Resolved**

- (1) That a letter be sent to:-
  - Police
  - the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
  - County Councillorsrequesting co-operation between them and the District over this issue.
- (2) That Officers be instructed to obtain full recompense for the County Council responsibilities from Essex County Council.
- (3) That a report back be made to the next meeting of Full Council with an update of this situation.
- (4) That the action of the Council Officers in dealing with this issue in a countywide approach that provides a Best Value solution is endorsed.
- (5) That the seeking of tenders for vehicle disposal on behalf of the Waste Disposal Authority is endorsed. (CD(F&ES))

**185 NOTICE OF MOTION - HOCKLEY TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP**

Members received the Notice of Motion, standing in the names of Councillors R E Vingoe, Mrs A R Hutchings and V D Hutchings which had been referred by Council on 18 April 2000 to this Committee for consideration.

Members noted that following agreement at Annual Council of 18 May 2000 a Hockley Town Centre Working Group had been set up. The Working Party would be empowered to invite representatives of other organisations to attend its meetings.

**186 NOTICE OF MOTION - GOLDEN CROSS PARADE**

Members received the Notice of Motion, standing in the name of Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn which had been referred by Council on 18 April 2000 to this Committee for consideration.

It was noted that this had been resolved earlier in the meeting - Minute 178/00 - refers.

**187 DRAFT PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE - DEVELOPMENT AND FLOOD RISK**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which outlined the proposed contents of a new Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG) dealing with development and flood risk.

The Government had published a draft Planning Policy Guidance Note that explained how local planning authorities should consider flood risk at all stages of the planning and development process in order to minimise future damage to property and possible loss of life. The need for a precautionary approach to development in flood risk areas had been emphasised in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and the likely impacts of climatic change.

The Environment Agency had provided a flood plain map (appended to the report). The map did not take account of the presence of defences or the likelihood that flood return levels would be reduced by climate change. Members were informed that revised maps were being prepared. Members requested that the Head of Service make these available as soon as possible, and preferably on a larger scale.

**Resolved**

That the comments in the report form the basis of a response to the draft Planning Policy Guidance Note on Development and Flood Risk. (HCPI)

**188 SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS - FINAL EFFLUENT MONITORING**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which provided Members with details of the monitoring of the Environment Agency's sampling records of final effluent discharge from the sewage treatment works within the District.

Records showed that the discharge from Stonebridge Sewage Treatment Works had failed to comply with its consent conditions on one occasion during January 2000. This had been due to an increased quantity of storm water that had been exacerbated by the failure of the duty pump at the site.

The Environment Agency had written to Anglian Water regarding this incident but did not propose to take formal action. The stand-by pump had now been upgraded to provide adequate capacity.

The Head of Service informed Members that the Environment Agency do not notify the District Council immediately of such findings, but that print-outs had to be purchased quarterly to gain this information. The Head of Service agreed to request that this information might be made more readily available.

Discharges from the other sewage treatment works monitored during this period had all been compliant.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Committee note the report.
- (2) That further reports be made on any exceedance of discharge consent limits. (723) (HHHCC)

**189 BRADWELL POWER STATION - LICENCE APPLICATION**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which informed Members that the Environment Agency had started a three month consultation on applications from British Nuclear Fuels plc to dispose of radioactive waste from eight Magnox Power Stations and the Berkeley Technology and Engineering Centre. This included Bradwell Power Station.

BNFL had announced in December 1999 that it would cease generation of electricity at Bradwell in March 2002. Whilst Bradwell is being de-commissioned, discharges would continue at a reduced level.

**Resolved**

That a letter of response be sent to the Environment Agency requesting that discharges from the installation be kept to a minimum. (HHHCC)

**190 THE WASTE STRATEGY 2000**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which advised Members of the content of the new National Waste Strategy and the potential impacts for the Council. Members were informed that this was not a consultation document.

The Waste Strategy, which had been published on 25 May 2000, set out a number of new recycling and recovery targets. The strategy would strive to either minimise the amount of waste produced or recover value from waste where this would not be possible.

During debate, the following Members comments were noted:-

- the targets set in this document were not very ambitious.
- disappointment that incineration was still part of the strategy.
- the Prospectus from Ecologika on the Essex High Diversion strategy should

be distributed to all Members, but that the financial appraisal should first be checked by the Head of Financial Services.

On a Motion proposed by Councillor Mrs M J Webster and seconded by Councillor A Hosking, it was:-

**Resolved**

That, whilst this Council is dismayed that incineration continues to be a major part of the Waste Strategy 2000 document, it will continue to work with the Consortium of Essex Waste Collection Authorities and the County Council to establish the best methods of meeting the new targets set out within. (HHHCC)

**191 CONTAMINATED LAND**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care. Members were informed that on 1 April 2000 commencement orders brought into force the statutory contaminated land regime under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Part IIA Regime). The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2000 came into force on the same day and the Department of the Environment, Transport & Regions has issued the statutory guidance Circular 02/2000 'Contaminated Land'. The report highlighted the resourcing implications.

Following consultation, the Council must produce a written contaminated land inspection strategy by June 2001, which should be formally adopted and published.

Members agreed that it was essential that the Council be made aware of any "brownfield" sites and that publicity be given to this, possibly through Rochford District Matters and liaison with Parish Councils.

In response to a Member question, the Head of Service agreed to investigate whether charges could be increased to offset the costs of carrying out this new function.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Interim Contaminated Land Procedures as set out at Annex A to the report be adopted.
- (2) That £30,000 in support of the contaminated land regime be included within the draft estimates for 2001/2002.
- (3) That further consideration be given to the resourcing implications of the contaminated land regime.

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- (4) That the joint initiative of the Essex Environmental Protection Study Group and Essex County Council be supported in the development of contaminated land regime strategies. (HHHCC)

The meeting closed at 11.02 pm

Chairman .....

Date .....