

East Area Committee – 19 March 2009

Minutes of the meeting of the **East Area Committee** held on **19 March 2009** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T E Goodwin
Vice-Chairman: Cllr K J Gordon

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr J P Cottis
Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill

Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs P Shaw	-	Ashingdon Parish Council
Cllr Mrs I Knight	-	Barling Magna Parish Council
Cllr P A Capon	-	Stambridge Parish Council
Mr B Summerfield	-	Sutton Parish Council
Cllr R Pearson	-	Essex County Council
PC M Rawson	-	Essex Police
M Hathaway	-	NHS South East Essex
R Parker	-	NHS South East Essex

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton	-	Head of Planning and Transportation
Y Woodward	-	Head of Finance, Audit & Performance Management
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

72 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs V Newby (Canewdon Parish Council), Mrs M S Vince (Rochford Parish Council) D Whittingham (Paglesham Parish Council) and DC A Prophet (Essex Police).

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr J P Cottis declared a personal interest in item 4(3) of the agenda by virtue of his being a member of the Rochford District Council/Southend-on-Sea Borough Council London Southend Airport and Aviation Way Forum.

At this point the Committee adjourned the formal meeting to move into the community forum to hear contributions from members of the public.

73 COMMUNITY FORUM

No requests for information had been received.

74 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Update on Crime and Disorder in the East Area

PC Michelle Rawson provided a verbal update on crime and disorder within the East of the District. A summary sheet of reported crime statistics for the East Area had been circulated to all those present.

There had been a substantial reduction in recorded Anti-Social Behaviour crimes in January and February 2009 in the East of the District when compared with the same period in 2008. The figures for the basket of crimes, which included crimes such as criminal damage and burglary, for January/February 2009 also showed a marked decrease, at 88 recorded crimes compared with 145 in the same period last year.

In response to a report of motorcycles speeding through Great Stambridge village, particularly at the weekends, Michelle advised that the matter would be referred to PC Gary Tween, the Neighbourhood Specialist Officer for this part of the District.

Michelle confirmed that she would follow up on reported instances of youth nuisance at Golden Cross Parade, Ashingdon Road.

(2) Draft Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex 2009-2014

Margaret Hathaway, Associate Director, Commercial Services, delivered a presentation on the Draft Strategic Plan for NHS South East Essex 2009/2014. The presentation covered:-

- An additional £66million being allocated in order to improve health, to build up the network of GP, primary care and community services and to improve the organisation of the NHS.
- The drive to allow patients and carers more say in their care.
- Joined up health and social care services.
- The provision of enhanced care, including dementia services, for the elderly population.
- The aspiration to provide a wider range of health services, which are accessible for longer periods and more convenient for patients.

- The provision of care at an earlier stage with the aim of avoiding hospital stays.
- Easier access to mental health care and support.
- Better value: £33million from current spending to go into new services; less spent on outdated buildings, with more spent on care in modern facilities.
- The challenges over the next five years and associated mechanisms for public consultation.
- Ten future proposals, including:-
 - Schemes to stay healthy
 - New 'urgent care centres' for minor injuries and illnesses
 - Innovation in care to avoid hospital stays
 - Shift of spending from hospital to GP, primary care and community services
 - More community services for older people
 - More mental health services, linked to family health services
 - Network of new GP premises, some with x-rays, tests and specialist clinics
 - More NHS dentists
 - Bigger role for pharmacy
 - GP, community services and social care in local 'integrated care organisations'.
- The deadline for feedback on the draft strategic plan is 10 April and the final plan would be approved in June 2009.

Responding to questions, Ray and Margaret advised that:-

- The process in place for assessing patients prior to their release from mental health units would be brought back to the Committee.
- The target of dental check-ups for 75% of the population every 2 years was a minimum target and many people would access dental services more frequently.
- Additional funding would be available for long-term conditions, such as diabetes, and the NHS was working closely with partners to promote more active and healthy lifestyles among the population.

- Although it was proposed that GP practices would reduce from 81 to 48, this would not result in fewer GP's. Good quality premises, coupled with an extension to community based services, would be needed to encourage new GPs into the area. A strategy was in place to encourage GPs to operate longer surgery hours.
- No GP practice would be forced to move into one of the purpose built primary care centres. Most surgeries would remain in the area where patients most needed them as long as the surgery premises met both statutory requirements and NHS guidelines. The aim was to ensure that patients living in urban areas would not have to travel further than 1 mile to access GP services, and patients in rural areas no further than 3 miles.
- Whether Social Services or the NHS had the final say in a case where both services were involved was dependent on the circumstances of the case and the patient.
- Two GP practices were currently based in Shoebury Health Centre. Although it would be possible for further GP surgeries to decide to move their practices into the Health Centre, this would be dependent on the needs of the population and local circumstances.
- Tea/coffee facilities would be available in the Leigh Primary Care Centre.

(3) Joint Area Action Plan for London Southend Airport and Environs

The Committee received a presentation by Shaun Scrutton, Rochford District Council's Head of Planning and Transportation on the Joint Area Action Plan for London Southend Airport and Environs. The item included an outline of Rochford District and Southend-on-Sea Borough Councils' joint preferred approach to the future development of the airport and surrounding areas, as well as explaining how the public and other stakeholders can submit their views on proposals.

Responding to questions, it was advised that:-

- It is anticipated that London Southend Airport will be a thriving passenger airport, as well as providing extensive aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities.
- As set out in the preferred options document, Rochford Council supported the development of the airport, believing it to be of benefit to the community. A wide public consultation was seen as vital, and this included the preparation of a consultation document that had been posted through each Rochford District resident's door.
- During discussion members of the public expressed concern that, although it was a Joint Area Action Plan, there appeared to be a disparity in the level of consultation being carried out by the two authorities. Cllr

Terry Cutmore agreed to pass these comments to Southend's Members.

- The number of potential additional jobs that could be created by the extension of the airport and the creation of new business parks had been calculated by consultants – there is a correlation between the floorspace to be created and the resultant number of jobs provided.
- Extending the runway to 1799 metres (Code 3 runway) would allow the airport to operate airplanes in the 100-150 seat size range.
- Rochford District Councillors had visited Southampton Airport, which was similar in size to the airport proposed for London Southend Airport and which operated the actual aircraft proposed for use at Southend. Investment had been made at Southampton Airport in new avionic equipment, which reduced aircraft noise considerably. It was noted that the proposals would allow the Council to introduce controls by applying planning conditions relating to restrictions on the way the airport operates, including levels of permissible aircraft noise, number of flights, etc. No controls existed presently.
- The local area would be enhanced by the provision of additional public open space and green buffers, which would link to the Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park.
- Compulsory purchase might need to be considered for about 6 houses close to the south western end of the runway.
- The preferred scenario for expansion had been prepared following very careful consideration of the views expressed by residents and stakeholders in the consultation process and was seen as the best option for the benefit of the local economies and communities of Rochford District and Southend-on-Sea and South East Essex as a whole.
- Following the current preferred options consultation, the submission plan would be prepared and a final decision on acceptance made by the Full Councils of each Authority in due course prior to the submission of the plan to the Secretary of State. It was noted that a further six week period of consultation was included as part of the submission process.
- Although there are no firm guarantees from airlines that they will use London Southend Airport if the runway is extended, the extension was considered to be a crucial part of the offer to attract operators. It is understood that the Airport Director is in discussion with a number of airlines who are considering operating from the airport.
- The railway link would be for use by members of the public as well as airport passengers. The car park will be situated on the airport side of the railway line.

- It was confirmed that there would be a requirement for careful consideration to be given to the arrangements for the treatment of surface water from all new build development on the airport, with sustainable drainage systems and surface water attenuation being key. Surface water would be dealt with through the provisions of the Building Regulations, but also be considered through the planning process as applications are submitted for development within the JAAP.

75 EAST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the East Area Update.

16/08 – Public Footpaths 1 and 3, Stambridge – proposed footpath diversions

An update and date for completion would be provided at the next meeting.

41/08 – Widening of footpath to Stambridge School

Although works have been completed, large holes are being pushed up through the newly laid tarmac.

3/09 – Invitation to the County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation to attend a meeting of the East Area Committee

It was hoped that County Cllr Hume would be able to attend at the next meeting, depending on dates.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman

Date

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