

Transportation & Environmental Services 3 October 2001

Minutes of the meeting of the **Transportation & Environmental Services Committee** held on **3 October 2001** when there were present:

Cllr V H Leach - Chairman

Cllr R F R Adams
Cllr R S Allen
Cllr R A Amner
Cllr Mrs J E Ford
Cllr Mrs J M Giles
Cllr J E Grey
Cllr D R Helson
Cllr Mrs J Helson
Cllr A Hosking

Cllr C C Langlands
Cllr R A Pearson
Cllr S P Smith
Cllr M G Starke
Cllr P D Stebbing
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr D A Weir

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K A Gibbs.

DISTRICT OFFICERS PRESENT

G Woolhouse - Head of Housing, Health and Community Care
S J Clarkson - Head of Revenue and Housing Management
S Scrutton - Head of Planning Services
J Bourne - Leisure and Contracts Manager
M T Goodman - Principal Solicitor
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

OTHER OFFICERS PRESENT

N McCullough – Area Manager, Transportation and Operational Services,
Essex County Council
PC D Saunders - Essex Police Traffic Management Unit

335 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs J E Ford declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on Noise from Shoebury Ranges by virtue of her spouse working on the site and took no part in the decision thereon.

Councillor C C Langlands declared an interest in the item on Noise from Shoebury Ranges by virtue of family living at St Osyth and took no part in the decision thereon.

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Councillor S P Smith declared an interest in the item on noise from Shoebury Ranges by virtue of family employment.

Councillor R A Pearson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on Expenditure on Concessionary Fares as the holder of a bus pass.

Councillor Mrs J M Giles declared an interest in the item on Mobile Phone Masts: Community and Council Consultation by virtue of her son working in the mobile phone industry and left the meeting during its consideration.

336 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2001 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to resolutions (3) and (4) of Minute 237 (Rochford Town Centre Enhancement Scheme) being revised to read as follows:-

- (3) That a study be undertaken to analyse car parking time patterns in the Market Square, to be considered by the Working Group.
- (4) That work be undertaken on the potential loss of parking spaces in the square to be compensated for by allocating free spaces in Back Lane, to be considered by the Working Group.

337 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Committee received the schedule relating to decisions.

Highway Aspects

(1) Rayleigh Town Centre – Traffic Order

A Member enquired about the status of the Rayleigh Town Centre Traffic Order. The County Area Manager confirmed that this was being given the highest priority and that the Chairman of the Committee would be advised of the completion date once available.

(2) Road Safety – School Pedestrian Crossings (Minute 229/01)

The County Area Manager hoped to report to the next meeting of the Committee with results on the survey and feasibility study.

(3) Junction improvements A129 London Road/Downhall Road/Creswick Avenue, Rayleigh (Minute 231/01)

The County now hoped that improvements would be implemented during this calendar year.

Outstanding Issues would be carried forward.

338 REPORT OF URGENT ACTION – ESSEX AND SOUTHEND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Planning Services on urgent action taken relating to the Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan.

The Head of Planning Services indicated that the Secretary of State had now advised that the Waste Plan would be going forward for adoption.

339 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 – 5 September 2001

Minute 118 – Urban Capacity Study Update

The Committee concurred with the view of a Member that, as the Urban Capacity Study document had been made publicly available at a recent planning appeal, it would be appropriate for the Council to categorise it as a public document with immediate effect.

The Head of Planning Services advised that the Urban Capacity Study was purely an information document and that Council policy had yet to be set. He also confirmed that Members are advised of the outcome of all planning appeal decisions.

Resolved

That the Urban Capacity Study be published in full with immediate effect. (HPS)

Minute 119 – Home Zones and Quiet Lanes – Consultation

Resolved

That, subject to the reply to question 14 being amended to read “If there are many objections to a proposal, a Public Inquiry will be the only way of providing a fair hearing”, the report of the Head of Planning Services form the basis of this Council’s response to the DTLR Consultation Paper on “Home Zones and Quiet Lanes”. (HPS)

Minute 120 – Rochford District Replacement Local Plan Draft Policies – Rural Issues Chapter

Resolved

That the policies in the report appendix (copy attached to the signed copy of these Minutes) be approved for inclusion in the replacement Rochford District Local Plan first deposit draft. (HPS)

(2) Transportation Sub-Committee – 6 September 2001

Minute 178 – Referrals from Taxi Licensing Working Group

Resolved

- (1) That subject to this Council formally recognising the Transport and General Workers Union, the consultative fora for his Council be:-
 - The Taxi Drivers Forum, comprising Councillors on the Taxi Licensing Working Group, Rochford District licence holders and a paid employee of the Transport & General Workers Union.
 - The Taxi Circuit Owners Forum, comprising Councillors on the Taxi Licensing Working Group and the Taxi Circuit Owners.
- (2) That the two consultative fora report to the Transportation Sub-Committee. (HRHM)

Minute 179 – The Approach Car Park Rayleigh – Capital Works

It was noted that the Recommendations under Minute 179 were being reported to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

Minute 182 – Transport and Social Exclusion Consultation

Resolved

That, subject to the additional comments of Members within the Minute preamble, this report forms the basis of the Council's response to the Social Exclusion Units Consultation on Transport and Social Exclusion. (HPS)

340 EXPENDITURE ON CONCESSIONARY FARES

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue & Housing Management on current figures available in respect of Concessionary Travel Pass issues and the associated budgetary implications.

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The Head of Revenue & Housing Management indicated that the usage figures for the first six months would be required before it is possible to be precise about budgetary implications.

Resolved

That further reports be submitted to the relevant Committees as part of the budgetary process. (HRHM)

341 SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS – FINAL EFFLUENT MONITORING

The Committee received and noted the contents of the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care, providing an update on the monitoring of final effluent discharge from sewage treatment works within the District.

342 STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS WORKING GROUP

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care on the recommendations of the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group.

Responding to questions, the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care advised that :-

- A Notice had now been served on Anglian Water requiring that they abate a noise nuisance.
- Parish Council distribution of prepaid envelopes to local residents had not taken place as Parish Council Members had raised some concerns about the contents of the proposed questionnaire in terms of the provision for submission of witness statements. Given current pressures on District resources, it was unlikely that a revised distribution arrangement could be in place until November.
- Information gathering undertaken by South Essex Environmental Protection Sub Committee is for the purposes of reporting mechanisms, not the gathering of evidence for possible criminal action.
- “Nuisance” needs to be proved for action to proceed i.e. the material interference with a person’s home, not just annoyance.
- The Council continues to apply considerable resources to monitoring and associated investigation.

During debate Members recognised the substantial work which had been associated with this matter to date. The level of resources used did have implications for other parts of the Environmental Health service. Whilst the Liaison Group was a valuable forum, it could also be recognised that the Working Group had been particularly valuable in allowing views to be represented directly to the Council.

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The recommendations set out in the report, together with an additional observation on work to date, were moved by Councillor A Hosking and seconded by Councillor Mrs D M Ford.

Resolved

- (1) That a letter be sent to Anglian Water requesting them to confirm in writing that they will have either removed the pasteurisers from site or dismantle them to ground level by the end of December 2001.
- (2) That a letter be sent to Essex County Council requesting that they undertake further monitoring of traffic movements as controlled by the planning consent granted.
- (3) That a letter be sent to Anglian Water requesting information about the long term disposal of sludge from the works.
- (4) That the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group continue until the end of the current Council year with the following revised terms of reference:-

"To consider any matters concerning the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works which may result in complaints of statutory nuisance, to report such matters to the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee and to make recommendations for appropriate action.
- (5) That the considerable efforts and costs associated with this matter to date be recognised and that the resources used continue to be monitored . (HHHCC)

343 GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS – LOCAL CONSULTATION

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care on a request of another Local Authority to support it in its campaign to ensure that there is local consultation on sites used for genetically modified crop trials.

Resolved

- (1) That the campaign by West Lindsey District Council for a requirement for local consultation and consent before genetically modified crop trials are approved in an area be supported by this Council.
- (2) That a letter be sent to the Minister at the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

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- (3) That the support of the local Members of Parliament be sought.
(HHHCC)

344 PLANNING AGENT AND PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Note: Councillors V H Leach, Mrs J M Giles, P D Stebbing and D A Weir each declared interests in this item by virtue of membership of Parish/Town Councils.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services on the detailed arrangements for evening workshop sessions with planning agents and Parish Councils.

Resolved

That arrangements be made for workshop sessions with Parish/Town Councils and planning agents as outlined in the report (a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes). (HPS)

345 LOCAL TRANSPORT PANEL – MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Note: Councillors R A Pearson and Mrs M J Webster each declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of being County Council Members.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking nominations for attendance at the Joint Member Local Transport Panel Meetings organised by Essex County Council Highways Department.

Resolved

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee, together with one Member from each of the political groups, be nominated to attend meetings of the Local Transport Panel, appointees to provide details of issues they would like to see discussed to the Head of Planning Services in advance of the meetings. (HPS)

346 MOBILE PHONE MASTS: COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Note: Councillor Mrs J M Giles left the meeting whilst this item was considered.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking views on a framework for Best Practice being promoted by the Federation of the Electronics Industry to address public concerns about mobile phone masts.

Responding to Member questions the Head of Planning Services indicated that the Government had recently agreed that an additional phone operator should be licensed.

Resolved

That the Federation of the Electronics Industry be informed that this Council supports the principles of the ten commitments and the 'traffic light' model. (HPS)

347 ESSEX AND SOUTHEND REPLACEMENT STRUCTURE PLAN REVIEW

Note: Councillors R A Pearson and Mrs M J Webster each declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of being County Council Members.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services providing an update on the arrangements for the review of the Structure Plan and seeking views on form and content.

Resolved

That the Joint Structure Plan Authorities be informed that this Council's views on the form and content of the next Essex and Southend Structure Plan are as set out in the report of the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes). (HPS)

348 ESSEX ESTUARIES EUROPEAN MARINE SITE PROPOSAL FOR AN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT NETWORK

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking views on a proposal to establish an information network for the Essex estuaries.

Resolved

That the development of a bid to the EU LIFE Nature Programme be supported in principle and that the Essex Estuaries Initiative be informed accordingly. (HPS)

349 NOISE FROM SHOEBURY RANGES – LETTER FROM TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive on a further request from Tendring District Council seeking this Council's support for the immediate cessation of destructive explosions (not test firing and proving of munitions) on the Shoebury Ranges.

Responding to Member questions, Officers advised that it was understood all appropriate Local Authorities are consulted directly by the MOD when there are proposals for Shoebury and that coastline acoustics appeared to be a factor in determining which Districts are affected by noise.

A motion that the recommendation set out in the report be approved subject to the term "immediate" being removed, moved by Councillor M G B Stark and seconded by Councillor P D Stebbing was lost on a show of hands and it was:-

Resolved

That Tendring District Council be informed that this Council still is not persuaded to support any action to seek the immediate cessation of destructive explosions on the Shoebury Ranges. (CE)

350 REFUSE COLLECTION – BLOCK SCHEDULING

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) on Serviceteam's proposals to change their scheduling of the refuse rounds to a "block scheduling" basis.

Responding to Member questions, the Leisure and Contracts Manager advised that:-

- It was envisaged that at least three to four weeks notice would be given by Serviceteam to residents.
- Where there have been recent changes to round arrangements, there will be no further changes.
- Residents should continue to ensure bins are placed out by 7am on the morning of collection.

Noting that Serviceteam would be undertaking notification to residents, it was agreed that communication needed to be effective in terms of both quality and content. Specific reference was made to the value of notification being both short and easily readable to assist elderly residents.

RESOLVED

That, subject to Serviceteam being advised of this Committee's concern that notification to residents is undertaken effectively, the move to block scheduling of the refuse collection service be approved. (CD(F&ES))

351 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE COLLECTION

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) on proposed arrangements for refuse collection over Christmas and the New Year period and mechanisms for notifying residents.

Following a motion moved by Councillor R S Allen and seconded by Councillor D R Helson relating to advertising, it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed programme of refuse collection as set out below be implemented over this year's Christmas/New Year period:-

Normal Collection Day		Revised Collection Day	
Mon	24 December	Mon	24 December
Tues	25 December	Thurs	27 December
Wed	26 December	Fri	28 December
Thurs	27 December	Sat	29 December
Fri	28 December	Mon	31 December
Mon	31 December	Wed	2 January
Tues	1 January	Thurs	3 January
Wed	2 January	Fri	4 January
Thurs	3 January	Sat	5 January
Fri	4 January	Mon	7 January
Mon	7 January	Tues	8 January
Tues	8 January	Wed	9 January
Wed	9 January	Thurs	10 January
Thurs	10 January	Fri	11 January
Fri	11 January	Sat	12 January

- (2) That, subject to the inclusion of detail on Bank Holiday arrangements for the whole year period and the provision of A3 posters to Parish Council offices, the methods of advertising the collection programme be as set out in the report. (CD(F&ES))

352 ABANDONED VEHICLE UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing an update on the current situation regarding the removal of abandoned vehicles and, in particular, the role of Essex County Council in this process.

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Resolved

- (1) That the progress on the development of allocating costs and responsibilities for dealing with abandoned vehicles be noted.
- (2) That Officers be authorised to proceed with invitations to tender for the collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles.
(CD,(F&ES))

The Meeting closed at 9.11pm

Chairman

Date