

Environmental Services Committee – 12 October 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **12 October 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr J E Grey (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs T J Capon (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr R A Amner
Cllr R G S Choppen
Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr Mrs L Hungate
Cllr C J Lumley
Cllr J M Pullen

Cllr P R Robinson
Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr P F A Webster

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S Clarkson	- Head of Revenue & Housing Management
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning Services
G Woolhouse	- Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
A Meddle	- Team Leader, Local Plans
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

424 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

425 ISSUES ARISING FROM ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 Second Deposit Phase of the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan

The Committee considered the report of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a recommendation that the response to representations received to the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan (First Deposit Draft) be as outlined in the appendix to the report, that details of all representations and the Council's response to same be sent to all who made such representations and displayed at the Council offices and on the Council website and that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services to approve any minor amendments to the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan as may be required.

During debate, Members noted that the words "As required by Central Government" should be included at the beginning of Policy HP8 and that in paragraph 4.37 of Policy EB10 the reference to "light industrial" should be replaced by "business".

Resolved

- (1) That the response to representations received to the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan (First Deposit Draft) be as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the following amendments:-
 - Under Policy HP8 – Affordable Housing, the wording “As requested by Central Government” to be inserted at the beginning.
 - In paragraph 4.37 of Policy EB10 – Stambridge Mills the words “light industrial” should be replaced with “business”.
- (2) That details of all representations and the Council’s response to the same be sent to all who made such representations and displayed in the Council offices and on the Council’s website.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services to approve minor amendments to the Rochford District Replacement Local Plan (Pre-Inquiry Deposit Draft) as may be required to ensure the accuracy of the published plan. (HPS)

426 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee received the Schedule relating to Progress on Decisions and in response to Member questions the following was noted:-

Assessment of Odour Emissions from the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works

The first part of the independent odour survey took place during 20/21 September to identify potential odour sources. The second part of the survey, for off site monitoring, will be conducted when the weather conditions are appropriate and in consultation with residents.

Formation of a Groundwork Trust for the Thames Gateway South Essex Area

A first draft proposal for the Trust has been received from the external consultant employed by the Thames Gateway, but there is still much work to be done.

Car Parks Customer Survey – Results

It was anticipated that the results of the survey would come to Committee in November.

Winter Service Review – Highways

It would be ensured that the article in *Rochford District Matters* would contain the correct advice relating to the provision of salt bins around that District,

which were, of course, for public use.

427 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue & Housing Management on the current admission criteria for Taxi Vouchers.

During debate it was noted that, on advice from Essex County Council Independent Living Service, only 4 young people would qualify for the scheme based on the eligibility criteria.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the age of youngsters to potentially be admitted to the scheme and whether or not children would be accompanied, officers advised that it was unlikely that there would be anyone below the age of 8. Officers further confirmed that it was possible that some youngsters would travel independently, while others would be accompanied by carers. All Rochford registered Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle drivers had undergone appropriate Criminal Record Bureau checks and been properly trained with respect to the transportation of passengers with mobility problems.

In response to a further enquiry about whether or not the youngsters would have access to other forms of transport, officers advised that they would have access to the community transport scheme.

In concluding the debate, there was a general consensus that all eligible applicants in receipt of the Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance, irrespective of age, should be admitted to the scheme.

Resolved

- (1) That statistical information be gathered and analysed for a period of at least six months with a report back to Committee early in 2005/6.
- (2) That, with immediate effect, applicants of any age in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (Mobility Component) be admitted to the Scheme. (HRHM)

428 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN FOR ESSEX

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care seeking Members' views on the priorities for a Climate Change Action Plan for Essex.

During debate there was a general consensus that all the priorities listed within the appendix to the report merited inclusion in the action plan.

It was also noted that items relating to flood defences should have a high priority and that an item should be added to those relating to biodiversity and

agricultural issues relating to a plan for the removal to safety of farm animals in the event of flooding.

Resolved

That Essex County Council be informed of this Council's priorities for the Essex Climate Change Action Plan, as outlined in the appendix to the report, subject to the following Member comments:-

- All issues identified within the appendix should be taken into consideration.
- Issues relating to flood defences should have a high priority.
- With respect to biodiversity and agricultural issues, an item should be included relating to a plan for the removal to safety of farm animals in the event of flooding. (HHHCC)

429 GREEN BUSINESS INITIATIVE

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing Members with details of the research that has been undertaken by the Council's Recycling Officer into the options for encouraging/facilitating local businesses to recycle more of their trade waste.

During debate Members concurred that many businesses had limited space for the storage of waste. Members raised the question of whether the County Council might consider allowing small businesses to use local amenity sites for a small charge.

Resolved

That the initiatives detailed in Section 6 of the report be agreed, subject to them being included in the usual budget considerations. (CD(F&ES))

430 A LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR THE ROCHFORD DISTRICT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' approval for the Rochford Local Development Scheme to be adopted and submitted.

Since this report had been written the final regulations detailing the implementation of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 had been published, which indicated that there would be more time than originally advised to prepare the Local Development Framework and associated Local Development Documents. It was also clear that the draft Local Development Scheme document would have to be somewhat briefer and focused on the preparation of a fewer number of development documents within the first 3-4 years.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the status of village plans under the new Local Development Framework, officers advised that these could be

included as supplementary planning documents that would form part of the Local Development Framework.

Members concurred that the summary timescale outlined in the addendum to the report was acceptable.

Resolved

That the summary timescale outlined in the addendum to the report be agreed. (HPS)

431 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CHAMPION

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on the appointment of a Member as the Historic Environment Champion for Rochford District.

Resolved

That Cllr Mrs M J Webster be appointed as Historic Environment Champion in accordance with the principles outlined in the report. (HPS)

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman

Date