

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLACE SERVICES & ECONOMIC
GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL,
CHELMSFORD ON 21 JANUARY 2016**

Present:

Councillor S Walsh (Chairman)	Councillor A Hedley
Councillor G Butland	Councillor D Kendall
Councillor T Cutmore	Councillor C Pond
Councillor A Erskine	Councillor S Robinson
Councillor C Guglielmi	Councillor K Twitchen
Councillor D Harris	Councillor A Wood

Also in attendance:

Councillor Jon Whitehouse.

The following Officers were present in support throughout the meeting:

Christine Sharland	-	Scrutiny Officer
Lisa Siggins	-	Committee Officer

1. Apologies and substitution notices

Apologies were received from Councillors Bobbin and Henderson (who was substituted at the meeting by Councillor D Harris).

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 26 November 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

With reference to Minute 6, the Committee drew attention to the fact that a majority of County Councillors are included in the membership of their respective Local Highways Panels.

4. Questions from the Public

There were no questions raised by members of the public.

5. **Essex Parking Partnerships** (Minute 8/March 2015)

The Committee considered report PSEG/01/16, and received a briefing from contributors on the two Essex Parking Partnerships based upon key lines of enquiry identified beforehand to inform the consideration of proposals that will emerge from an Executive Review.

Attached to report PSEG/01/16 was a scoping document that included the following terms of reference for the scrutiny review:

‘To scrutinise the proposals arising from the Executive review of the North Essex (NEPP) and South Essex (SEPP) Parking Partnerships prior to a decision being reached on the future of those Partnerships.’

At the meeting the Parking Partnerships were represented by the following contributors:

Essex County Council

- Councillor Johnson, Cabinet Member for Highways Delivery
- Liz Burr, Head of Network and Safety/Traffic Manager (Highways)

North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP)

- Councillor Mitchell, Chairman
- Councillor Durcan, Vice Chairman was present as an observer
- Richard Walker, Group Manager

South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP)

- Councillor Pratt, Chairman Joint Committee
- Nick Binder, Manager

While the Committee had agreed the key lines of enquiry in advance, the meeting provided Members with the opportunity to cross examine the contributors in order to obtain a better understanding of the Partnerships for consideration of Executive proposals.

The evidence gathered from the meeting will be collated into a separate report by way of background for the next stage of the review on 24 March. At that meeting the Committee will consider the Executive review and reach a consensus with a view to influencing decisions upon the future of the Partnerships.

The Committee **Agreed** to the formal endorsement of the scoping document for a review of the proposals arising from the Executive review of the Essex Parking Partnerships.

6. **Local Highways Panels** (Minute 7/May 2015)

The Committee considered report PSEG/02/16 concerning the terms of reference for a scrutiny review of Local Highways Panels (LHPs) and the formation of a task and finish group (TFG) to lead on that review.

A review of the LHPs is identified in the Committee's work programme and it had received a briefing in May 2015 by way of background. The formation of a TFG had been delayed pending the completion of other reviews and other priorities that had arisen.

The Committee **Agreed** to:

1. Endorse the Terms of Reference set out in report PSEG/02/16 subject to the inclusion of a reference to the consideration of links to the Essex Parking Partnerships, and
2. The formation of a Task and Finish Group.

The Chairman confirmed that the Scrutiny Officer would contact the Committee separately regarding the membership of the Group.

7. Report of Call in: Getting Around In Essex – Procurement of New Local Bus Network. Forward Plan reference FP/245/09/15

The Committee noted report PSEG/03/16 concerning details on the recent call in of the above decision that was subsequently withdrawn following an informal meeting.

Councillor Pond, who had called the decision in, requested that the formal response he had subsequently received from the Cabinet Member be attached at the appendix to these minutes.

Councillors Kendall and Pond drew attention to information that they had received at the Bus Strategy Board they had attended on 18 January and, in particular potential budget cuts that could affect some contracted bus services. It was agreed that further information would be sought on behalf of the Committee.

8. Understanding the Essex Highways Contract

The Committee noted report PSEG/04/16 on a briefing held on 24 September 2015 on the Essex Highways Contract.

The inclusion of a briefing on the Contract had been identified in the work programme for 2014/2015, and a scoping document had been produced for that purpose.

In 2011 Essex County Council chose Ringway Jacobs as its preferred bidder for the £1billion, ten-year highway maintenance and service contract. It is a key component in the way that the Highways Service is delivered in Essex, and Members' had initiated the briefing to obtain a better understanding of how it works in practice.

It was confirmed that the Committee would receive a briefing on Key Performance Indicators as part of its next committee activity day in February.

9. Work Programme 2015/2017 (Minute 9/November 2015)

The Committee noted report PSEG/27/15 setting out an update on its activities.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted the next committee activity day was scheduled for Thursday, 25 February 2016.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12.07 pm

Chairman