
Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held in Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Thursday, 23 May 2019

Present:

Councillor I Grundy (Chairman)	Councillor D Kendall
Councillor B Aspinell	Councillor R Moore
Councillor T Cutmore	Councillor R Pratt
Councillor A Erskine	Councillor W Schmitt
Councillor S Hillier	Councillor L Scordis
Councillor P Honeywood	Councillor C Weston
Councillor B Massey	

1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report of the Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that

1. The membership of the Committee had changed since the last meeting with the membership as set out in the report. The Chairman welcomed Councillors Moore and Henderson to the Committee.
2. Councillors C Pond, T Cutmore and I Henderson had sent their apologies,
3. A Code interest was declared by Councillor D Kendall with regards to Agenda Item 7 Passenger Transport – Sunday and Evening Bus Services in that he is Chairman of Brentwood Community Transport.

2 Appointment of Vice-Chairmen

The Chairman advised the Committee that the current vice-chairmen Councillors Hillier and Pond had agreed to be renominated for the two Vice Chairman posts

Both Councillors Hillier and Pond were nominated by Councillor Massey and seconded by Councillor Erskine.

By general consent, it was agreed that Councillors Hillier and Pond were each re-elected as a Vice Chairman of the Committee.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th April were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Questions from the Public

There were none

5 Future Libraries Strategy – Petitions Update

Members received and noted report (**PSEG/08/19**) from Peter Randall Senior Democratic Services Officer regarding petitions received by Essex County Council that relate to the Future Libraries strategy.

6 IPRC Update

Members received and noted report (**PSEG/09/19**) from Peter Randall Senior Democratic Services Officer regarding IPRC update.

7 Passenger Transport – Sunday and Evening Bus Services

The Committee received a presentation from Helen Morris, Head of the Integrated Passenger Transport Unit on Sunday and evening bus transport proposals. Councillor Ray Gooding and Andrew Cook, Director Highways and Transportation were also present for this item.

Ms Morris reminded Members that the consultation which concerned proposals for Sunday and evening bus services opened on 19th December 2018 and closed on 22nd March 2019. She advised that 3330 responses were received.

Members discussed the draft report circulated to members ahead of the meeting.

The proposals were - Refresh of the bus strategy: Getting Around in Essex:

- Shaping the bus network around usage
- Flexible delivery: encouraging innovation and maximising service levels
- Devolution: having the right services commissioned at the right level

Following the presentation, Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and the issues raised included:

- Pre-booking – at present this involves a 2 hour booking window which is phone based. However, there are proposals to promote this service further.
- Age of respondents – it was confirmed that details will be included in the final report.
- Why respondents disagreed with the proposals – it was stated that the responses indicated that they wanted services to continue in the current way.
- Breakdown by district – it was confirmed that it will be possible to provide details for each district
- Size of vehicles – some members commented that often large vehicles are used with few passengers on board. Members were

advised that it was hoped that going forward smaller vehicles would be used and possibly more frequent services as a result.

- Next steps including the opportunity for further scrutiny – Members were advised that a report will be submitted to Cabinet in June regarding the Sunday and evening services policy. Ms Morris advised that the report submitted will include full details of the routes involved and the recommended changes. In July there will be procurement reflecting flexible delivery models options. With regards to the devolution option this will be developed as part of review of all other services

8 **Air Quality Task and Finish Report – Cabinet member response**

Members received report (**PSEG/10/19**) and a PowerPoint presentation from Councillor Simon Walsh, Andrew Cook Director Highways and Transportation, John Meehan Head of Sustainability & Resilience and Graham Thomas Head of Planning.

The final Air Quality Task and Finish report was submitted to cabinet on the 3 March 2019 at the request of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee Chairman.

The report was sent to the following Members of the Cabinet:

Cllr Simon Walsh – Cabinet Member for Waste and the Environment

Cllr Kevin Bentley – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure

Cllr John Spence – Cabinet Member for Adults and Health

Cllr Ray Gooding – Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

The Political Leadership Team appointed Cllr Simon Walsh as Air Quality Champion, tasked with taking forward the recommendations set out in the report.

The presentation outlined the initial cabinet member response to each of 22 recommendations in the above-mentioned report.

In several instances and in response to Member's questions it was confirmed that work is still ongoing and further information would be given to the Committee in due course.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Walsh and the officers for their contribution.

9 **Ringway Jacobs Task and Finish Group - Final Report**

Members received and noted report (**PSEG/11/19**) noting the final report of the Ringway Jacobs Task and Finish Group, submitted to the Cabinet Member on Monday 15 May 2019.

The Chairman thanked all those members involved for their contribution.

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Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next activity day will be on Thursday, 20 June 2019.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12.30 pm

Chairman