

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		PSEG/06/16
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	24 March 2016	
ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIPS (Minute 5/ January 2016)		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

Introduction

At its meeting on 21 January 2016 (Minute 5) the Committee gave some preliminary consideration of the Essex Parking Partnerships to develop its understanding of their formal arrangements and operation prior to fulfilling an invitation by the Cabinet Member to be given an opportunity to consider the outcomes of an Executive Review prior to any decisions being made (Minute 8/ March 2015).

The terms of reference agreed by the Committee for this scrutiny review are as follows:

‘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.’

Background

A record of the evidence collated by the Committee so far is set out in a report that is attached at the Appendix to this report.

When Members met as part of a committee activity day on 25 February, the draft report was discussed and given general approval for moving towards the next stage of the review. Several matters were raised where further clarification would be sought, and they are included in the key lines of enquiry below.

Next Steps....

At the time of writing this report the findings of the Executive Review were not available, and it is anticipated that the Committee will be provided with some information from the Parking Partnerships in advance of the meeting on 24 March.

While the intention for today's meeting is to focus the findings of the Executive Review, the Committee has not had the information necessary to be able to identify any detailed questioning it might wish to pursue. The same contributors who attended the January have been invited to attend this meeting. Nevertheless to assist in the making of arrangements and provide a framework for the next stage of the review the following preliminary key lines of enquiry are proposed to guide discussion:

Preliminary key lines of enquiry for Committee meeting on 24 March:

What were the terms of reference for the Executive Review?

What are the key findings of the Executive Report?

- What is working well?
- What improvements are necessary, and have any innovations been proposed?
- What are the key issues to be addressed by the Partners?

What are the proposals for the future of the Parking Partnerships?

- What if any changes are envisaged?
- How will Partner Authorities be consulted upon any changes?

Governance

- Are any governance changes proposed?
- Have any accountability issues been identified?
- Have proposals for a job description of Partner Authority representatives been put forward as referred to at January meeting?

Finance

- Are any changes proposed in financial arrangements?
- What are financial implications of any changes in the composition of a Partnership?

Organisation

- Has the Report revealed any lessons around the sharing of good practice between the NEPP and SEPP?
- Are there any proposals for greater collaboration with key stakeholders including the Local Highways Panels? Are there any barriers to greater collaboration across Essex?

Changes to the Composition of the Partnerships

- In the event of a Partner Authority withdrawing from a Joint Committee, how will the on street parking function be delivered within its local area?
- How would a District Council that withdraws be able to affect proposals

and the prioritisation of on street parking schemes if it is no longer a member of the Joint Committee?

- What would be the impact upon the Partnership if a District Council withdrew, and how would resources be affected if off street parking is no longer enforced within a district area given that that is a District Council function? *(notwithstanding the fact that Residents' Parking is on street parking function and as such the responsibility of the County Council as Highway Authority)*

Transparency

- Arising from concerns expressed by the Committee in January, are there any proposals that might address concerns expressed about the transparency of the Partnerships?
- Are the Partnerships satisfied that the Lead Authorities and inter alia all Partners providing effective internet access for an individual wishing to find out about the activity of the operation of the Joint Committees aside from providing a portal to address the payment of parking fees and penalty fines?

Executive Review: Next Steps

- How will final decisions arising from the Review be taken?
- How is authority for those decisions derived?
- What is the timetable and process for decisions to be made?
- What are the consequences if not all the Partner Authorities agree to the same way forward?

Action required by the Committee:

At this meeting the onus is upon the Committee to examine the findings of the Essex Parking Partnerships' Executive Review, and based upon the evidence obtained shape any recommendations that it wishes to be taken into consideration before a decision is reached on the future arrangements as a result of that Review.
