



Essex County Council

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

11:00	Thursday, 25 April 2024	Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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For information about the meeting please ask for:

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		Pages
1	Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest	4 - 4
2	Minutes of the previous meeting To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2024 and to consider the matters arising.	5 - 8
3	Questions from the Public A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any of the main items of business on the agenda for this meeting, excluding the previous minutes. No statement of question shall be longer than three minutes and speakers will be timed. If you would like to ask a question at this meeting, please email Democratic Services by 12 noon the day before (24 April 2024).	
4	Work Programme and Communications Review To receive an update (PSEG/06/24) on the current Committee Work Programme.	9 - 13

- 5 **Cabinet Member Update** 14 - 15
To receive a portfolio update from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport (PSEG/07/24).
- 6 **Date of Next Meeting**
To note that the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday 23 May 2024 at County Hall.
- 7 **Urgent Business**
To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

- 8 **Highways Performance Update CONFIDENTIAL REPORT**
- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);
- 9 **Urgent Exempt Business**
To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Agenda Item 1

Committee: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership

(Quorum: 5)

Cllr Alan Goggin	Chairman
Cllr Jane Fleming	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Dave Blackwell	Vice-Chairman
Cllr Simon Crow	
Cllr Paul Gadd	
Cllr Paul Honeywood	
Cllr Jaymey McIvor	
Cllr James Newport	
Cllr Lee Scordis	
Cllr Andrew Sheldon	
Cllr Chris Siddall	
Cllr Mick Skeels	
Cllr Marshall Vance	
Cllr Andy Wiles	

Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, that was held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 21 March 2024

Present:

Members:

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor J Fleming	Vice-Chairman
Councillor S Crow	
Councillor P Gadd	
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor J McIvor	
Councillor J Newport	
Councillor L Scordis	
Councillor A Sheldon	
Councillor C Siddall	
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Vance	

Officers:

Tracey Vickers	Head of Sustainable Transport
Vicky Lewis	Senior Transport Planner (Jacobs)
Emma Tombs	Interim Democracy Lead
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Lisa Siggins	Democratic Services Officer

Councillor L Shaw – Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport

Welcome and Introduction

Cllr A Goggin, the Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed those in attendance.

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report on Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and it was noted that:

1. The membership of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee was as shown in the report.
2. Apologies had been received from Cllr D Blackwell and Cllr A Wiles

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22 February were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

It was confirmed that information on LHP (Local Highway Panel) budgets was still being sought by the Chairman and that an all-members' briefing was due to take on the 'reset' of LHPs on 27 March 2024.

3. Questions from the Public

There was one question from a member of the public and this was taken under Item 5.

4. Work Programme and Communications Review

The updated Work Programme was noted. It was reported that an item had been added on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and this had been provisionally scheduled for the May 2024 meeting.

5. Essex Cycling Strategy

The Deputy Cabinet Member introduced the presentation which can be found [here](#).

It was reported that the strategy was a key document that updated the 2019 plan with a more aspirational approach and with six key outcomes aligned to both LTP4 (Local Transport Plan 4) and Everyone's Essex. It was confirmed that the strategy would sit under the new LTP, which was due to be adopted later in the year.

A public question was put by Cllr Mat Court (Brightlingsea Town Council). In response, it was confirmed that information would be circulated on road maintenance and the concern that poor road condition was a barrier to cycling, and it was agreed that initiatives such as the proposed [Sunshine Coast Greenway](#) should be integrated into the broader cycling network. Officers agreed to liaise directly with Cllr Court on the latter point.

Following the presentation, members were invited to ask questions, and during the discussions the following key points were raised:

- Cycling had a role in tackling poverty by providing a low-cost travel option for people to access work, education, and other opportunities. Meanwhile, the evidence for the economic benefit of cycling was to be found in research such as: [The Pedestrian Pound \(livingstreets.org.uk\)](https://livingstreets.org.uk)
- The initial plan for consultation on the strategy was outlined. It was reported that this would include a mix of online and in-person opportunities as well as engagement with local cycling groups. Members highlighted that engagement with schools and young people was crucial as well as with all cycling groups (including off-road/MTB cycling groups).
- It was confirmed that baseline evidence was needed to inform the outcome specific targets. Members were supportive of the six proposed outcomes but wanted to see further detail as well as a focus on infrastructure.

- It was agreed that achieving ‘buy in’ from residents was crucial especially when it came to route specific proposals; members proposed that this ‘buy in’ should include where residents *did* and *did not* want cycling routes.
- Members agreed that a more flexible approach was needed to [LTN 1/20](#) guidance in the strategy. It was felt that achieving this standard was not always realistic particularly in rural areas.
- Concerns were expressed by some members on whether the available funding was in place to deliver the strategy, and it was agreed that further information on budget would be shared with the Committee.
- Members highlighted the importance of engaging with district councils at every stage. This should include ensuring that post-adoption districts consider the strategy, as a part of the wider LTP framework, when developing policies.
- Members expressed some frustration about the lack of funding secured for cycling and sustainable transport under the current (national) Section 106 arrangements. It was agreed that information on Active Travel contributions would be circulated to the Committee.
- It was furthermore agreed that a breakdown of Ride London funding would be circulated to the Committee.

6. Withdrawn Call-in: FP/051/02/24 North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) Joint Committee Draft Minutes 01.02.24

The Committee noted the report and the action taken including the plan to circulate agendas for both NEPP and SEPP (South Essex Parking Partnership) meetings to county members.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Thursday 25 April 2024.

8. Urgent Business

No items were raised.

9. Urgent Exempt Business

No items were raised.

Chairman

PSEG – Matters Arising (April 2024)

Date of Meeting:	Agenda Item	Action	Status
Outstanding Issues	Local Highway Panels (issues originally raised in October 2023)	Information being sought to include the budget status of 'carry over' schemes (schemes allocated for funding in 22/23).	ECC Members Briefing took place on 27 March. Cabinet Member attending April meeting.
March	Cycling Strategy	Information requested on budget, active travel contributions (s106) and Ride London.	Partially outstanding (at time of publication).

Report title: Work Programme and Communications Review	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 25 April 2024	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer at justin.long@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is a standard agenda item giving members of the Committee an opportunity to consider upcoming scrutiny activity and request items to be added to the work programme.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the work programme in the Appendix and suggest any additional items.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Board has asked committees to give consideration as to which work programme items may benefit from communications activity to promote the work of the scrutiny function both internally and externally. Members are asked to consider this when reviewing the Appendix.

3. Background

3.1 Developing a work programme

Work has continued identifying priorities and future agenda items. This has included discussions with Committee Members, Cabinet Members and Officers as well as the other Policy and Scrutiny Committees via the Scrutiny Board.

This work has reflected the adoption of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* organisation strategy.

Earlier this year, an item on scrutiny was included in the 'Your Essex' publication. This has resulted in suggestions for the Work Programme on Sports Provision and Emergency Planning. It is proposed to take these items forward later in the year.

The current work programme is attached in the **Appendix**.

4. Everyone's Essex

The Committee should take account of the *Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025* strategy when considering the work programme and future items.

Particular attention should be paid to the strategic ambitions (and associated commitments and performance measures) most relevant to the work of the Committee: 'Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy', and 'High Quality Environment.'

5. Update and Next Steps

See Appendix.

6. Appendix – Current work programme and an outline of the remit of the Committee.

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee (PSEG) Work Programme – April 2024

Provisional Dates	Topic Title	Lead Contact / Cabinet Member	Purpose and Target Outcomes	Cross-Committee Work Identified (where applicable)
25 April 2024	Cabinet Member Update	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	To receive an update from the Cabinet Member on a range of portfolio issues including LHPs and highways maintenance.	
23 May	Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)	Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	To consider the emerging strategy ahead of public consultation (further item to be scheduled post-consultation)	
TBC – 6 month after adoption	EV and Charging Point Strategy	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	To review progress on the new EV and Charging Point Strategy (6 months after adoption) and review work on employee fleet transition to EVs	
TBC	LED Streetlight Rollout	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	To receive an update on the LED streetlight programme	

TBC	Climate Change	Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	To receive an update on Climate Change activity (to include Solar Together?)	Cross-committee issue – extend invite to PSC Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen
TBC	Recycling Booking System Trial	Climate Czar and Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling	To consider the issue post Cabinet decision (expected Feb 2024)	
TBC	Emergency Planning / Flooding	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport	To receive an update on the issue following a request at the December 2023 meeting (further scoping work needed)	

Additional Items

Items suggested by residents: Sports Provision (to be scoped) and Emergency Planning (see above)

Work with other Policy and Scrutiny Committees: Local Enterprise Partnerships (CPSC), Essex Renewal Fund (CPSC)

Committee Remit

PSEG is responsible for scrutiny of the following areas of Council activity:

- The economy of Essex
- Economic development and regeneration
- Employment related Skills and apprenticeships
- Strategic Highways and transportation
- Heritage, Culture and the Arts
- Tourism
- Country Parks and other green assets Library services
- Broadband and public communications infrastructure
- Planning
- Environmental services
- Community Safety and Crime and Disorder (not Domestic Violence or Youth Offending Team)
- Emergency Planning
- Waste and recycling
- Energy and emissions reduction
- Trading standards
- Housing
- Gypsies and travellers.

Report title: Cabinet Member Update	
Report to: Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 25 April 2024	For: Discussion
Enquiries to: justin.long@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: All	

1. Introduction

The Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee's (PSEG) remit includes scrutiny of strategic highways and transportation and related areas.

In October 2023 Cllr Tom Cunningham took on the role of Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport. Cllr Cunningham is being invited to the meeting to provide an update on the portfolio and take questions from members of the Committee with particular regard to his vision and priorities, Local Highway Panels (LHPs) and highways maintenance performance (see note below).

His portfolio covers the following:

- Rail Strategy and Community Rail
- Park and Ride
- Network Management
- Traffic Regulation
- Cycling
- Walking
- Street lighting
- Public rights of way (bridleways, footpaths and byways)
- Road safety
- Maintenance of highways
- Highways Maintenance capital programme
- Local Highways Panels
- Parking Partnerships
- Integrated Transport
- Sustainable Transport Policy
- Active Travel
- E-Scooters
- Travel Planning
- Passenger Transport, including buses and concessionary fares
- Home to School Transport

2. Action required

The Committee is invited to question the Cabinet Member on his portfolio and scrutinise council activity in this area.

Expected attendees to support the discussion:

- Councillor Tom Cunningham - Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport
- Tom Blackburne-Maze - Director of Highways & Transport

Please note that agenda item 8 will focus on the KPIs in place under the integrated partnership contract between the Council and Ringway Jacobs (Essex Highways).