
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, 17 October 2019

Present:

Councillor I Grundy (Chairman)	Councillor B Massey
Councillor T Cutmore	Councillor R Moore
Councillor A Erskine	Councillor J Moran
Councillor S Hillier	Councillor C Pond
Councillor I Henderson	Councillor R Pratt
Councillor P Honeywood	Councillor C Weston
Councillor D Kendall	

- 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 was unchanged since the last meeting;
2. Councillor W Schmitt had sent her apologies, Councillor J Moran attended as her substitute. Cllr B Aspinell had also sent his apologies.

- 2 Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

- 3 Questions from the Public**
There were none.

- 4 Review of the Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014)**
Members received report **(PSEG/17/19)** and a presentation from Cllr Tony Ball, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Richard Greaves, Chief Planning Officer (County Planning and Major Development).

The Essex Minerals Local Plan (MLP) was adopted in July 2014 and provides planning policies for minerals development in Essex until 2029. It sets a policy framework within which the best possible use of mineral resources, mainly sand and gravel in Essex, is achieved. It also allocates sites for future mineral extraction and associated development.

Having been adopted 5 years ago, the effectiveness of the policies of the Plan are required to be formally reviewed. A Review of Local Plan is a legal

requirement. Regulations state that in respect of a Local Plan, the review must be completed every five years, starting from the date of adoption of the Local Plan.

Members were advised that officer-level engagement with LPAs/neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies is taking place with the intention that a recommendation is made to Cabinet in November to formally commence a Review of the MLP.

Should the Council sanction a formal Review, the Plan will be subject to the consultation procedures dictated in planning legislation and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

Following the presentation, members were invited to ask questions and the areas raised included:

- Impact on the highway from heavy goods vehicles – members expressed concern in this regard. Richard Greaves advised that ECC as the highway authority have a duty to repair. However, in many cases conditions would be included in planning conditions granted.
- The length of the review – the draft timetable indicates that the process should be approximately 2 years
- Shale gas and fracking – members expressed concern and felt that the public need clarification in this regard
- Committee engagement in the consultation – Cllr Ball advised that he endeavour to liaise with the Committee as much as possible.

ACTION: members requested that Mr Greaves provide further information following the meeting on the issue of fracking, and ECCs position.

The Chairman thanked Mr Greaves and Cllr Ball for their contribution.

5

Concessionary Fares and Park and Ride Services

Members received report (**PSEG/18/19**) and a presentation from Cllr Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, and Helen Morris, Head of the Integrated Passenger Transport Unit. The purpose of which was to update the Committee on findings following consultation on changes to concessionary fares on Park and Ride Services.

The presentation can be found [here](#)

Following the presentation, members were invited to ask questions and the areas raised included:

- Low level of responses to the consultation
- Whether the proposed £1.50 charge is too prohibitive

- Little incentive for blue badge holders to use the service as they can park quite freely in town centres
- Whether the new proposals are contradictory to ECC's recent announcement concerning its commitment to climate change

ACTION: Members requested that Democratic Services Officers work with the cabinet member regarding scrutiny recommendations. These will be published in the agenda for the November meeting of the committee.

The Chairman thanked Ms Morris and Cllr Gooding for their contribution.

6 Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next Committee meeting will be on Thursday, 28th November 2019.

The Chairman advised that a site visit was planned for Friday 8th November to Springfield Community library, final details of which would be circulated to members.

Councillor Henderson enquired as to whether the constitution/remit of the climate change commission could be included in the Committee's forthcoming work programme. Officers agreed to take this away and liaise with the cabinet member.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12.55pm

Chairman