

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PLACE SERVICES & ECONOMIC GROWTH
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD ON 26
MARCH 2015**

Present:

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| Councillor S Walsh (Chairman) | Councillor D Kendall |
| Councillor T Cutmore | Councillor V Metcalfe |
| Councillor A Erskine | Councillor C Pond |
| Councillor Guglielmi | Councillor S Robinson |
| Councillor D Harris | Councillor K Twitchen |
| Councillor T Hedley | Councillor A Wood |
| Councillor I Henderson | |

1. Apologies and Substitution Notices

Apologies were received from Councillor Butland.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 18 December 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

With reference to Minute 5 Councillor Walsh declared a personal interest in that he is a trustee of a Stansted Airport Community Trust.

With reference to Minute 6 Councillor Hedley declared a personal interest in that he is Chairman of the Essex Fire Authority.

With reference to Minute 9, Councillor Kendall declared a personal interest in the Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy in that he is Secretary of the Brentwood Bus and Rail Users Association, and a Trustee of Brentwood Community Transport in his capacity as a Brentwood Borough Councillor.

4 Questions from the Public

There were no questions raised by members of the public

5. Stansted Airport

The Committee considered report PSEG/01/15 concerning a recent visit to Stansted Airport, the publication of the Airport's Sustainable Development Plan (SDP), and an overview of the County Council's own strategic Aviation Policy.

On 26 February 2015 the Committee's activity day comprised a visit to Stansted Airport including a tour of the Airport Terminal and a presentation on the Operator's SDP. Councillors Dave Harris, Valerie Metcalfe, Chris Pond, Kay Twitchen, and Simon Walsh attended on the day.

At the Committee meeting Dominic Collins, Head of Commissioning Growing Essex Future Development; and Zhanine Oates, Principal Spatial Planner, provided an overview of the County Council's work around Essex Airports, and the Stansted Airport SDP by way of a PowerPoint presentation and answering Members' questions. The presentation covered the following key areas, which are summarised in report PSEG/01/15:

- Davies Commission – Independent Airports Commission
- Essex County Council's (ECC) Long Term Strategic Aviation View
- Partnership Working
- Stansted SDP

During discussion it was pointed out that the Airports Surface Access Study, currently being undertaken by ECC for both Stansted and Southend Airports, may be referred to the Committee for its comments in due course. Furthermore consideration will be given to the inclusion of a future visit to Southend Airport in the Committee's work programme.

The Chairman expressed his thanks on behalf of the Committee to those Officers who attended the meeting and for their part in organising the highly informative visit to Stansted Airport. He further wished to put on formal record the Committee's appreciation to those Airport staff involved in the said visit.

6. Third Party Responsibilities & Flood Management

The Committee considered report PSEG/02/15 concerning the progress of the Task and Finish Group undertaking this scrutiny investigation, and confirmation that once it has completed gathering evidence then its findings and conclusions will be set out in a scrutiny report for the Committee's consideration. In addition arrangements had been made for the full Committee itself to consider the roles of home and landowners in the mitigation of flooding.

Lee Sencier Watercourse Regulation Engineer ECC, supported by Natasha Taylor Essex Legal Services, provided the Committee with a briefing by way of a PowerPoint presentation on home and land owner responsibilities around flood mitigation. They explained the legislative background of the Land Drainage Act 1991 and how the Flood and Water Management Team is developing the implementation of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

During the course of the presentation Members asked various questions, which were answered by those Officers present.

Information obtained at this meeting would be incorporated in the final scrutiny report, which will be produced by the Task and Finish Group in due course.

7. Jobs, Welfare and Skills TFG Progress

The Committee noted report PSEG/03/15 on the progress of this scrutiny investigation review.

At the meeting the Jobs, Welfare and Skills Task and Finish Group comprising Councillors Walsh, Kendall and Henderson, shared with the Committee their observations so far and referred to the key lines of enquiry involved:

- The Careers Service
- Skills Funding
- Welfare to Work Programme

The Group has met various contributors including:

- National Work Programme providers
- Job Centre Plus – two sites
- Harwich Skills Centre
- Teen Talk, Harwich
- Employment and Skills Board

The Group emphasised that this is a very worthwhile area to investigate and wished to acknowledge the support provided by the Officers involved.

8. Work Programme

The Committee considered report PSEG/04/15 by the Scrutiny Officer updating Members on the work programme.

During discussion a number of matters were raised:

- Highways Maintenance – Councillor Kendall advised that a briefing for Members, including criteria guidance, would be provided by way of seminars in June.
- Parking Partnerships – It was suggested that it would be useful if a detailed briefing could be provided for the Committee prior to consideration of the outcomes of the Cabinet Member's review.
- Part Night Lighting – With reference to the Committee's Scrutiny Report on Part Night Lighting and in particular recommendation 6 (Minute 9/October 2014 refers), it was agreed that an update be sought from the Cabinet Member on his consideration of devolving the ability to vary part night lighting where there have been local requests for a variation to the existing scheme, including suggestions that others would cover the cost of the extra energy
- Pavement Parking – Councillor Pond raised this as a potential item to be included in the Work Programme

9. Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy

The Committee noted report PSEG/05/15 setting out the response of the Cabinet Member to its scrutiny report on the proposed Bus and Passenger Transport Strategy , together with an update on the ongoing Consultation.

10. Country Parks Car Parking Charges

The Committee noted report PSEG/06/15 concerning the Cabinet Member's update on the outcome of the consultation on proposed changes to country park car parking charges.

11. Call In Of Speed Limit at Rivenhall

The Committee noted report PSEG/07/15 setting out the details of the Call In relating to a speed limit on the approach to St Mary's Church, Church Road, Rivenhall, which was subsequently withdrawn following an informal meeting with the Cabinet Member.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that the next activity day scheduled for 23 April 2015 be cancelled. The next scheduled committee activity day would be on 28 May 2015.

13. Urgent Business

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 12:45 pm

Chairman