

Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee

10:00	Thursday, 20 June 2013	Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex
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Quorum: 5

Councillor S Walsh
Councillor M Buckley
Councillor A Erskine
Councillor I Grundy
Councillor T Hedley
Councillor I Henderson
Councillor R Hirst
Councillor J Huntman
Councillor D Kendall
Councillor M Maddocks
Councillor C Pond
Councillor S Robinson
Councillor J Spence
Councillor A Wood

Chairman

For information about the meeting please ask for:

Sophie Campion, Committee Officer

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Email: sophie.campion@essex.gov.uk



Essex County Council

Essex County Council and Committees Information

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Part 1

(During consideration of these items the meeting is likely to be open to the press and public)

Pages

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|----------|---|----------------|
| 1 | Membership
To note the membership of the new Committee, as listed on the front page of this agenda. Councillor Simon Walsh was elected Chairman of the Committee at Full Council in May 2013. | |
| 2 | Apologies and Substitution Notices
The Committee Officer to report receipt (if any) | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest
To note any declarations of interest to be made by Members | |
| 4 | Appointment of Vice-Chairmen
To appoint Vice-Chairmen of the Committee. | |
| 5 | Minutes of the Economic Development, Environment and Highways Policy and Scrutiny Committee
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the former Committee's meeting held on 21 March 2013 (attached). | 5 - 8 |
| 6 | Committee Terms of Reference
To note the Committee's Terms of Reference, as set out in report PSEG/01/13 (attached). | 9 - 10 |
| 7 | Dates of Future Meetings and Work Programme
To confirm Committee meeting dates for the forthcoming year as set out in report PSEG/02/13 (attached) and that initial consideration of its future work programme will take place at the next meeting. | 11 - 12 |
| 8 | 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)

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of an agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely

disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 or it being confidential for the purposes of Section 100A(2) of that Act.

In each case, Members are asked to decide whether, in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption (and discussing the matter in private) outweighs the public interest in disclosing the 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.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD ON 21 MARCH 2013**

Present:

Councillor S Walsh (Chairman)	Councillor D Kendall
Councillor B Aspinell	Councillor G McEwen
Councillor R Callender	Councillor G Mitchinson
Councillor A Durcan	Councillor C Pond
Councillor I Grundy	Councillor D Robinson
Councillor A Hedley	Councillor J Schofield
Councillor E Johnson	Councillor M Skeels

1. Apologies and Substitution Notices

The Committee Officer reported apologies for absence from Councillors R Bass and J Roberts.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 21 February 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of personal interest.

4. Scrutiny Review on the Future of Recycling Centres for Household Waste Service in Essex

The Committee considered the response from the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Waste set out in report EDEH/07/13 to the scrutiny report on this matter.

The Committee noted the response that accepted Recommendation 1 and welcomed a further in depth review on the future of Recycling Centres for Household Waste Service in Recommendation 2.

5. Scrutiny Report on the Relationship with Statutory Undertakers in the way works are undertaken in the Highway

The Committee considered the response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation (report EDEH/08/13) to the four recommendations set out in the scrutiny report on this matter.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- An update on when 'service information' website will be up and running, referred to in the response to recommendation 2, was requested.

- Members were interested to get some feedback from the initial work undertaken to look at the feasibility of introducing a permit scheme (response to recommendation 4).
- The experience of Members within their own divisions was that there were still some concerns regarding joined up working between the County Council and utility companies, and there was still a lack of information in some cases regarding who was undertaking the works.
- It was suggested that the relationship between the County Council, Statutory Undertakers, and the Parking Partnerships could be investigated in the future.

The Committee **Agreed** that further information be sought from the Cabinet Member regarding the establishment of the 'service information' website and the feasibility work for the introduction of a permit scheme.

The Committee noted the response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

6. Scrutiny Review on Country Parks

The Committee considered report EDEH/09/13 on the Task and Finish Group's recent engagement in Phase 2 of the Country Parks Project.

It was intended that Members would continue to input into this Project during the early stages of the Project, and the Committee's successor would take its scrutiny involvement forward.

The Committee noted the report on the Task and Finish Group's activities.

7. Forward Look: Committee's Overview and Scrutiny Successes

The Committee considered report EDEH/10/13 by the Scrutiny Officer on its overview and scrutiny experience.

The purpose of the report was to identify a number of messages to pass onto the new Committee after the May 2013 County Council elections, and to influence how overview and scrutiny is taken forward in the future. The report reflected Members' views expressed at a workshop in February and general feedback gleaned from a questionnaire and general discussions. It was highlighted that there had been some successful outcomes from the Committee's scrutiny activities, and reference was made to the positive feedback received already to the scrutiny report on COMAH endorsed at the previous meeting.

The Committee's 'messages' would be fed into the generic review being undertaken on the Council's overview and scrutiny function, and further feedback was invited from Members. Members confirmed their support for the report, and felt it was a well written report.

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- Some Members considered that there was a distinct difference between the roles of scrutiny and policy and development.
- There was strong feeling that the actual timing of reviews was essential for successful scrutiny to be conducted. Examples of less successful scrutiny were in some cases related to reviews taking place too late in the decision making process. Early input provided a much greater opportunity to influence outcomes.
- There was suggestion that there was a lack of outside impartial analysis, and there should be a budget to commission outside research similar to the Parliamentary Select Committee structure.
- It was recognised that scrutiny work could be compromised by conflicts with a Cabinet Member, and where issues went to full Council political group voting could mitigate against the findings of a scrutiny report.
- Members noted that it was important to invest time and resources into areas of work where it was possible to influence outcomes and make a difference.
- It was suggested that the Committee's work programme should be able to take account of the Cabinet's Forward Plan of activity over the longer period. The Chairman advised that he had been considering how this could be done in the future, and had been having discussions with Cabinet Members to get a better idea of forthcoming issues and decisions.
- There was a view that Tasks and finish Groups had worked well, and engaged more positively those Members with an interest in the specific issues being reviewed. However, it was pointed out that when a group reported its findings and recommendations back to the main committee for endorsement, that committee as a whole had to take account of the fact that those colleagues who undertook the review had based their proposals on their proper consideration of evidence collated. Therefore if the committee was minded to vary a group's findings as set out in its report then there should be proper justification and evidence for doing so. Once a group's report was endorsed, that report would be adopted as the committee's report.
- It was noted that this had been the first Committee to reflect upon its successes and its views would be fed into the broader review being undertaken on the future of overview and scrutiny. The other Policy and Scrutiny Committees were being encouraged to produce similar reports.
- It was noted that the report would be taken into consideration as part of a handover of work to the successor Committee.

8. Dates of Future Meetings

The Committee noted that due to there being no business planned for the next activity day scheduled for 18 April, it would be cancelled.

As this would be the last meeting of the Committee prior to the County Council May elections, the Chairman expressed his thanks to Members for their contributions. The Chairman also thanked officers for their work in support of the Committee.

Councillor McEwen, Vice Chairman, on behalf of the Committee thanked the Chairman for his work and for leading a successful Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 10.40am.

Chairman

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		PSEG/01/13
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	20 June 2013	
COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

At full Council in May 2013 the full Council approved this Committee's terms of reference as follows:

- Major infrastructure and major transport schemes relating to the Economic growth Strategy
- Economic development and regeneration
- Enterprise, international trade and inward investment
- Integrated County Strategy
- Skills and apprenticeships (including vocational centres, Train to Gain and Work Based Learning)
- Major Projects and Infrastructure (including highways capital programme)
- Tourism
- Broadband
- External funding programmes
- Strategic and local planning
- Waste and mineral planning
- Flood Management
- Development Management
- Heritage, Culture and the Arts
- Libraries
- Built Environment; and Historic Environment
- Natural Environment
- Country Parks
- Localism (including Locality Boards)
- Big Society (including Big Society revenue and capital fund)
- Rural affairs
- Relations with district, city and borough, parish and town councils
- Relations with the voluntary and community sector
- Countywide Traveller Unit
- Sustainable development
- Community Safety

- Highways maintenance (including bridleways, footpaths and byways), all car parking and road safety, traffic and vehicle regulation, school crossing patrols and public transport
- Passenger Transport
- Concessionary fares
- Cycling
- Waste disposal
- Recycling Centres for Household Waste
- The promotion of recycling and waste minimisation and the disposal of waste
- Energy and emissions reduction
- Trading standards

The Council appointed fourteen County Councillors to the Committee as follows:

Name	District/ Division
Malcolm Buckley	Basildon/ Wickford Crouch
Andrew Erskine	Tendring/ Tendring Rural East
Ian Grundy	Chelmsford / Stock
Tony Hedley	Basildon/ Billericay & Burstead
Ivan Henderson	Tendring/ Harwich
Roger Hirst	Brentwood/ Brentwood Hutton
Jamie Huntman	Castle Point/ Thundersley
David Kendall	Brentwood South
Malcolm Maddocks	Rochford/ Rayleigh North
Chris Pond	Epping Forest/ Loughton Central
Stephen Robinson	Chelmsford/ Chelmsford North
John Spence	Chelmsford/ Chelmer
Simon Walsh	Uttlesford/ Thaxted
Andy Wood	Tendring/ Clacton North
Named substitutes:	
Terry Cutmore	Rochford/ Rochford North
Carlo Guglielmi	Tendring/ Tendring Rural West
Michael Danvers	Harlow/ Harlow North

(Councillors divisions have been included for information):

		AGENDA ITEM 7
		PSEG/02/13
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	20 June 2013	
DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Scrutiny Officer 01245 430450 Christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

The following dates have been identified as committee activity days for this Committee:

Thursday 20 June 2013
Thursday 25 July 2013
Thursday 26 September 2013
Thursday 24 October 2013
Thursday 28 November 2013
Thursday 19 December 2013
Thursday 23 January 2014
Thursday 27 February 2014
Thursday 27 March 2013
Thursday 24 April 2014
Thursday 22 May 2014

Please note that Members are requested to keep the full days open in their diaries for conducting committee business as a variety work and meetings are likely to be planned during the course of those days.
