
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 January 2019

Present:

Councillor I Grundy (Chairman)	Councillor D Kendall
Councillor B Aspinell (items 4-7)	Councillor B Massey
Councillor T Cutmore	Councillor C Pond
Councillor A Erskine	Councillor R Pratt
Councillor S Hillier	Councillor W Schmitt
Councillor P Honeywood	Councillor J Young (items 1-4)

- 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. Councillors Tony Ball and Carole Weston had sent their apologies.

2 Minutes

With regards to Minute 4 (Essex Future Library Services) it was pointed out that the end date of the consultation was in fact 20 February and the minutes were amended accordingly.

With regards to Minute 4 as referred to above, Councillor Kendall pointed out that a copy of the consultation document had not in fact been circulated in advance.

With regards to the same minute, Councillor Young wished to express her disappointment that hard copies of the consultation document are not available in libraries.

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 22 November 2018 were thereafter agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

- 3 Questions from the Public**
There were no questions from the public.

4

Passenger Transport

The Committee received report (**PSEG/01/19**) and a presentation from Helen Morris, Head of the Integrated Passenger Transport Unit on Sunday and evening bus transport proposals. Councillor Ray Gooding and Andrew Cook, Director Highways and Transportation were also present for this item.

Following a private briefing session to Committee on the 12th December 2018 Members had asked to explore two issues:

- a. Devolution and localities
- b. Shaping the local bus network around usage

The presentation and report **PSEG/01/19** provided a general outline of agreed topics giving examples of key questions which the Committee might raise on each topic. Officers were keen to stress that no decision as to withdrawal of services had yet been proposed – members were assured that the findings of the consultation would carry real weight when moving forward toward an eventual decision.

Following the presentation, Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and the issues raised included:

- Finishing time of services is too early – Members particularly raised concerns regarding later night socialising opportunities and access to work. Members were assured that responses to the consultation will be analysed with any adjustments made is appropriate.
- Total number of passengers per journey – clarification was provided that the 6-passenger figure stated in the presentation and report was for the entire journey, not at any given time.
- Could profits from profitable routes be used towards less profitable routes – It was explained that none of the services run by ECC make a profit and it would be very difficult to do so, the only way would be via franchising as in London to encourage private operator to take on struggling routes.
- Increased use of Community Transport (CT) run services – Part of the reason for the consultation is the need to understand which people (such as CT providers) are really interested in devolution. CT schemes will need to be sustainable.
- How can it be ensured that localities have commissioning capabilities. - Statutory responsibly stays with ECC, there is a need to ensure that there is a good framework in place to prevent devolution falling over. Andrew Cook agreed to provide some examples of where local communities have procured good services.
- Services to hospitals – There are number of parts to this which ECC are working with CCGs on, including staff and visitors. The

consultation takes into account the likely purpose of journeys and the majority of hospital routes tend to be heavily used so fall out of scope for this consultation as they are operated by private providers. The earlier finishing time proposed would not affect general access to appointments as these are usually within working hours.

- Lack of publicity regarding the consultation on bus services - hard copies are not on buses due to cost issues and only those services affected show posters. They are not on commercial services.
- Confusion on the geographical areas referred to in the consultation – some area grouping is not obvious but may be adjusting once responses to the consultation are analysed. Members raised concerns generally around the groupings proposed and the logic behind these.
- Concerns were raised regarding residents getting to work in areas where services will be cut – Helen Morris gave an example of a college funding a minibus to get students to the campus. Similarly, you would hope a large business such as a supermarket would support their staff to get to work.

On behalf of the Committee the Chairman thanked all those involved in the presentation and it was agreed that Peter Randall would coordinate an official response to the consultation on behalf of the Committee.

5

Air Quality

The Committee received report (**PSEG/02/19**) from Peter Randall, Senior Democratic Services Officer on the proposed recommendations following the work of the Air Quality Task and Finish Group.

Peter Randall explained that there were three areas within the report where further information needed to be incorporated, and that this would be done shortly. There was a discussion regarding the proposed recommendations in the draft report and Members made some suggestions regarding some amendments and additional recommendations. Peter Randall confirmed that he would incorporate the suggested changes, new evidence received after the report had been drafted and include a foreword from the Chairman. The report would then be brought back to the committee for approval in February.

Members were advised that the report would be sent to the four relevant Cabinet members and that they would also be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee.

It was agreed that Peter Randall would explore the options available in terms of a coordinated response from the relevant Cabinet members. Peter also confirmed that he would liaise with ECC Communications teams with

regards to how the report would be publicised and shared with the relevant people/organisations.

6 Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next activity day will be on Thursday, 21 February 2019.

The Chairman also advised the Committee that the date of the March meeting had been changed from 21st to 28th.

7 Urgent Business

The Committee considered report (**PSEG/03/19**) from Peter Randall, Senior Democratic Services Officer on the Ringway Jacobs Task and Finish Scoping Document.

Members discussed the information contained therein and Peter Randall confirmed that the scoping document would be updated accordingly.

The meeting closed at 12.42 pm

Chairman