

Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, that was held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 23 November 2023

Present:

Members:

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor J Fleming	Vice-Chairman
Councillor P Gadd	
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor J Newport	
Councillor L Scordis	To Item 6
Councillor C Siddall	
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Vance	To Item 5

Officers:

Lucy Wightman	Director of Wellbeing and Public Health
Ben Hughes	Head of Wellbeing and Public Health
Tracey Vickers	Head of Sustainable Transport
Alastair Southgate	Transport Strategy Lead
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Ann Coldicott	Democratic Services Manager

Councillor S Crow (joining remotely) – member of the Committee
 Councillor L McKinlay – Deputy Leader, Levelling Up, and the Economy
 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, Cllr J McIvor, Cllr A Sheldon and Cllr A Wiles whilst Cllr S Crow would be joining the meeting remotely.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 October 2023 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

The Matters Arising report was noted subject to an additional point on the issue concerning LHPs (Local Highway Panels).

3. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

4. Work Programme and Communications Review

The updated Work Programme was noted. It was confirmed that an item was being scheduled on LHPs following the discussion at the October meeting.

5. Community Safety

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

Members were then invited to ask questions and provide comment. Key points raised during this discussion included:

- It was reported that Public Health had been closely involved in the development of the Essex Design Guide. Officers would check that the principles of the 'Make Space for Girls' campaign and ECC's Active Essex strategy were being embedded.
- The value of the 'Bystander Training' (previously offered to members) was noted and it was queried whether this could be offered again to all members.
- Information would be shared by officers on how initiatives have been evaluated and the effectiveness of projects undertaken.
- It was confirmed that VWAG (Violence Against Women and Girls) was the only exclusively gender-specific initiative, and the issue of violence and domestic abuse against men (including in same-sex relationships) was being addressed.
- Members expressed concern about the time taken to fix streetlights (including those earmarked for LED replacements) and the potential impact this was having on crime and community safety issues questioning whether highways policy reflected these issues. It was agreed that an item on streetlights should be added to the Work Programme.
- It was reported that it would shortly be announced that ECC had been awarded White Ribbon Accreditation in recognition of its commitment to ending violence against women in the workplace and local communities.

- It was confirmed that ECC worked closely with district partners including through the Community Safety Partnership.
- The Cabinet Member stressed that Community Safety was not just about 'dark alleyways' but complex societal and attitudinal issues with a lot of ECC's work focused on people and not just places.

6. LTP 4 (Local Transport Plan 4)

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport introduced the presentation which can be found [here](#).

Members were then invited to ask questions and provide comment. Key points raised during this discussion included:

- Officers reported that the Speed Management Review was linked to the new Place and Movement Matrix and the timescale and budget for this review were still to be confirmed.
- Information would be circulated by officers on the transport usage data compiled by the DfT.
- Members suggested greater flexibility and pragmatism should be shown when applying LTN (Local Transport Note) 1/20 best practice guidance on cycling and walking routes.
- Officers confirmed that a provisional LTP would be submitted in March 2024; however, they were still awaiting further DfT guidance on exactly what needed to be submitted.

Given the late running of the meeting, the number of members having to leave early due to prior engagements and ahead of further government guidance, it was **AGREED** to endorse provisionally the LTP4 strategic themes and outcomes and the Place and Movement Matrix ahead of a further update to the Committee in the new year.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Wednesday 20 December.

8. Urgent Business

No items were raised.

9. Urgent Exempt Business

No items were raised.

Chairman