
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, 25 April 2024

Present:

Members:

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor J Fleming	Vice-Chairman
Councillor S Crow	
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor J Newport	
Councillor A Sheldon	
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Vance	

Officers:

Tom Blackburne-Maze	Director of Highways & Transport
Mark Glenister	Procurement Manager
Simon Butt	Operations Manager – Ringway Jacobs
Paul Turner	Director, Legal and Assurance / Monitoring Officer
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Lisa Siggins	Democratic Services Officer

Councillor T Cunningham – Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport

Councillor M Steel and Councillor W Stamp

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 P Gadd and Cllr A Wiles

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 March were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

3. Questions from the Public

There were no questions received.

4. Work Programme and Communications Review

The updated Work Programme was noted, and members were encouraged to submit any additional items to the Chairman.

5. Cabinet Member Update

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport outlined the key priorities in his portfolio.

These included an efficient highways maintenance service, a review of vegetation management policy, reform of LHPs (Local Highway Panels), and enhanced gulley clearance and drain works to mitigate the risk of flooding. Key infrastructure projects were outlined as well as the work to support sustainable transport and encourage modal shift. The Future Highways Programme was also summarised.

The Cabinet Member reported that key challenges were linked to inflation, the impact of the weather and recent flooding as well as the recruitment and retention of staff.

Following the summary, members were invited to ask questions, and during the discussions the following key points were raised:

- It was agreed that the information on the budget underpinning the new cycling strategy would be circulated to the Committee, and the Cabinet Member would consider the need for any wider communication to members on the strategy.
- On enforcement, it was reported that £138,000 additional funding had been invested with 3 extra full-time officers now in post whilst a new reporting system was being put in place for members. The enforcement process was explained, and it was confirmed that legal action was taken when necessary.
- The role of parish councils in supporting enforcement was noted, and it was agreed that a 'standard' letter should be produced to assist them in this task.
- It was agreed that the new speed management strategy would come back to the Committee before a decision was taken by Cabinet / the Cabinet Member.
- It was agreed that the final version of the LTP4 would be shared with the Committee.
- The inspection process for 'public rights of way' was outlined and it was noted that the ['report it'](#) tool was open to the public to report issues. The

Cabinet Member agreed to investigate if notification could be given to members and residents of upcoming inspections.

- It was agreed that officers would explore whether more than one email address could be supplied when using the '[report it](#)' tool.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would take place on Thursday 23 May 2024.

7. Urgent Business

No items were raised.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was resolved:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person).

8. Exempt Business – Highways Performance Update

9. Urgent Exempt Business

No items were raised.

Chairman