



Essex County Council

# Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

10:30	Thursday, 23 September 2021	Council Chamber County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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**For information about the meeting please ask for:**

Lisa Siggins, Democratic Services Officer

**Telephone:** 033301 34594

**Email:** democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

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All Council and Committee Meetings are held in public unless the business is exempt in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.

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		<b>Pages</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest</b>	<b>5 - 5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes from the previous meeting.</b> To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2021	<b>6 - 9</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Appointment of second Vice-Chairman</b> To appoint a second Vice-Chairman of the Committee.	

- 4 Questions from the Public**  
A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting. No statement or question shall be longer than three minutes and speakers will be timed.  
If you would like to ask a question at this meeting, please email [Democratic Services](#) by 12 noon the day before (Wednesday 22 September).
- 5 Local Highway Panels**  
To receive a presentation from Vicky Presland, Head of Design Services, Essex Highways. Councillor Lee Scott Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport will also be in attendance for this item.
- 6 Work Programme** **10 - 14**  
Members to receive an update (**PSEG/05/21**) on the current Committee Work Programme.
- 7 Date of Next Meeting**  
To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 28 October 2021, in County Hall.
- 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.
- 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.

### **Exempt Items**

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

**That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local**

**Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.**

## Agenda item 1

**Committee:** Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

**Enquiries to:** Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer

### **Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

#### **Recommendations:**

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

#### **Membership**

(Quorum: 5)

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor D Blackwell	
Councillor C Cannell	
Councillor S Crow	
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor D Land	
Councillor R Moore	
Councillor L Scordis	
Councillor L Shaw	Vice-Chairman
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Steel	
Councillor M Stephenson	
Councillor M Vance	
Councillor H Whitbread	

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## **Minutes of the meeting of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, that was held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Chelmsford on Thursday, 22 July 2021**

[A YouTube recording of the meeting is to be found online.](#)

### **Present:**

#### **Members:**

Councillor A Goggin                      Chairman  
Councillor P Honeywood  
Councillor D Land  
Councillor R Moore  
Councillor L Scordis  
Councillor L Shaw  
Councillor M Skeels  
Councillor M Steel  
Councillor M Vance  
Councillor H Whitbread

#### **ECC Officers:**

Sam Kennedy                              Director Environment and Climate Action  
Emma Tombs                                Democratic Services Manager  
Justin Long                                 Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)  
Lisa Siggins                                Democratic Services Officer  
Michael Hayes                              Democratic Services Assistant

Councillor P Schwier was also present.

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Councillor Goggin, the Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed those in attendance especially those members new to the Council who may be in the Council Chamber for the first time. He noted that the meeting was taking place under the rules of social distancing, and that if anyone moved from their seat, they should wear a facemask.

### **2. 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 Councillors Blackwell, Crow and Stephenson.

3. No Declarations of interests were made.

The Chairman, Councillor Goggin, reminded members that any interests must be declared during the meeting if the need to do so arose.

Subsequently, at agenda item 6, Councillor Whitbread declared that she was a newly appointed member of the Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC). Councillor Whitbread remained present throughout the presentation of this item and participated fully in the debate.

### **3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

It having been moved by Councillor Goggin and seconded by Councillor Honeywood, and there being no other nominations it was

Resolved:

That Councillor Shaw be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

### **4. Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25 February 2021 were approved as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

### **5. Questions from the Public**

It was noted that no questions had been received from the public.

### **6. Climate Change**

Councillor Schwier outlined his role as Climate Change Tsar. He noted that a key focus was to ensure that climate change implications were considered in everything done by the Council.

The committee then received a presentation from Sam Kennedy, Director, Environment and Climate Action, Essex County Council. The presentation included information on the recommendations from the Essex Climate Action Commission (ECAC), the environmental priorities in the proposed Organisation Strategy, and the delivery programme that was already underway. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

Following the presentation, members were invited to ask questions and provide comment.

Key points raised during this discussion included:

- Homes currently being built that were not net-zero/future-proofed would require investment in the future to bring them up to the required standard (noting the ECAC recommendations for new and existing homes).
- The Council was working with planning authorities, through the Essex Planning Authorities Association and developers to encourage them to bring forward some of the higher building standards ahead of 2025.
- Part of the grant offer from the Essex Forest Initiative was to support the maintenance of newly planted trees and the Council was working closely with partners to ensure that trees were planted in the best locations: 'right tree, right place'.
- Information would be provided to members on 'warm tarmac' and its environmental benefit.
- Council emissions from its own estate (e.g., County Hall) were reported annually with a policy in place to move the estate to net-zero by 2030. Refurbishment schemes have taken place and more information on the current scheme of work would be provided to members.
- The Government's 'Bus Back Better' strategy was seen by officers as an opportunity to increase investment in the bus network.
- The Council was increasing its efforts to engage businesses. It had setup a 'business newsletter' and was working the various Chambers of Commerce and branches of the Federation of Small Businesses. A £1.3m grant scheme for SMEs to invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency and electric vehicles was available.
- An electric vehicle charging strategy was being developed, and officers would report back to members on the idea of an app for residents to see local electric-vehicle charging points.
- Information would be supplied to members on the county-wide approach on drop-kerb applications for off-road parking spaces (with resultant access to an electric vehicle charging point).
- Information would be provided to members on the percentage of residents who cannot access a charging point from their house i.e., they have no off-road parking.
- Information would be provided to members on how demand was being managed on the public transport network in the west of the county (e.g London Underground stations in the Epping Forest District).
- In the absence of a mandated net-zero development requirement, planning authorities in the area were being encouraged to look at the Uttlesford District Council model and the steer it had provided to developers.

- The Council was working with neighbouring authorities, partner organisations, as well as borough, district and parish councils that had declared a Climate Emergency to coordinate activity and share best practice. Further information would be circulated to members on the Climate Challenge Active Fund.
- Initiatives were being investigated nationally to consider the environmental and financial cost of electric car batteries.
- Available information would be provided to members on the climate change impact on Essex Highways e.g., maintenance costs resulting from the increased risk of flooding and subsidence.
- The idea of a cycle-hire scheme would be reported to officers working on the Active Travel Strategy.

## **7. Work Programme**

The report was noted. A further update would be presented to the Committee for consideration at its 23 September 2021 meeting.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The committee noted that the next scheduled meeting would be held on Thursday 23 September 2021 at 10.30am at County Hall.

The format of meetings was discussed, and it was noted that whilst formal meetings of the Committee would need to be held in-person, informal and pre-meetings would continue to be held virtually.

It was noted that the Committee had in the past requested information on the financial cost of holding in-person meetings. It was agreed that any information on this would be circulated.

## **9. Urgent Business**

No items were raised.

**Chairman**

# Work Programme

Agenda Item 6

Reference Number: PSEG/05/21

<b>Report title:</b> Work Programme	
<b>Report to:</b> Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 23 September 2021	<b>For:</b> Discussion
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Justin Long, Senior Democratic Services Officer at justin.long@essex.gov.uk.	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The work programme is a standard agenda item.

## 2. Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider this report and issues under consideration in the Appendix and any further development or amendments.

## 3. Background

### 3.1 Developing a work programme

The new membership of the Committee was confirmed at Full Council on 25 May 2021. Since then, the Committee has held its first formal meeting and organised four induction sessions which have included discussions with relevant portfolio holders about their priorities in the coming months (issues discussed are listed in the **Appendix**).

## 4. Update and Next Steps

See Appendix.

5. **Appendix** – Emerging work programme and a list of issues discussed with portfolio holders.

## Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

### Background

The remit of the Committee is defined in the Constitution (Article 9.5.3). It is responsible for the scrutiny of:

- The economy of Essex
- Economic development and regeneration
- Employment related Skills and apprenticeships
- Strategic Highways and transportation
- Heritage, Culture and the Arts
- Tourism
- Country Parks and other green assets
- Library services
- Broadband and public communications infrastructure
- Planning
- Environmental services
- Community Safety (not Domestic Violence or Youth Offending Team)
- Emergency Planning
- Waste and recycling
- Energy and emissions reduction
- Trading standards
- Housing
- Gypsies and travellers

### Work so far

Since Full Council on 25 May 2021, the Committee has held its first formal meeting and organised four informal induction sessions including discussions with the relevant Cabinet Members on their portfolio and key responsibilities, key challenges being faced, and suggestion for where scrutiny can contribute.

Tuesday 6 July 2021

Cllr Lee Scott (Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport)  
Cllr Lesley Wagland (Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning)  
Cllr Graham Butland (Devolution, Art, Heritage and Culture)

Monday 23 August 2021

Cllr Malcolm Buckley (Waste Reduction and Recycling)

### Emerging Work Programme

Provisional Date	Topic Title	Purpose/Format
September	Local Highway Panels	To consider their funding, remit, and effectiveness
September	Bus Back Better Strategy	To consider the emerging strategy ahead of reports to Cabinet on a Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership for Essex <i>This will be held as a member briefing session</i>
TBC	Climate Change	To receive regular updates following the presentation to the July meeting

TBC	Libraries	To consider emerging joint-scrutiny work with the People and Families (PAF) Policy and Scrutiny Committee following its 9 September meeting.
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**Other topics identified (by portfolio):**

**Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport**

Home-to-School Transport (suggest referral to the Scrutiny Board as this crosses the remit of PSCs)

Members-led pothole scheme (funding, continuation, extension of the scheme)

**Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning**

Request for further presentation given the scope of the portfolio to include Anchor Institutions and plans for Investment Fund for Growth

**Devolution, Art, Heritage and Culture**

Attracting inward investment (specifically the role of arts/heritage in this)

Maintenance and expansion of heritage sites

Trading Standards (current performance and further improvements)

Sustainability of country parks

Opportunities for further devolution (suggest referral to the Scrutiny Board as this crosses the remit of PSCs)

## **Waste Reduction and Recycling**

Emerging strategies for waste minimisation, disposal, and recycling including public engagement.

Council's response to the Environment Bill

### **Next Steps**

It is proposed that Members note the work undertaken to this point and the emerging work programme. Further discussions will take place between the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen and will be reported to the 28 October 2021 meeting along with any proposals from the Scrutiny Board meeting in early October.