

---

## **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, 20 January 2022**

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

### **Present:**

#### **Members:**

Councillor A Goggin	Chairman
Councillor D Blackwell	Vice-Chairman
Councillor P Honeywood	
Councillor D Land	
Councillor R Moore	
Councillor L Shaw	Vice-Chairman
Councillor M Skeels	
Councillor M Steel	
Councillor M Vance	
Councillor H Whitbread	
Councillor J Deakin	

#### **Officers:**

Clare Perkins	Business Intelligence Partner
Samantha Kennedy	Director, Environment and Climate Action
Justin Long	Senior Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Lisa Siggins	Democratic Services Officer
Jasmin-Harley Carswell	Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance were:

Councillor L Scott, Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport  
Councillor P Schwier, Climate Tsar

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Councillor Goggin, the Chairman of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed those in attendance. 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.

### **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 Councillor Stephenson. Councillor Deakin was filling the vacancy on the Committee.
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.

## **2. Minutes and Matters Arising**

Subject to a minor amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 January 2022 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

## **3. Questions from the Public**

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

## **4. Work Programme**

The current Work Programme was noted.

It was reported that the item on 'Culture and the Arts' originally scheduled for 17 February would go to the 21 April meeting, and that a quarterly update on 'Highways Maintenance' had been added to the Work Programme.

Councillor Steel, the Chairman of the LHP Task and Finish Group, provided a short overview on the work of the Group.

A further update on the Work Programme would be presented to the Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

## **5. Cabinet Member Update – Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport Performance Measures**

The Cabinet Member gave a verbal update to the Committee on the performance measures on coastal paths, flooding, EV take-up and charging points, and encouraging a modal shift from cars to bus/bike/foot.

It was reported that a summit with bus companies to discuss key issues had been arranged for 9 February 2022. The Cabinet Member also reported that commercial opportunities were being considered to deliver EV charging points including partnership work with car manufacturers.

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

---

Key points raised during this discussion included:

- EV charging points should be installed at County Hall and EV options for the Council's own fleet were being considered;
- The Cabinet Member wanted 'as many charging points as possible' and anticipated they could be delivered through a combination of initiatives by local authorities, central government and car manufactures;
- Active Travel schemes (such as the 'Essex Pedal Power' initiative in Clacton and Jaywick Sands) were a way to deliver the 'Levelling-Up' agenda;
- In response to concerns over surface water flooding, the Cabinet Member reported that partnership work was ongoing with water companies, a jetting programme (to clear gullies and drains) was in place, and there were proposals to work with local planning authorities to ensure builders and developers take responsibility for any issues they may cause;
- The Cabinet Member would come back to the Committee to provide an update on surface water flooding and the partnership work with water companies on tackling unforeseen issues;
- The Business Intelligence Partner clarified that Everyone's Essex contained both contextual performance measures (high-level and cross-function/organisation) and strategic measures (linked to overarching measures, but more directly related to ECC activity);
- A written update would be provided on the LED streetlight rollout including the delivery time of the overall programme, a breakdown of work by division, costs, and estimated carbon savings;
- A written update would be provided on the partnership work with Greater Anglia in the light of recent timetable changes;
- Additional Enforcement Officers were being recruited to help with a range of matters;
- Reliability of buses was a key issue and it was hoped that this would improve as staff absence due to self-isolation reduced. The issue of faulty bus stop displays would be addressed at the aforementioned Bus Summit;
- The Cabinet Member reported on the recent procurement process for the Home to School Transport service. He confirmed that 75% of vehicles used already met the Euro 6 emission standard and he would consider how to mandate higher environment standards in future contracts.

## 6. Climate Change Update

The Climate Tsar and the Director, Environment and Climate Action gave a presentation on the Essex Climate Action Plan. The presentation can be found [here](#).

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

Key points raised during this discussion included:

- A detailed property plan was being developed by officers in regard to the target to make the Council's own estate net-zero carbon by 2030;
- An online residents pack would be launched in the next few weeks giving practical advice and guidance on issues such as home insulation and PV panels. It was agreed that a copy of the pack would be shared with the Committee;
- A written answer would be provided on the indicative costs of delivering a net-zero carbon building, such as the Sweyne Park School in Rayleigh;
- Further information would be provided on the carbon reduction plans of other county councils and how they compare to Essex;
- Transport was the biggest contributor to emissions in Essex (and across the UK), and it was noted that initial evidence suggested that the increase in home-working had resulted in a net fall in emissions;
- Further information would be provided on the extent to which the Essex Pension Fund had disinvested its holdings in 'fossil fuel' companies;
- Further information would also be provided on the measures bus companies were taking to contribute to net-zero targets as well as on the bus companies' ability to cancel routes without public consultation;
- The Warm Homes Fund was available to help support lower-income homeowners and landlords (with tenants on lower-incomes) to insulate homes;
- It was agreed that the Climate Tsar and officers would put in writing their 3 to 5 priorities for the next six months, and would come back to the Committee in the summer to provide an update on these.

## 7. Date of Next Meeting

The committee noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday 17 February at County Hall.

**8. Urgent Business**

No items were raised.

**Chairman**