

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF NEIGHBOURHOODS SELECT COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 27 JUNE 2017
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 9.13 PM**

Members Present: N Bedford (Chairman), H Brady (Vice-Chairman), N Avey, R Baldwin, L Hughes, J Jennings, R Morgan, S Neville, A Patel, C P Pond, B Rolfe, M Sartin, G Shiell, E Webster and J H Whitehouse

Other members present: W Breare-Hall, A Grigg, H Kane, J Philip and G Waller

Apologies for Absence:

Officers Present D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Neighbourhoods), D Coleman (Planning Policy Manager), A Hendry (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and V Messenger (Democratic Services Officer (Trainee))

1. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

There were no substitute members for the meeting.

2. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the last meeting of the Neighbourhoods Select Committee held on 21 March 2017 be agreed, subject to the following amendment:

Declarations of Interest (Min no 36): That 'Centre' be deleted from 'Epping Forest Re-Use Centre' to read, 'Epping Forest Re-Use'.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Member's Code of Conduct.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted its Terms of Reference and Work Programme.

Councillor S Neville asked if Essex County Council (ECC) Passenger Transport officers would be invited to a future meeting of this Select Committee (SC) as agreed at the last meeting. D Macnab replied that this was correct, but was dependant on their availability. He also added that the Council's Land Drainage officers would be invited to attend a future meeting to inform members about the various land drainage and flood matters with which they were involved.

Councillor A Patel asked if there would be a review of health and safety (H&S) procedures of the Council's properties, including the workshop and depot, as he thought this fell under the remit of the Neighbourhoods SC. D Macnab replied that

H&S came under the Resources Directorate and was brought up at a recent Forum meeting chaired by the Chief Executive in the wake of the Grenfell fire in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Emergency Planning came under the Environment Portfolio Holder (PFH) and this was an important item for consideration with this SC, and was also service specific to Communities and Resources Directorates. Additionally the Council would be carrying out a 'practical' exercise later in the year to test its response capabilities to a major incident scenario with a 'mock' recovery / rescue facilities centre staffed by our officers.

Councillor J H Whitehouse asked about Public Health and local strategic partnerships. D Macnab stated that Public Health had a wider strategic importance and sat with ECC and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). However, this Council covered environmental health, and he would speak to the Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services as Public Health and Wellbeing came under him, to provide a report for a future meeting.

Councillor M Sartin commented that Stansted Airport was putting forward proposals to increase passenger transport, and was this a matter for this SC. D Macnab replied there might potentially be 11 million additional passengers a year and that the Council had a duty to co-operate with the neighbouring councils of Uttlesford, East Herts and Harlow as part of the Local Plan, which was a standing item.

Agreed:

1. To invite ECC Passenger Transport officers to a future meeting.
2. To invite Land Drainage officers within the Technical Services Directorate to a future meeting.
3. To invite the Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services to a future meeting to cover Public Health and Environmental considerations.

5. NEIGHBOURHOODS DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2017/18

D Macnab outlined the background to this item that O & S had requested the relevant Portfolio Holders (PFHs) attend the first meeting of each Select Committee (SC) to present their Business Plans, which were developed on a Directorate basis. This would enable each SC to undertake a more in-depth scrutiny role regarding the numerous services which made up each SC.

The Key Statistics showed a:

- Gross Budget of £18.6m;
- Gross Income of £8.9m;
- Net Budget of £9.7m; and
- 113 full time equivalent (FTE) staff.

These statistics covered frontline services, direct and contracted services – whether outsourced or in-house. The gross income comprised the Council's commercial estates, which provided the most revenue, car parking revenue and licensing income.

Councillor N Bedford asked for the PFHs to each give a short presentation on their responsibilities as defined in the table below, which would be followed by a 5-minute short session for questions and answers.

Service Area	Portfolio	Portfolio Holder
Leisure Management, North Weald Airfield Operations	Leisure and Community Services	Councillor H Kane
Environmental Health, Neighbourhoods, Public Health, Contingency Planning, Waste Management, Land Drainage and Flood Alleviation, Contaminated Land, Grounds Maintenance, Fleet Operations, Environmental Co-ordination	Environment	Councillor W Breare-Hall
Licensing, Car Parking, Energy Efficiency, Fuel Poverty and Countrycare	Safer, Greener and Transport	Councillor G Waller
Planning Policy	Planning and Governance	Councillor John Philip
Economic Development	Assets and Economic Development	Councillor A Grigg
Local Strategic Partnerships	Leader's Portfolio	Councillor C Whitbread

Councillor H Kane introduced the **Leisure and Community Services** Portfolio.

The Leisure and Community Services Portfolio covered a diverse range of leisure, cultural and community services, both provided directly by the Council and in partnership with other agencies. The administration of the Council's Grant Aid Scheme was also the responsibility of the PFH.

Councillor H Kane had already presented the Community and Cultural Services Business Plan to the Communities SC. Therefore the main area within the Terms of Reference of the Neighbourhoods SC was the management of the Council's Sports and Leisure Centres.

The Council had let a new 20-year contract to Places for People Leisure (PfP) to manage the District's Leisure Centres after a competitive dialogue procurement process. The contract had started on 1 April 2017 and would not only bring in significant investment but also deliver on average £1m per year of savings to the Council.

There was a monitoring process built into the contract to ensure that PfP performed to the required standards. This included both statistical returns, but also customer satisfaction surveys and site inspections by the Council's Client Officers.

The tender for the contract required bidders to submit proposals for the improvement of the facilities and also the design, build, operation and management of a new Leisure Centre at Hillhouse, Waltham Abbey to replace the ageing Waltham Abbey pool.

PfP proposals were summarised as below:

1. Extension to Loughton Leisure Centre, to provide a new 120-studio fitness suite and new management studio.
2. Conversion of two squash courts at Epping Sports Centre to two new movement studios, extension of the fitness suite, a complete changing room refurbishment and a new crèche facility in the under-used bar area.
3. Internal refurbishment to fabric and finishes at Ongar Leisure Centre plus the purchase of new gym equipment. External reinstatement of the tennis courts on which the temporary school accommodation stood.
4. New modern purpose built wet and dry leisure centre at Hillhouse, Waltham Abbey to contain a 25-metre main pool, teaching pool, fitness suites and movement studio plus a community room. The Outline consent had been granted with a full planning application due to be considered by District Development Management Committee in July. If successful, building was due for completion by November 2018.

Councillor A Patel said that there had not been any update from the Forum meeting. D Macnab replied that a liaison committee had not been set up as yet. They were hoping to set it up along the lines of the Waste Management Partnership Board, with senior management from P&F and meet on a quarterly basis.

Councillor M Sartin asked about progress on the North Weald Airfield Operations. D Macnab said that came under Councillor H Kane for day-to-day operations and safety etc. The Assets and Economic Development PFH, Councillor A Grigg, would deal with the commercial aspects of the Airfield, while its future use would come under the Planning and Governance PFH, Councillor J Philip.

Councillor W Breare-Hall introduced the **Environment** Portfolio.

The Environment Portfolio covered a diverse range of frontline services, which maintained and enhanced the physical environment of the District, to help improve the quality of life for residents.

The main area of responsibility was the provision of domestic waste collection, recycling and street cleansing. This service was undertaken by Biffa Municipal who was awarded the contract in November 2015. Despite difficulties experienced in the change from 5-day to 4-day collections, the general quality of the service from Biffa was good, especially now that the contract was fully stabilised and the need for agency staff had been largely eliminated.

The performance of the contract was managed through a partnership board (PB) which negotiated some variations to the original contract, to reflect the change in composition of dry recycling, the number of clear recycling bags our residents utilised and the number of new homes being provided. This had led to increased costs of approximately £350,000 per annum. The PB was reviewing its options to increase efficiency and recover these costs. If feasible, there might be the potential for a third wheeled bin for dry recycling.

It was noted that the clear waste sacks had increased costs and officers were now working on other possibilities including the inclusion of a third wheeled bin.

Air quality was an ongoing concern for our residents. The Council undertook general air quality monitoring across the District and more in-depth monitoring in areas where

there was an indication of increased risk e.g. heavily congested parts of the District. Air quality monitoring was taken very seriously by the Council and it would review how it undertook this work to see what improvements could be made to ensure it was well placed to respond to any legislative changes. The Council would also review the principle of enforcement action for idling traffic, for example as could happen outside schools.

The Cabinet would be receiving a report in July regarding the disposal of the Pylles Lane Nursery Site. The service was due to transfer to the new Oakwood Hill Depot, but with the feasibility of relocating the housing repairs service to this location, an alternative location was being pursued at Town Mead, Waltham Abbey. With the loss of the traditional glass-houses at Pylles Lane, the procurement of plants for the numerous bedding schemes across the District was being undertaken. Hopefully within procurement rules this could secure supplies from local growers.

In light of the tragic fire in Kensington and Chelsea and the perceived poor response from the Borough, the Council would review its Emergency Planning arrangements. Whilst plans were in place it would be holding an exercise to test assurance. The Neighbourhoods SC would be receiving a separate report on this at a future meeting.

Councillor N Bedford asked how the Civil Emergency Planning arrangements would be tested practically. D Macnab said this would be co-ordinated by our Emergency Planning officers. They would be checking the call-handling and would be looking at how staff could physically set up a recovery / emergency facilities centre.

Councillor N Avey complimented the Council on the very fast reply he had recently received from the Environment and Neighbourhoods call centre when he had reported his green bin was cracked and it had taken two days to receive a replacement bin.

Councillor J H Whitehouse was very pleased to hear that air quality arrangements would be reviewed in the District and asked if this would include Epping Underground Station where the fumes were very bad as quite often cars and buses left their engines idling. Councillor W Breare-Hall said the review of air quality monitoring should start within the next six months. D Macnab added that this project would be led by the Assistant Director of Neighbourhood Services, J Nolan. It might be feasible to include Epping Station but this was on private land as was the access road, which was owned by Transport for London. The Environment and Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers would also be able to issue fines of £60 to 'idling' offenders, which he affirmed to Councillor S Neville would use existing staff. This was a matter that would require clear guidelines and appropriate publicity before implementation. Councillor L Hughes also commented on the increase in fumes when vehicles were stationary in traffic jams and that she had seen stationary buses with no drivers but with the engines left running. Councillor W Breare-Hall was sure conversations between relevant parties would help stop this. Councillor N Bedford commented that ice cream vans could be a problem in the City and that the City of London Corporation used idling as a means to confiscate the vehicle rather than confiscating the ice creams. Councillor G Shiell drew attention to the parking outside some schools which was hazardous when vehicles were parked on double yellow lines.

On the issue of flimsy recycling sacks and people using two at a time from Councillor S Neville, Councillor W Breare-Hall said that quality testing of these sacks had been undertaken. There was also a cost element involved as thicker sacks would be more costly for the Council, but he acknowledged that using two instead of one also increased consumption. Councillor N Bedford commented on the way sacks were

delivered to residents by the contractor and often thrown onto the fronts of properties and asked why these could not be collected instead. Councillor W Breare-Hall replied that he had raised the way sacks were deposited and that the response was unsatisfactory.

Councillor H Brady said the contractor was good at collecting residents' refuse bins. However, what about the problem of fly-tipping and would the Council be approaching Essex County Council about fly-tipping with a view to ECC widening the waste taken at its recycling centres? Councillor W Breare-Hall replied that the next county-wide meeting on this was next week and ECC might hopefully be forthcoming on this matter. At the moment he was not making any connection yet between when ECC had introduced its new waste protocol at its recycling centres. However, if there was a correlation between the tighter restrictions and the increase in fly-tipping then he would be pressuring ECC on this.

Councillor G Waller introduced the **Safer, Greener and Transport** Portfolio.

The Safer, Greener and Transport Portfolio covered a range of frontline services as well as wider responsibilities for working in partnership with others on such issues as community safety and highways / transport. The Communities SC had already considered the work of the Community Safety Partnership at their last meeting. The Governance SC covered the conservation of the built environment, and trees and landscape.

Within the Portfolio the most contentious issue for residents, visitors and local businesses was parking, along with the Local Plan. The North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) was set-up by Essex County Council (ECC) to manage both on-street and off-street parking. Last year the Council gave notice to quit the off-street component of NEPP and took back the control of its own pay and display car parks. The Council undertook its own competitive tender resulting in the appointment of NSL Limited. The NSL contract would make enforcement more regular across all of the Council's car parks. In advance of the new arrangements, significant investment in new ticketing machines, surfacing, signage and light had taken place. There should be a considerable increase in revenue from parking and penalty charge notices (PCNs). However, the Council was not seeking to issue as many PCNs as possible, but rather encourage compliance.

One of the problem areas was that of parking outside schools and we now have a camera car that could wait outside problem schools to catch this behaviour; what he wanted now was for members to let him know which schools the camera car should concentrate on.

The Council's Countryside Management Service, Countrycare, worked across the District not only on nature conservation and land management of the Council's assets, but also provided invaluable advice and support to private landowners. A particular feature of the service was their ability to enthuse and co-ordinate the work of volunteers. The four staff were complemented by over fifty volunteers. The volunteers met every Thursday to work in the nature reserves (NRs), they were very enthusiastic and a genuine flagship resource. The service was due to relocate to the new Oakwood Hill Depot, similar to the Nursery Service, but with housing repairs now relocating there, a review was underway to see if Countrycare could be better accommodated at Town Mead, Waltham Abbey. Another aspect of future arrangements for Countrycare that was being looked at was how some cost recovery could be achieved from private / partner organisations without it becoming a disincentive for owners to manage sites for the benefit of wildlife, flora and fauna.

There were currently nine NRs, which would hopefully increase by three to four new sites.

This Council was not the statutory transport authority, which was undertaken by Essex County Council, but the PFH supported a liaison role on transport matters and associated infrastructure, such as through funding for Epping Forest Community Transport for the elderly, which we supported with a grant of £16,000 – £17,000 per annum, and had recently taken over Harlow Community Transport. Similarly, a wider view was taken on such issues as the Central Line and TfL responsibilities for buses in the south of the District.

Within the Green component of the Portfolio, sat a remit for energy efficiency and associated issues, such as fuel poverty. The Council's commitment to the green agenda was co-ordinated through the Officer Working Party which the PFH attended. As well as trying to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council, by such initiatives as the solar panels on the Civic Offices, officers worked with landlords and tenants in the private sector to ensure that good standards of insulation and energy efficiency were achieved in privately rented property, to mitigate against the risk of fuel poverty, i.e. namely those who spent a disproportionate amount of their income just trying to heat their homes.

Councillor S Neville asked where the new three or four nature reserves were situated. Councillor G Waller replied that there was one in Sheering Village and another in Matching. Sheering Parish Council had engaged Epping Forest District Council to do the work, and in Councillor L Hughes' ward (Broadley Common, Epping Upland and Nazeing). Councillor R Morgan added that Sheering Parish Council had organised a 5-year contract with Epping Forest Countrycare.

Councillor A Patel asked about the funding issue from Transport for London (TfL) for step free access to the underground stations. Councillor G Waller replied that TfL had approached the Council looking for some funding, but had not understood it was not set-up as a unitary authority and that ECC was the transport authority for the County. Councillor S Neville reported that the Buckhurst Hill Feasibility Study had been partly funded by ECC and was now completed but he had not received a copy of the report yet.

Councillor J Philip introduced the **Planning and Governance** Portfolio.

He stated that planning covered Neighbourhoods and Governance Directorates. The Portfolio had the responsibility for all aspects of Governance as well as both the Development Management and Planning Enforcement aspects of the Council's Planning Services. There was a need to ensure the Local Plan was done as quickly as the Council was able to, and he asked if the Committee would agree to bring forward agenda item 9, Local Plan Update, to follow this item so he could expand on his presentation, which was agreed.

Councillor A Grigg introduced the **Assets and Economic Development** Portfolio.

The Portfolio covered both the management and development of the Council's physical estate, primarily the commercial property portfolio, as well as a small team that promoted economic development, sought to support local businesses and promoted the visitor economy, and the Valuation Service.

A review had been undertaken on the Estates and Valuation Service with an increased focus on driving revenue from the estate and sought to maximise the

potential of the assets. In the short term, the Council had been relying on agency staff. This new structure would establish a more sustainable permanent staffing structure with the appropriate skills for the future.

Members of the Cabinet Committee received regular updates on the progress of the Shopping Park. The builders were excellent and had completed on time in June. All the key tenants, Aldi, Costa Coffee, Hobbycraft and TK Maxx, were in place and had been handed over to allow the fitting out of the shop units. The Shopping Park was still scheduled to open by the end of September and the S278 Highways Work should be finished by the end of August 2017.

The legal agreement on the St John's Road site was due to be completed in mid-July. New negotiations to secure the community benefits, in particular the cinema were complete. Frontier would then proceed with the detailed development of their full planning application, which could be received by the end of the year.

There were no further questions from members.

6. CHANGE IN ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Committee had agreed to bring forward item 9, Local Plan Update.

7. LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

Councillor J Philip reported on the development of the new Local Plan (LP), which was the key issue in the Business Plan. The adoption of the LP was not going to happen this year. An update on the progress of its production and the results of the Regulation 18 consultation would go to the next Cabinet meeting on 11 July 2017. The full consultation report of some 250 pages contained a lot of information and set out the feedback from the consultation. Two developer forums had been established; one for the draft strategic site allocations around Harlow, and one for the draft strategic site allocations for the rest of the District. Unfortunately there had been delays in the next stage of plan preparation including the receipt of the consultation analysis and report from Remarkable, which had caused increased pressure on meeting deadlines and keeping the LP moving forwards. Whilst it had been assumed there would be a maximum of between 75 to 100 new sites for consideration through the next stage of site selection, this had now increased to about 176.

Regarding transport modelling, the challenge was to know which sites the Council needed to model and work had started on modelling those sites included in the Draft LP. Habitats' Regulation Assessment and the impact on air quality in Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) also had to be taken into account. Further work was being undertaken across the Functional Economic Market Area with – Harlow, East Herts and Uttlesford councils to ensure that sufficient employment land was provided through the LPs. The Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project had secured funds of £675,000 from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), and a further funding application had been submitted for 2017/18. This Council was acting as the fund holding authority.

The Council would continue to provide support for Neighbourhood Plans (NPs), along with the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE), and hoped to have meetings with local councils to move this forward.

Regarding the community housing fund, this would result in community led housing.

Councillor A Patel asked about the additional new sites and if ward members would still be consulted. Councillor J Philip replied that there would be workshops organised, the level of consultation would be worked out and members would be involved.

Councillor N Avey was concerned that the LP had already required a large public consultation with local site selection. Now a new selection had been added and commented that the public might feel bamboozled and that this would also allow developers to submit additional sites. Councillor J Philip explained that this was a legal requirement that had to be met to allow people the option to nominate new sites. All new sites would be scored on the previous criteria and a list of those sites would soon be published. Additional consultation might be required depending on the size of the housing development, and if a large development of around 500 was involved then there would be a targeted consultation around that area. The Council needed to show it had met its obligations. Developers could continue to put forward new sites until the Council had its LP completed.

D Coleman reported that the Council had organised a meeting on 13 June with a Planning Inspector to receive a preliminary view on the Draft LP, and the meeting had proved very useful. Councillor J Philip commented that if the Council could show that it had met its need, then further consideration of additional sites might not be necessary. Also once the LP was a sound and adopted plan, then any further sites would be for the next plan period. D Macnab added that if the public did not like a site or had a better site for planning reasons, then they should let the Council know. Councillor J Philip said that the Council would prefer to put developments on brownfield land rather than Green Belt land, but this would need to be evaluated properly so the LP did not fail.

Councillor J H Whitehouse asked for further information on the preliminary advice received from the meeting with the Inspector. Councillor J Philip replied that a group of officers had attended the meeting and it was an opportunity to go through what the Council was doing, if it was on track, was further consultation required or transport modelling needed, were there any potential pitfalls to avoid, and were there any other areas that might need further investigation. The meeting was positive as the Council was fulfilling its obligations and no large criteria were missing. Its 'duty to co-operate' was very good. D Macnab said that the Inspector had read the LP which was thorough and robust with no obvious omissions. The Inspector had given specific feedback and the Council had responded confirming the advice received. D Coleman added it was very good advice and that the Council was moving in the right direction, which was very encouraging.

Councillor E Webster referred back to 2012 when several possible gypsy / traveller sites that were put forward had, for various reasons, not met the relevant criteria, but one clear point was that there would be no eastern sprawl. She asked how was this fair if new sites were now coming forward for the LP when they did not appear to meet those criteria. Councillor J Philip replied that the same set of criteria would be applied to the sites and guidance on how they would be processed was given in Regulation 18. If new sites had previously scored badly this would not change, and the Council would be transparent and clear so everyone would be treated fairly.

8. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2016/17 - OUTTURN REVIEW

The Committee reviewed the outturn position of the Corporate Plan Key Action Plan for 2016/17 in its areas of responsibility. The Committee noted:

All indicators - The overall position for all 37 KPIs at the end of the year was as follows:

- (a) 28 (75%) indicators achieved target;
- (b) 9 (25%) indicators did not achieve target; although
- (c) 3 (8 %) of these KPIs performed within its tolerated amber margin.

Neighbourhoods Select Committee indicators - Thirteen (13) of the KPIs fell within the Neighbourhoods SC's areas of responsibility. The overall position with regard to the achievement of target performance at the end of the year for these indicators, was as follows:

- (a) 9 (70%) indicators achieved target;
- (b) 2 (15% indicators did not achieve target; although
- (c) 2 (15%) indicator performed within its tolerated amber margin.

D Macnab explained the KPIs below:

- NE1001 (non recyclable waste) – high levels of residual waste were being generated on a national basis;
- NE1013 (waste recycled) and NE1014 (waste composted) – this used to be a combined waste. Epping Forest District Council was 9th nationally successful authority. The target was originally set as a 30 / 30 split but for next year the target would be adjusted accordingly. The packaging was becoming lighter as manufacturers took this on board. It was a bit disappointing, but the new scheme would be introduced on housing schemes.

Councillor J H Whitehouse commented that previous guidance given to residents was that wheeled bin lids must shut flat when presented for collection and that the Council should not be going back to when residents put out for collection wheeled bins that were untidy and / or had open lids. Councillor W Breare-Hall replied that residents needed to be educated but the Biffa staff were also very keen to take all bins. Council officers did go round and speak to residents to help them recycle.

Councillor S Neville asked if there was too much green waste could a resident get another bin. Councillor W Breare-Hall said that residents could ask for a larger green bin but the Council encouraged composting as the preferred option if the resident had an adequate sized garden that could accommodate this.

Councillor S Neville queried NE1012 (What percentage of our commercial premises was let to tenants?) on the lower performance figures of 97 per cent (actual) for quarters 3 and 4 which were slightly below target, yet the Sir Winston Churchill public house site was nearing completion. D Macnab said that they had nearly met the target and officers would be looking at the weighting of the figures and how to put more context into them.

Councillor S Neville commented on NE1010 (What was the net increase or decrease in the number of homes in the district?) with regard to the increase in housing that there should be less emphasis on this as it was not particularly helpful to show developers that the Council was not meeting its housing supply / demand. D Macnab agreed that the indicator was not really helpful, perhaps this could be deleted and then reinstated with the new Government Indicator for Local Plan delivery when the Local Plan (LP) was published. Councillor J Philip supported this as it could raise potential difficulties for the Council if it did not keep this on track. The Council could

take a one year hiatus on this as there would naturally be a discrepancy between adopting the LP and houses being developed and available.

Agreed:

To remove NE1010 from the statistics being reported on until the Local Plan was adopted.

9. CORPORATE PLAN KEY ACTION PLAN 2016/17 - OUTTURN REVIEW

The Committee noted the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee reviewed and commented on the outturn position of the Corporate Plan Key Action Plan for 2016/17 in relation to its areas of responsibility.

10. GREEN CORPORATE WORKING PARTY

The Committee agreed to take this item together with the next agenda item 11, Environmental Charter.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER

Councillor J H Whitehouse asked if sufficient advertising of the Essex Energy Switch had been carried out as she did not recall seeing it in the Members Bulletin. Councillor Waller replied that this was the third or fourth year the scheme had been running and was publicised on the website. He added that most of those who had used the scheme to 'switch' had saved money. Councillor G Shiell added that it had been published in the Members Bulletin.

Councillor J H Whitehouse commented that not much progress seemed to have been made on charging points for electric cars. Councillor G Waller replied that he was very enthusiastic about this project that would be progressed with the help of the Environment PFH, Councillor W Breare-Hall. The Council would ensure this was publicised as the electric car trend was gathering pace. The new Shopping Park in Loughton would have ten charging points and would be well publicised. The Council also hoped to put in another ten in the other shopping park. They would be monitored for their use. Councillor N Bedford asked how charging points could be policed, if say a petrol car parked in a charging space. D Macnab said the charging points in the District would be free to residents. The Council had appointed Savills to undertake an oversight of the Shopping Park car park and parking would be controlled to allow a maximum of two and a half hours parking to curtail commuters parking all day. The car parks would also have an Automatic Number Plate Recognition system in operation. Councillor J H Whitehouse said that this was good news but what about more charging points elsewhere in the District. D Macnab said that if the charging point scheme took off then a future proofing exercise would be undertaken.

Councillor S Neville asked for more information on the energy conservation plan to which D Macnab replied that this had been in the Members Bulletin and was in this agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Green Working Party update and the Environmental Charter Update had been commented on and noted.

12. BOBBINGWORTH NATURE RESERVE (FORMER LANDFILL SITE) LOCAL LIAISON GROUP

Councillor N Bedford explained that the Group had normally met twice a year but had recently agreed to meet once a year. W Breare-Hall added that as the site was working so well, it had been agreed that an annual meeting was more than sufficient.

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference of this Local Liaison Group dated June 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the Neighbourhoods Select Committee agreed that the Bobbingworth Nature Reserve Local Liaison Group could reduce their meetings from two to one a year.

13. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no reports made for the next O & S Committee meeting.