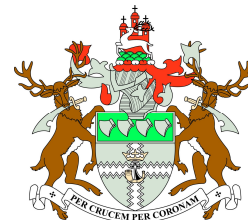


Supplementary Council Agenda



Epping Forest District Council

Council Tuesday, 20th April, 2010

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping
Room: Council Chamber
Time: 7.30 pm
Committee Secretary: Council Secretary: Ian Willett
Tel: 01992 564243 Email: iwillett@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) (Pages 3 - 4)

To answer the attached question asked after notice in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 9.3 of the Council Procedure Rules of the Constitution on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the District:

- (a) to the Leader of the Council;
- (b) to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; or
- (c) to any Portfolio Holder.

6. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER, CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET (Pages 5 - 8)

To receive reports from the Leader, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and members of the Cabinet on matters falling within their area of responsibility:

- (a) Report of the Leader;
- (b) Report of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (c) Report of Community Safety and Transport Portfolio Holder - attached;
- (d) Report of Environment Portfolio Holder - attached;
- (e) Report of Finance and Economic Development Portfolio Holder;
- (f) Report of Housing Portfolio Holder;
- (g) Report of Legal and Estates Portfolio Holder;
- (h) Report of Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder;
- (i) Report of Performance Management Portfolio Holder.

8. MOTIONS (Pages 9 - 10)

To consider the attached motion, notice of which has been given under Council Procedure Rule 11.

25. CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT - POST XEX/01

(Councillors M Cohen and J M Whitehouse) To consider a report (circulated separately).

Public Question

From Mrs S Jones to Councillor D Stallan, Housing Portfolio Holder

Off Street Parking Programmes

“In the light of concerns raised to me by residents of Theydon Bois over recent weeks, can the Housing Portfolio Holder please detail how much of the identified monies have already been spent on the Table 1 Off Street Parking programmes? Can he further give assurances as to the rate of progress being made on the Table 2 programmes, specifically including Graylands in Theydon Bois? Finally, given that the assessment of the Table 3 schemes were to be assessed by April of this year, can he let the residents of Avenue Road in Theydon Bois know when they will see progress on this issue?”

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Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 20 April 2010

Subject: Community Safety and Transport

Portfolio Holder: Councillor S-A Stavrou

Item: 6 (c)

Recommending:

That the report of the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Transport be noted

Overall crime levels within the District remain lower than last year but recent weeks have seen an increase in crimes such as millennium burglaries (i.e. entering properties with the intention of finding car keys to steal a car). However, given the difficult economic circumstances, keeping overall crime levels below that for 2008/09 is a creditable performance for the Community Safety Partnership and Epping Forest District still remains a low crime area and a very safe place to live and work.

April has brought with it some significant changes to the responsibilities of Community Safety Partnerships, most notably the requirement for CSPs to take responsibility for reducing re-offending rates. This goes hand in hand with the Probation Service now having statutory status on CSPs, although in our case the Probation Service has always had a seat on the CSP Strategy Panel.

The two special Crime & Disorder Scrutiny meetings were very successful although attendance by the general public was disappointing. The Strategy Panel will look to see how it can encourage greater public participation in these meetings and in setting future priorities.

Completion of the three parking reviews remain outstanding, which is disappointing. The delays are due to a combination of resourcing issues at County Highways and the sheer weight of responses which have had to be managed and collated. The draft schedules for the Traffic Regulation order (TRO) for Epping is now with the County's legal department with a view to advertising shortly. This will of course trigger another round of public comment which will need consideration. Given the time these reviews have taken, the associated significant costs and the fact that it is almost impossible to obtain a consensus view on outcomes even after multiple consultations, once these reviews are complete I intend to seek Cabinet's reaffirmation of its current policy on future parking reviews.

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Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 20 April 2010

Subject: Environment Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Mary Sartin

Item: 6(d)

Recommending:

That the report of the Environment Portfolio Holder be noted

Waste Management Service

Having come through the problems which the winter weather caused, the food and garden collection service is working well. Recycling rates are continuing to exceed 50% on a monthly basis and is expected that there will be a rise in these figures as we move into the growing season.

The review of the winter operations is currently underway and a report will be going to the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Panel on 1 July. Any Member who has not already submitted comments to be considered as part of this review can still do so by contacting Mr Kim Durrani but I would ask that this is done as soon as possible.

With other member and officers, I visited the in-vessel composting plant where our food and garden waste is being taken. While there a delivery of material from our collections in the Epping Forest District arrived and we were able to see it being unloaded. It was pleasing to note the quality of the material which is being put out by our residents, there being little evidence of contamination through ordinary plastic bags being used for food material and other items getting into the bins.

The current contract with Sita comes to an end in November 2011 but has a facility for a two year extension. While this might seem a considerable way off discussions have begun as a new procurement exercise would have to be begun in this calendar year if it is decided not to continue the contract to 2013. I am happy to take forward Members' views on operational changes, including issues such as Bank Holiday working.

Regulatory Services Partnership

Discussions are currently taking place at officer level between districts and the County regarding the formation of a regulatory services partnership. Initially it is hoped that this will provide some efficiencies through shared knowledge, access to specific expertise and additional resources. Essex County Council is currently providing support funding for a Partnership Co-ordinator post.

Bower Hill, Epping

I am pleased to be able to inform Members that we were successful in our application to Defra for grant funding in support of contaminated land investigations which are urgently required on the former gas works site in Bower Hill in Epping. This funding

of £58,300, will enable the Council to immediately undertake these important investigations without prejudicing the Council budget for investigations required on other sites in the forthcoming year.

A considerable amount of work went into applying for this grant and I would like to record my thanks to the officers responsible for this. As can be seen from the above, this does mean that money will not now have to be diverted from other planned work in order to carry out this investigative work.

Motion

(b) Leisure Centres – Opening on Bank Holidays

“ That in order to inform negotiations when the Leisure Centres Management Contract is renegotiated, the Council calls on the Cabinet:

(a) to arrange a well-publicised pilot opening of at least some of the Leisure Centres on one of the May Bank Holidays; and

(b) to secure permanent opening on public holidays to be achieved at no extra cost to public funds”.

Mover: Councillor R Brookes

Seconder: tba

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