

# Supplementary Council Agenda



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

## ***Council Tuesday, 19th February, 2008***

**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](mailto:iwillett@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

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**6. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER, CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET (Pages 3 - 4)**

To receive the attached report of the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder.

**9. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER NOTICE (Pages 5 - 6)**

To answer the attached questions asked after notice in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 10.3 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.

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## ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet **Date:** 19 February 2008

**Subject:** Planning and Economic Development Portfolio

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Mrs Anne Grigg **Item:** 6(i)

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### **Recommending:**

That the report of the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder be noted.

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The Planning Performance statistics given below are in a slightly different format to those given in previous reports as the Government targets are now out of date. Accordingly, the performance figures for 2007/08 up to Quarter 3 are compared to the same periods in 2006/07 and 2005/06, in addition to the top quartile targets.

As you will see, there has been a very significant improvement in performance in all three categories compared with 2005/06 and a significant improvement in Major applications and Minor applications compared with 2006/07. Minor Applications slightly exceeded the top quartile target with Major and Other applications finding the top quartile targets elusive by 1.42% and 2.4% respectively.

### **Major Applications - determined within 13 weeks**

<b>Actual</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>Top Quartile</b>
73.33%	36%	65.3%	74.75%

### **Minor Applications - determined within 8 weeks**

80.53%	60%	73.1%	80.39%
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### **Other Applications - determined within 8 weeks**

89.21%	80%	90.8%	91.61%
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## **Gypsies and Travellers - East of England Plan Single Issue - Allocation of Pitches**

The East of England Regional Assembly has recommended an allocation of 49 additional pitches to be provided by Epping Forest District by 2011. Whilst this figure is very disappointing, it is a reduction of three from the previous suggested allocation of 52. EERA also recommended that every Local Authority in the region should provide a minimum of 15 new pitches by 2011. These proposals will now be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and will be published in late February for three months of public consultation. The Government will determine the final number of pitches required in 2009 following an examination in public by planning inspectors in late 2008.

Forward Planning is working on potential sites for gypsies and travellers in line with the Government direction and these will be coming forward for consideration later in the year.

## **Loughton Town Centre Enhancement Scheme**

We are still awaiting the formal signing off by Essex County Council of this scheme following final snagging of lamp columns. I am also pressing the County Council Portfolio Holder for a response regarding the land ownership issues in Centric Parade.

## **The Broadway Loughton Enhancement Scheme**

The District Council's consultants have provided a risk assessment to National Grid Gas regarding the proposed scheme and a response is awaited. The scheme is still on schedule for commencement in May and completion by the end November 2008, subject to design issues and Cabinet approval.

## **Bus Stops in The Broadway, Loughton**

The Housing Portfolio Holder's decision has been implemented to enable relevant buses to stop on the forecourt of garages in Burton Road on a temporary basis. Work continues on the arrangements for the short-term bus stopping, with designs under review between Environment and Street Scene and Housing Directorates and Essex County Council.

## **The Broadway Loughton Regeneration Scheme**

Urban Practitioners, the District Council's appointed consultants for the Broadway Regeneration Scheme are holding a Stakeholder Meeting on 11 February 2008 at Epping Forest College and will be presenting an outline of their vision for the area. There will be the opportunity for stakeholders to feedback their views. The consultants will also be arranging a meeting to consult and engage with the local Community.

**(i) Question by Councillor D Jacobs to Councillor Mrs M Sartin, Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder**

**Collection of Recyclables**

"Last year I expressed concern regarding "split bodied" freighters being used for collection of dry recyclables and garden waste, in view of the experience of another Essex collection authority; at the time the Portfolio Holder deemed it not relevant, presumably as the previous contract was still in being; currently the "split-bodied " collection seems not to be in operation and I assume that the volumes of garden waste which vary from season to season and year to year depending on climatic conditions have rendered the split-body method inoperable at present; given the potential loss of profit margin to the contractor, can the Portfolio Holder reassure Council that the overall operation of waste collection and street cleansing will not suffer in performance and that members will be provided with regular updates on the situation?"

**(ii) Question by Councillor R Frankel to Councillor Mrs M Sartin, Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder**

**Recycling of Waste**

"Would it be possible to organise a visit for members to see the facility and processing for the recycled waste?"

**(iii) Question from Councillor K Angold-Stephens to Councillor Mrs A Grigg, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder**

**Loughton Town Centre Enhancement Scheme**

"Can the Portfolio Holder state how much this Council has paid for the consultancy, including the surveys and reports, but excluding the considerable officer, councillor, resident and trader time on the Loughton Town Centre Enhancement Scheme from 1997/8 to date; and is she aware that Loughton, with 25% of the population of the District, is the largest and only town in the District without an enhancement scheme completed during the past 30 years?"

**(iv) Question from Councillor K Angold-Stephens to Councillor A Green, Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder**

**Loughton Parking Review**

"Can the portfolio holder advise of the cost of the long awaited Loughton parking review so far, including the costs in officer time ;is he aware that part of this review has been subsumed by The Broadway parking scheme and that therefore the costs of that part of the review that remains is substantially reduced; and what plans does he have for completing this survey, promised to the desperate residents of the most vulnerable roads near to Loughton High Road over several years?"

**(v) Question from Councillor P Spencer to Councillor A Green, Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder**

**Buckhurst Hill Parking Review**

“I understand that the six months review of the new, partially completed, parking restrictions in Buckhurst Hill is due to commence in May following the review in Epping, will the Portfolio Holder advise:

- (a) when will the proposed mini-roundabout and pelican crossing start to operate in Palmerston Road;
- (b) if the scope of the review is to be similar to that undertaken in Epping, taking into account the impact on neighbouring roads and the shopping areas;
- (c) if District Council officers will meet with Essex County Council's Highways officers to consider all the responses from the public and councillors; and
- (d) if following the review, consultants will then be engaged to progress revisions to the restrictions?”