

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES STANDING
SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2005
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.30 - 9.27 PM**

Members Present: D Stallan (Chairman), T Richardson, Mrs M Sartin and Mrs P Smith

Other members present: Mrs J H Whitehouse and R Glozier

Apologies for Absence: Mrs D Borton, D Kelly, A Lee and P McMillan

Officers Present J Gilbert (Head of Environmental Services), J Preston (Head of Planning and Economic Development) and Z Folley (Democratic Services Assistant)

20. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

The Panel noted that Councillor Mrs J H Whitehouse was attending the meeting as a substitute for Councillor D Kelly.

21. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were made pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

22. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING - 13 SEPTEMBER 2005

Noted.

23. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME

(a) DERFA 'Cleaner Neighbourhoods' consultation document

Noted that the OSC had requested that the Panel formulate a response to the DERFA 'Cleaner Neighbourhoods' consultation document. The Panel were asked to allocate a timescale and priority to this request. Noted that a response to the consultation could have budgetary implications and would need to be considered by the Cabinet and the Council in December 2005 for the deadline for submissions to the exercise which was 2 January 2006. With this in mind, Agreed that the reporting deadline for the item be December 2005 and the priority be high.

Agreed that Councillor Mrs Whitehouse's proposed review for the work plan on the provision of unformed wardens be considered alongside the consultation document as it related to its subject matter and could have budgetary implications which would need to be identified in December 2005 for the budget making process. Agreed that alongside this, it be drawn out as a separate work plan item and given a later reporting deadline in view of the nature and scope of the work that could be required. Proposed that evidence could be obtained from other local authorities to identify practice in this area.

Agreed that to reflect the above the Panels terms of reference be amended to read:

In the context of the DEFRA 'Cleaner Neighbourhoods' consultation document to consider:

- The viability of employing unformed officers
- The Council's response to the DEFRA 'Cleaner Neighbourhoods' consultation document
- The financial consequences of these matters

Agreed that the Joint Chief Executive (Community) and the Safer Communities Co-ordinator be invited to the next meeting to advise on how Crime and Disorder issues linked to the item.

ACTION

J Gilbert to amend Terms of Reference and to circulate copy of consultation document to Panel Members

(b) Re – Use of Buildings in the Green Belt – Transport Study

Noted concerns raised about vehicle movements in areas where agricultural buildings were being used for commercial purposes and the measures that were available to control this. Further consideration was given to the production of a transport study to fully identify the issues. Noted that a study would support the new planning framework which would require a clear evidence base for cases. Agreed that an initial feasibility study would be required to identify the matters that should be looked at and resource implications. Noted that this could involve consultation with interested parties and the County since correspondence had been received about activities. Agreed that the priority for this initial study be 'medium' and the deadline be December 2005. Noted that this timescale would allow a bid to be incorporated within the budget making process. Agreed that following this, consideration be given to the transport study itself with a deadline of March 2006.

ACTION

J Preston to incorporate review within Terms of Reference.

24. WEST ESSEX WASTE MANAGEMENT JOINT COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Agreed that an extra meeting be held to consider the Outline Business Plan for Waste Procurement process. Agreed that the review be brought forward from the programmed reporting date of December 2005 to accommodate other commitments.

ACTION

J Gilbert to contact Z Folley to consider date for special meeting on OBC.

25. EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN - EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

The Head of Planning and Economic Development reported that officers were working on a report on the timescale and milestones for the Examination in Public

(EIP) for consideration by Group Leaders and the Management Board. He undertook to liaise with the Chairman to consider whether a report on this should be submitted to OSC. The Portfolio Holder reported on the nature of discussions at the EIP and the approach that would be taken to questioning. Noted the ways that developments at the examination affecting the District could be publicised. Noted that this would involve the Forester Magazine. Agreed that an item be placed in the Members Bulletin to state that the Council's initial submission to the EIP had been placed in the Members Room for information. Agreed that a copy be sent to Councillor Mrs Whitehouse.

26. LOCAL PLAN AND SCHEME

Noted that that the Local Plan would be considered by the Cabinet on 24 October 2005 and the Council on 27 October 2005. Noted that the Panel had now completed this aspect of their work plan but would continue to consider the new Local Scheme. Noted the potential risks of not proceeding with the alterations to the plan.

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

There were no reports to be made.

28. FUTURE MEETINGS

16 November 2005 at 7.00p.m.