

Scrutiny Standing Panel Agenda



Task and Finish Panel on Traveller Issues Thursday, 8th June, 2006

Place: Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, High Street Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Z Folley - Research and Democratic Services
Tel:01992 564532 Email:zfolley@eppingforest.gov.uk

Members:

As appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 May 2006.

<p>PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND</p>
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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE/WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 5 - 8)

Recommendations:

(1) To amend the work programme in view of the decision by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to allocate policy matters on Traveller issues to the Environmental and Planning Services Standing Panel and;

(2) To agree a reporting deadline for each work programme item.

(Chairman/Lead Officer). The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed the Terms of Reference and Work Programme for this Panel. This is attached. The Panel is asked to consider both documents at each meeting.

- **Specific/Ongoing Policy Issues**

The Panel will be aware that the OSC recently added to the remit of the Environmental and Planning Services Standing Panel the task of developing Traveller policy matters. The Committee has also agreed that this Panel be continued to focus on action regarding specific sites. The Panel is asked to consider this decision when reviewing the work programme and determine whether on – going policy issues should be referred to the Standing Panel.

- **Reporting Deadlines**

The Panel is reminded of the need to allocate timescales to their items. In particular, the Panel is asked to consider whether they are likely to achieve reporting deadlines which fall within the timescale envisaged for Task and Finish reviews. (in practice - the end of this year). Should it be anticipated that this cannot be achieved for any items, the Panel may wish to consider whether such outstanding items should be referred back to the OSC or the Environmental and Planning Services Standing Panel for consideration.

5. PLANNING FOR GYPSY AND TRAVELLER CARAVAN SITES - ODPM CIRCULAR (FEBRUARY 2006) (Pages 9 - 38)

To consider the attached guidance and advice from Counsel.

6. 'LOOKING BACK MOVING FORWARD' - STUDY COMMISSIONED BY THE ESSEX PLANNING OFFICERS ASSOCIATION ON TRAVELLER NEEDS IN ESSEX (Pages 39 - 122)

To consider the attached information.

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

To consider which reports, if any, are ready to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

8. FUTURE MEETING

To determine the date of the next meeting.