

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee **Date:** Thursday, 10 April 2008

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 7.30 - 9.27 pm

Members Present: Councillors R Morgan (Chairman) K Angold-Stephens (Vice-Chairman) D Bateman, Mrs A Haigh, Mrs H Harding, D Kelly, G Mohindra, R Bassett and B Rolfe

Other Councillors: Councillors R Frankel, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs M Sartin, Mrs P Smith, D Stallan, C Whitbread, Mrs J H Whitehouse and J M Whitehouse

Apologies: Councillors R Church, M Colling, J Hart and Mrs P Richardson

Officers Present: D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive), J Gilbert (Director of Environment and Street Scene), K Durrani (Assistant Director Environmental Services), S G Hill (Senior Democratic Services Officer), A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer), P Tredgett (Information Assistant) and G J Woodhall (Democratic Services Officer)

By Invitation: D Forkin (Essex County Council) and S Williams (London Underground Limited)

80. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Chairman made a short address to remind all present that the meeting would be broadcast on the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

81. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillor B Rolfe was substituting for Councillor R Church, and that Councillor R Bassett was substituting for Councillor M Colling.

82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were reported pursuant to the Councils Code of Conduct.

83. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2008 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

84. AREA HIGHWAYS MANAGER - PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation from David Forkin, the West Area Highways Manager from the County Highways Department. He began by telling the committee

what the Highways Department had done in the last financial year. They had completed:

- 39 carriageway maintenance schemes, which covered about 22 kilometres of road;
- Approximately 16 footway schemes covering about 5 kilometres of roads;
- Completed 2 major parking reviews in the district;
- Implemented 40 disabled parking bays with plans to introduce a further 25 this coming year;
- Implemented 4 safer journeys to school schemes and 5 accident remedial schemes.

These were specifically targeted schemes that were conducted along with their regular upgrading/maintenance work. Mr Forkin stated this was a reasonably successful year in which they had completed most of their commitments for the year.

Mr Forkin said that the County were still setting some of their programmes and there were no details as yet on their full Capital expenditure programme for next year. As soon as they had any detailed information it would be published in the Members Bulletin.

Mr Forkin then went on to talk about 'Localism' a new initiative which had started on 1st April. There are three pilot areas, Castle Point, Colchester and Brentwood. He was responsible for the Brentwood pilot.

Localism was where the County worked with, and through a District Council to set up "Highways Panels". This allowed them to have some influence over some of the money in the Highways department. This would not be new money but came from existing budgets within the control of Highways. District Councils would be able to make recommendations as to where Highways could spend certain sums of money. Pilot areas had already set up local Highway Panels which also involved parish and other local representation. Each pilot council had set up these Panels in a different way, e.g. Brentwood had taken an existing committee and added local representatives to consider schemes that could be implemented. These needed to conform to the County's overall policy. There would be 6 months of the pilots and if successful it would be rolled out across the County to all the districts.

Also introduced as a pilot, were "Highway Rangers". They worked through the Highway Panel to pick up areas of concern. They would work in two men teams to do minor repairs on carriageways, cleaning, minor repairs to bollards and other street furniture, trimming of vegetation etc. Over the course of the pilot they would be able to say how successful it had been. The 'Rangers' would also have contact with the more specialist teams to handle the jobs that they could not.

Also launched, was a £1million "Highways Community Infrastructure Fund" a County wide fund whereby local bodies could make bids for minor highway schemes to be carried out. Mr Forkin undertook to provide more information on how it would work when more information was available.

The County Council had invested approximately £45million over the last three years on the Highways Maintenance Initiative (HMI), mainly on classified roads, classed A or B roads), Epping got a lot of this money. It was know that unclassified roads were in need of a lot of attention and hopefully this year the County would change their emphasis to cover this. HMI would come to an end on 31 March and the County are currently considering the next round to tackle the unclassified and estate roads and footways to do in the next financial year (2009-10), where they would be looking for a similar level of investment as last year.

The County had now received requests for the District's top three schemes and would try to address them.

The Chairman thanked Mr Forkin for his update and opened the session out to questions from the meeting.

Councillor Bateman asked the following question: "Can we please have the re-surfacing work completed in Fencepiece Road, Chigwell, especially the area at the junction with Limes Avenue.

This is a complete mess, and also has a deep hole near a drain cover; the residents are very pleased that the pavements have been resurfaced.

I have in the past suggested a mini roundabout at this junction, which has been refused, as it is regarded as a '4' way junction. However, Shrubberies is a cul-de-sac with just 22 properties, so it is really only accessed during commuter rush hours, there are of course several precedents, at much busier junctions in our district. Redbridge Council do not seem to have a problem with '4' way access, and it would be a very major contribution to traffic calming on this busy 'A' Road."

Mr Forkin replied that Essex County Council did not regard mini roundabouts at four way junctions as safe and had a specific rule against it, but it maybe something that they could look at.

Councillor Mrs Whitehouse asked the following question:

"(i) Over the last 12 months how much has been spent on the provision and installation of new road signs in Epping Forest? By new I mean a new location, not replacement signs. Over the equivalent period, how much has been spent on road and pavement maintenance?

(ii) At a recent meeting we discussed the proliferation of street signs in Epping High Street. You were positive about improving communication. Will you be introducing specific procedures for your officers to consult the district council (Paul Sutton) before new signs are installed in conservation areas?

(iii) Following on from Question 2 could town/parish councils be notified of plans to install new road signs in their area so that they can comment if they feel this will cause a problem?"

Mr Forkin replied that Epping District had approximately £60,000 spent on new signs. Also £5 million had been spent in the Epping District last year on planned maintenance schemes. However it should be noted that planned maintenance and new signs came from different budgets. As for question two, there were no specific measures in place, but he would attend meetings with the Town and District Councils. Mr Forkin undertook to make his officers aware of conservation areas in the district and ask them to treat them sensitively. The County would endeavour to tell everyone when planned works were beginning in the next financial year.

Councillor Frankel asked: "Does he consider the contractual situation between May Gurney and Essex County to be beneficial to the taxpayers, and does he have any view about a better model of contract that might be tried?"

Mr Forkin replied that the current contract had a method of measurement in place. The contract had been subject to competitive tender. In his opinion the current contract was better than the previous one.

Councillor Jon Whitehouse asked:

“(i) What monitoring of congestion in Epping High Street takes place and are there any plans to address it (e.g. by linking the traffic signals along the High Street).

(ii) What's the maintenance and investment programme for the forthcoming financial year?

(iii) What arrangements does ECC Highways have for dealing with graffiti on highways street furniture (including bollards and street lighting)?”

Mr Forkin replied that there was not a lot of monitoring at the present. They were currently looking at the more strategic roads in the County. The County Council had a new initiative called ‘Essex Works’. This included a number of pledges such as the monitoring of the air quality. As for the second part of the question, they were still setting their programmes, but there would be in the order of £1.8 million for maintenance work and approximately £3.5 million on capital investment. Lastly, the County dealt with some graffiti and also worked with the District Council on the street care scene. Certain areas of highway furniture were also cleaned.

Councillor Ken Angold-Stephens asked: “If the Highways services had guarantees from their contractors for their highway works. There was work done last year that is showing signs of subsidence now, do we go back and ask the contractors to put these right.”

Mr Forkin replied that they had a twelve month maintenance period with the contractor and if the County were not satisfied within that period then they asked them to go back and put it right.

Councillor Bassett asked: “There were potholes appearing in all parts of the district, does he know why this is so, and is there a ‘hit team’ set up to get the worst filled?”

Mr Forkin said there was no specific reason for the potholes appearing; perhaps people are more aware of them. Winter conditions tend to bring out potholes. The County had no ‘hit teams’ as such at present. Our contract specifies different reaction times for various potholes categories. There is a team that fixes potholes but they are not a specialist team.

Councillor Mrs Haigh asked if the Count was satisfied with the quality of work undertaken, for instance there are very many very deep potholes in her ward. Mr Forkin replied that they inspected the main roads more frequently than unclassified roads. They inspected all that are reported to them. They did not expect to pay for defective work, but could not be everywhere and relied on reports sent in.

Councillor Mrs Sartin asked about parking restrictions, yellow lines were to be put down. Where are we with those? Mr Forkin replied that he was aware of two major parking reviews in the Epping District, but he was not sure of the details.

Councillor Mrs Harding thanked Mr Forkin for the parking restriction put into Lower Sheering, and asked what County did to lobby the Government about underfunded services and the need for a good infrastructure. Mr Forkin replied that it was up to the appropriate Cabinet member and Head of Service along with the Leader to get what they could. This was a country wide problem; there had been issues of under investment for the last twenty years.

The Chairman thanked Mr Forkin for his presentation and for answering member's questions so fully.

85. LONDON UNDERGROUND LIMITED - PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation from Simon Williams, from London Underground Limited. He gave a presentation updating the Committee on their latest work plans for the District (the presentation is attached as an appendix).

In answer to Councillor Jon Whitehouse's question: 'Can we have an update on plans to improve parking provision at stations in Epping on the Central Line, specifically the proposal outlined at our last meeting to expand Epping Station car park, including an outline timescale?' Mr Williams said that a previous network study concluded there was only room for 70-150 additional spaces without major road alterations, although the decking cost would be prohibitive for a small number of spaces. London Underground had developed a scheme for the builder's yard but it would only accommodate 51 spaces and would cost about £200,000. This would necessitate a long payback period and there was no funding available.

In answer to Councillor Frankel's question: "Do LUL have any plans or are they likely to consider using their land on the East side of Theydon Bois station for additional commuter parking?' Mr Williams suggested there was an alternative for a new build at an alternative site e.g. Theydon Bois which might be feasible if other issues such as access and cost could be resolved.

Answering another question from Jon Whitehouse 'Is the future of the kiosk at Epping Station now assured?' Mr Williams said that following Council representations, LU were seeking ways to retain tenants. The tenants were likely to remain in situ in the meantime due to the difficulty experienced in finding an appropriate relocation solution, although discussions were to be progressed.

Mr Williams was not sure of the litter issue raised by Councillor Jon Whitehouse ('who is responsible for litter clearance along the embankment at Epping station adjoining Station Approach'). Metronet were responsible, but he stated that any specific problems should be reported to the Station Supervisor.

Mr Williams told the Committee that the new Advanced Fare Machines (AFMs) had been installed in every station and were proving to be very successful, but all stations would remain staffed throughout the day. The demand for tickets had fallen significantly with the success of Oyster Cards.

Councillor Bateman asked the following question about Freedom Passes: "I keep getting phone calls and letters from Pensioners living very close to the boundary with the London Borough of Redbridge about the free Underground passes enjoyed by their neighbours living just over the border, and would be glad if this could be kept under review." Mr Williams responded that the passes were paid for by local authorities through the Association of London Government and this would be a matter for Essex County Council to take up. He did point out that holders of Senior Railcards can now receive discounts on Oyster travel and there was now national free bus travel that included London buses.

Mr Williams reported that both Metronet companies went into Administration in the summer of 2007, but PPP Administration had enabled work to continue, with routine safety and maintenance work being prioritised. The companies were transferred to

TfL to operate on a contractual basis and long term arrangements were currently under discussion. He did note that the Victoria Line update was being prioritised.

Because of Metronet administration most of the Modernisation work had been stopped, however most EFDC area stations were already completed. The committee noted that Buckhurst Hill Station was in a unique position, it had been scheduled to be completed by 2011, but now long term plans for Buckhurst Hill and Grange Hill would now be rescheduled for completion around 2013. Currently, money that was available is going to the Zone 1 stations. However, LUL was liaising with Metronet and the Council to put in CCTV, linked to the exiting town system in Buckhurst Hill.

Councillors Bateman's posed the following question on extending the Central line to Stansted Airport: "My main question is to make the request again for a rail link to Stansted across the southern part of our district via, I would suggest, Chigwell or Buckhurst Hill, Abridge, Epping or Ongar. This would make it far easier for residents in this urban part of our district to reach Stansted, avoid the congestion on the M11 and cut back the parking needed at the airport.

I know a lot of people in this southern area, including myself, now use Gatwick because it is much easier to access. It might also be helpful for the Olympics and maybe some financial help could be obtained with this connection."

Mr Williams said that Stansted was not part of the TfL area and was beyond the Greater London Authority area. Any extension to Stansted would command large capital costs to fulfil only local demand. Also there was already the faster Stansted Express to Tottenham Hale and Liverpool Street Service.

Councillor Mrs Whitehouse asked "Who is responsible for electric lights that are on during day light hours at stations? Is this due to faulty lights? Is a record kept of this as the cost of the wasted electricity must be considerable?"

Mr Williams replied that the lights should be switched off automatically when the daylight was bright enough as most stations now had light sensors. Across the network energy usage is 14% lower than in 2000 despite new systems needing power.

Councillor Mrs Haigh said that an eight year delay for the refurbishment of Buckhurst Hill Stations was very poor for her residents – when they do look at refurbishment for the station would they consider that the camber on the east side was very steep especially for elderly and /or disabled persons, but, she was very pleased to hear that a CCTV system would be put in. Also the pavement and kerbs at the front of the station were broken and needs to be fixed urgently. Mr Williams said he would take this back for attention.

Councillor Angold-Stephens asked if there were any plans to increase the capacity of parking at Debden. Mr Williams replied that there were no particular plans at present but they were looking at all stations in the district to put them "into the mix".

Councillor Stallan thanked LUL for dealing with the rat problem at Epping. He went on to say that when there were problems with on the Underground Central line, trains tended not to go past Debden, and these were usually packed solid, the passengers paid a lot of money in fares and needed to get home. Mr William promised to take this back.

In concluding his presentation Mr Williams told the Committee that this would be the last time he addressed this meeting as he was moving on to a different job.

The Chairman thanked Mr Williams for his presentation and for answering all the questions. He added he would be sorry to lose his contributions, but wished him well in his new position.

86. THE FUTURE OF WASTE IN ESSEX

The Committee was asked to empower the Environmental and Planning Services Standing Panel to reply directly to the Essex County Council Waste and Recycling questionnaire, due to the tight timescales involved. Essex County Council required a reply by 5 May 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the Environmental and Planning Services Standing Panel be authorised to reply directly to the Essex County Council Waste and Recycling questionnaire.

87. REVIEW OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND DELEGATION TO OFFICERS

In order that the reviews can be completed in accordance with Audit Commission expectations at the Annual Council meeting, approval was sought for the report of the Constitution and Member Services Scrutiny Panel to be submitted directly to the Annual Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Constitution and Member Services Scrutiny Standing Panel be authorised to report directly to the Annual Council meeting on its Review of Contract Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Delegation to Officers.

88. 2007-08 - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered the draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report which had been considered in detail at the last meeting, where amendments had been identified.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report for 2007-08 be agreed and submitted to the Full Council meeting in April 2008.

89. LEISURE TASK AND FINISH PANEL END OF YEAR REPORT

Councillor Mrs Harding introduced the Leisure Task and Finish Panel's end of year report which reported back on the four topics covered by the Panel this year. They were:

- Future Management of Waltham Abbey Sports Centre;
- Review of Arts Development in the District;
- Monitoring of the Youth Initiatives Scheme;
- Legacy from the Olympic/Paralympic Games.

The Committee were very happy to endorse the report and agreed that it was a first class report produced by a well run Task and Finish Panel.

RESOLVED:

That the Leisure Task and Finish Report be endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and be submitted to the Cabinet for adoption.

90. DISTRICT TRANSPORT SURVEY

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced a report outlining the latest position of the District Transport Survey. This survey had been sent out in the spring edition of 'The Forester' and on the Council's website, and around 380 replies had been received, which would be sent on to County for their further consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee notes the current position of the District Transport Survey.

91. WORK PROGRAMME MONITORING

(i) Task and Finish Panels

(a) The Committee noted the position report for the Provision of Value for Money within Planning Services and the Crime and Disorder Task and Finish Panels.

(b) The Committee received and noted the Leisure Task and Finish Panel's end of year report.

(ii) 2008/09 Proposed Work Programme

The Committee noted that items of work not completed this year by the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Standing Panels would be carried over to next year's work programme.

It was agreed that the Housing Standing Panel, Constitution and Member Services Standing Panel and the Finance and Performance Management Standing Panel would continue in the new municipal year.

The Committee next considered the new proposals for Standing and Task and Finish Panels for the coming year. They agreed that:

- (i) The current Environment and Planning Services Standing Panel should be disbanded.
- (ii) The current Crime and Disorder Task and Finish Panel be disbanded.
- (iii) The current Provision of Value for Money within Planning Services Task and Finish Panel be disbanded and its work carried forward to a new Standing Panel.
- (iv) A new Safer, Cleaner Greener Standing Panel be established. This Panel is to take on all the Environmental work from the current Environment and Planning Services Standing Panel and the remaining work of the current Crime and Disorder Task and Finish Panel.
- (v) A new Planning Standing Panel be established. This Panel would take on the planning work from the current Environment and Planning Services Standing Panel, the work from the current Provision of Value for Money within Planning

- Services Task and Finish Panel; look at the new legislation on forward planning and development Control and at section 106 agreements.
- (vi) The Leisure Task and Finish Panel be re-established with revised Terms of Reference.
 - (vii) A new Customer Transformation Task and Finish Panel be established to consider where any customer focused improvements can be achieved, to look at current performance and make recommendations on how services to customers could be enhanced.

The Committee noted that there would be five Standing Panels established in the new municipal year:

- Housing Standing Panel;
- Constitution and Member Services Standing Panel;
- Finance and Performance Management Standing Panel;
- Safer, Cleaner Greener Standing Panel; and
- Planning Standing Panel.

And that two Task and Finish Panels be established in the new municipal year:

- Leisure Task and Finish Panel; and
- Customer Transformation Task and Finish Panel.

The Committee asked that draft terms of references for all the Panels be issued to all members (via the Members Bulletin) so that they could make an informed decision as to what panel they would like to sit on.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following Panels be disbanded:
 - The Crime and Disorder and the Value for Money within Planning Services Task and Finish Panels; and
 - The Environment and Planning Services Standing Panel.
2. That two new Standing Panels be established:
 - A Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel; and
 - A Planning Services Standing Panel.
3. That two Task and Finish Panels be established:
 - A Leisure Task and Finish Panel; and
 - A Customer Transformation Task and Finish Panel.
4. That draft terms of reference be published, for all the Panels to be established, in the Members Bulletin.

92. MINUTES FROM CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERS SERVICES SCRUTINY STANDING PANEL

The Committee was asked to note the minutes of the meeting of the Constitution and Members Services Scrutiny Standing Panel held on 4 March 2008, the conclusions made in respect of the members training review and the results of consultation with members of the Council and officers on next year's Member Training Programme.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Constitution and Members Service meeting held on 4 March 2008 be noted and the recommendations made on the proposed members training programme be endorsed.

93. CABINET REVIEW

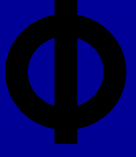
The Committee considered the Cabinet agenda for its meeting on 14 April 2008. No further issues were raised for consideration by the Cabinet.

CHAIRMAN

**Epping Forest District Council Liaison
Meeting 10th April 2008**

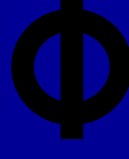
Simon Williams

Business Manager, Operational Strategy Implementation



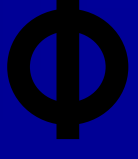
Agenda

- **Epping Car Park, Retail Unit and Litter Clearance**
- **Ticket Selling and Freedom Passes**
- **Update on Metronet**
- **Station Modernisation and Refurbishment Programme**
- **Works at Buckhurst Hill**
- **Request for Extension to Stansted Airport**
- **Daytime Lighting and Energy Efficiency**
- **Questions and Discussion**



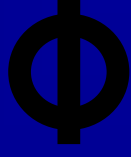
Epping Car Park (Cllr Whitehouse)

- **Previous network study concluded only room for 70-150 additional spaces without major road alterations**
- **Decking cost prohibitive for small number of spaces**
- **LU developed scheme for builders' yard but would only accommodate 51 spaces**
- **Long payback period and no funding available**
- **Council have suggested might be willing to part fund decking – LU would like to discuss further – who is best contact?**
- **Alternative of new build at alternative site e.g. Theydon Bois might be more feasible if other issues such as access and cost can be resolved (Cllr Frankel)**



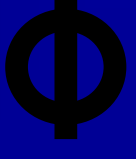
Epping Retail Unit (Cllr Whitehouse)

- **Following Council representations LU are seeking way to retain tenant**
- **Proving difficult to find appropriate solution for relocation**
- **Hence costs for relocation not yet available and difficult to make decision**
- **Tenant likely to remain in situ in the meantime although discussions to be progressed**



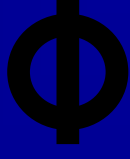
Epping Litter Clearance (CLR Whitehouse)

- **Embankment adjacent to Station Approach
responsibility of Metronet**
- **Would be useful to understand specific issues**
- **Any problems should be reported to Station
Supervisor in first instance who can fault report
to Metronet**



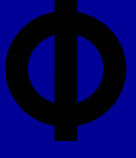
Ticket Selling

- **New Advanced Fare Machines (AFMs) now installed at every station – proving very successful**
- **Demand for tickets continues to fall significantly with the success of Oyster**
- **Said last time this would lead to reductions in ticket office opening hours and some closures**
- **Currently on hold following customer, stakeholder and Trade Union feedback**
- **If it does go ahead all stations will remain staffed throughout the day**



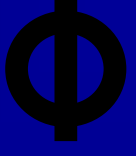
Freedom Passes (Cllr Bateman)

- **Paid for by local authorities through Association of London Government**
- **Matter for Essex County Council**
- **Holder of Senior Railcards can now receive discounts on Oyster travel**
- **National free bus travel includes London Buses**



Update on Metronet

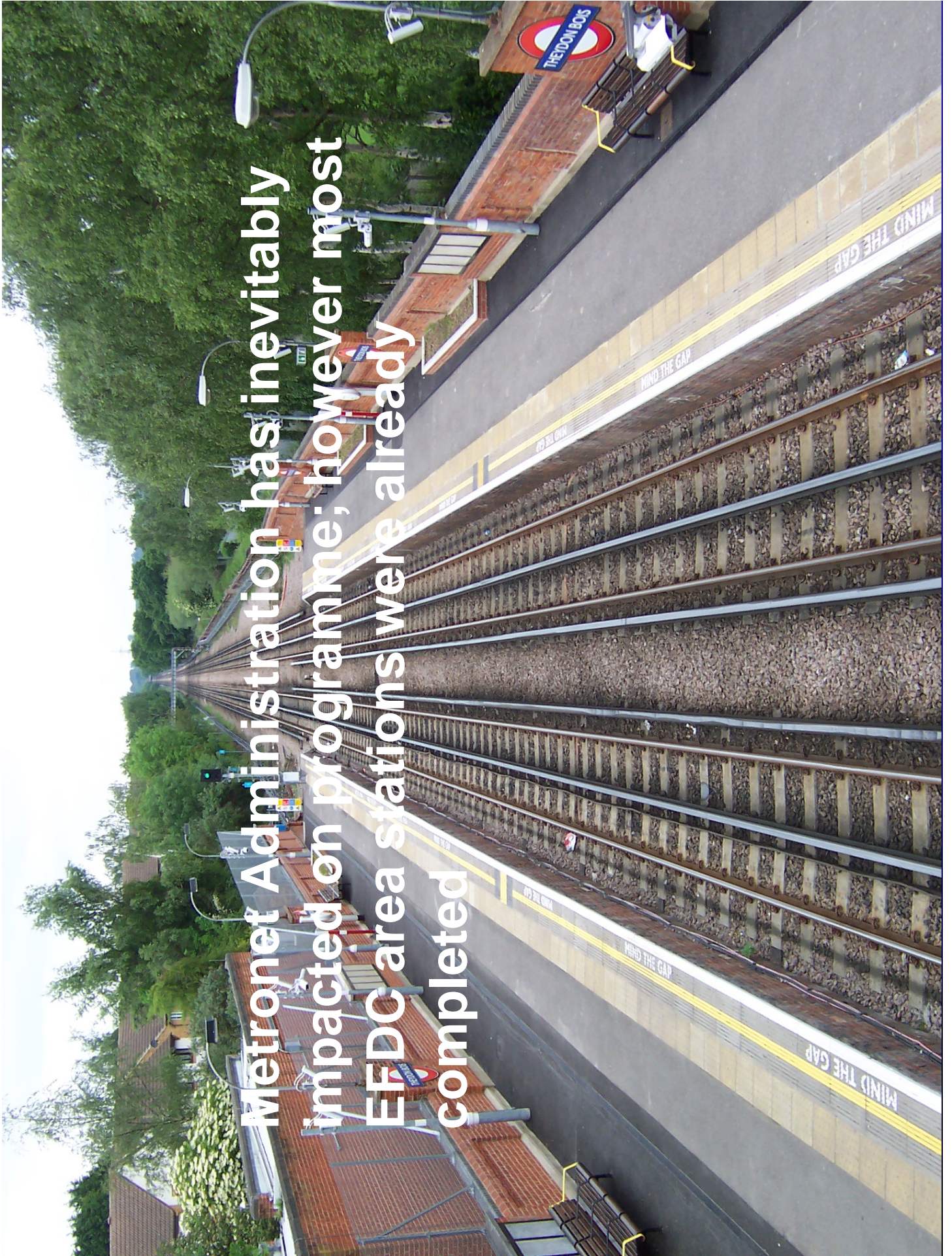
- Both Metronet companies went into Administration in Summer 2007
- “PPP Administration” enabled work to continue, with routine safety and maintenance work prioritised
- Transfer of companies into TfL close to completion
- Long term arrangements under discussion



Update on Station Modernisation and Refurbishment Programme

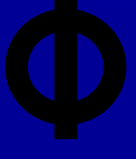


Metronet Administration has inevitably impacted on programme; however most EFDC area stations were already completed



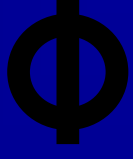
Stations Completed

- Epping
- Theydon Bois
- Debden
- Loughton
- Chigwell
- Roding Valley
- (Any outstanding snagging items will be completed)



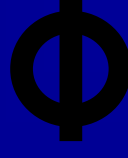
Stations Outstanding (Cllr Whitehouse)

- **Buckhurst Hill (previously delayed to ca 2011)**
- **Grange Hill (previously due for completion in 2009)**
- **With current Metronet position work is limited to completing stations already on site (including Mile End) and progressing work on busy (mostly Zone 1) stations**
- **Long term plans and funding still unclear; however tentatively Buckhurst Hill and Grange Hill will be rescheduled for completion around 2013**
- **But there may be some more positive news...**



Works at Buckhurst Hill

- **Metronet are proposing to undertake structural maintenance works to the subway**
- **Refurbishment as part of this**
- **Council proposal to install CCTV in subway linked to existing town system**
- **Work ongoing to develop and integrate works**
- **Potentially on site this year**



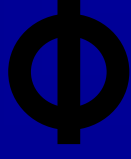
Request for Extension to Stansted Airport (Cllr Bateman)

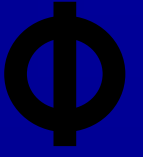
- Not currently part of TfL plans or funding
- Beyond GLA area
- Huge capital cost
 - Power supply
 - Tunnelling
 - Track and signalling
- Estimate of extension to Harlow was £215m at 2004 prices
- Business case weak due to much faster Stansted Express service to Tottenham Hale and Liverpool Street
- Local demand would be insufficient to justify huge capital cost



Daytime Lighting and Energy Efficiency (Cllr Whitehouse)

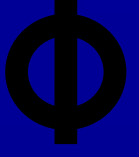
- Lights should be switched off when daylight is bright enough
- At most stations this happens automatically
- Energy challenge competition to encourage stations to reduce energy consumption
 - Overall energy usage 14% lower than in 2000 despite new systems needing power
 - Central line in 3rd place
 - Buckhurst Hill Group 22nd out of 41
- Specific examples would be helpful





Me

Questions and Discussion



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