

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 22 April 2008

Subject: Planning and Economic Development Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs A Grigg

Item: 7(i)

Recommending:

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

Loughton Town Centre Enhancement Scheme

The LTCE scheme has now been signed off and taken into maintenance by Essex County Council. A report will be brought to a future Cabinet Meeting setting out the final account. Representations have been made to Cllr Norman Hume, Essex County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways regarding acceptance by the County Council of the unregistered land in Loughton High Road to enable the planting of trees.

Essex County Council will undertake works to remove the fifth arm of the "Morrison" junction as part of their congestion management programme.

Loughton Broadway Town Centre Enhancement Scheme

A report was brought to the April Cabinet regarding the BTCE scheme. Members will recollect that the scheme was delayed by the discovery that the gas main was much closer to the surface than originally indicated by National Grid Gas. National Grid Gas have now agreed our Method Statement for working in close proximity of their gas main. The scheme, which is within budget, was given Cabinet approval on 14 April to proceed, subject to the necessary approvals by the County Council.

Loughton Broadway Development and Design Brief

The Development and Design Brief has been received from Urban Practitioners, our Consultants, who gave a short presentation on their proposals to increase vitality in the locality at the Cabinet Meeting on 14th April. Included within their proposals, was the integration of the bus facilities with the station, which would mean that the buses would no longer park on Vere Road or Burton Road; provision of a much better pedestrian link between the shops and the station; the possibility of mews development with under-croft parking as well as the opportunity to develop town centre flats within walking distance of the shops and station. The possibility of high quality development on the two corner sites

of the Broadway and Chigwell Lane which could not only improve the link to the two roads but also provide Key Landmark buildings. It was acknowledged that there is a good range of shops in The Broadway and proposals will be looked at to complement the existing shops. There will be approx. 8 weeks public consultation on the proposals commencing from 1 May 2008.

Telecommunications Masts

Planning Services recently arranged a training course for Members regarding telecommunication masts. This was very useful to Members who attended. The independent consultant gave very useful information on designing mobile telephone systems, new radio systems, published planning guidance, health and safety issues, siting and design. This explained why additional masts were required to meet the increased coverage demand. If there is sufficient demand another course will be held in the future.