

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 27 February 2024, 7.00 pm - 7.45 pm

Council Chamber - Civic Offices

Members Present:	Councillors H Kane (Chairman), J Parsons (Vice-Chairman), I Allgood, L Paine, R Pugsley, B Vaz and D Stocker
Members Present (Virtually):	Councillors E Gabbett
Other Councillors:	Councillors R Balcombe, N Bedford, S Kane, J Philip, C Whitbread, H Whitbread and K Williamson
Apologies:	Councillor(s) R Bassett and A Lion
Officers In Attendance:	Laura Kirman (Democratic Services Officer), Krishma Shah (Senior Urban Design Officer), Mandy Thompson (Service Director - Regulatory Services), James Warwick (Service Director (Contracts, Partnerships and Procurement)), Amelia Hoke (Team Manager- Leisure and Parking) and Steven Mitchell (PR Website Editor)
Officers In Attendance (Virtually):	Jennifer Gould (Strategic Director and Chief Operating Officer) and Therese Larsen (Democratic Services Officer)

[A RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR REPEATED VIEWING](#)

22 WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Chairman reminded everyone present that the meeting would be broadcast live to the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

23 SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The Committee noted the following substitution reported at the meeting:

- Councillor Stocker had been appointed as substitute to for Councillor Lion.

24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct.

25 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 19 September 2023 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26 WORK PROGRAMME**Resolved:**

The Places Scrutiny Committee noted and agreed the work programme.

Action:

The Committee proposed that the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) review of planning/development management be considered by the Place Scrutiny Committee in the next municipal year.

27 WASTE PROGRAMME UPDATE

J Warwick, Service Director - Contracts Partnerships and Procurement, provided an update on the progress of the Waste Programme and advised the current waste collection contract with Biffa would end in November 2024. The following three workstreams had been identified and were in progress.

- Creation of a LATCO the new waste company wholly owned by EFDC which would launch on the 4 of November 2024,
- Mobilisation of a New Operations Centre, planning permission had been granted and this centre must be operational by November 2024, and
- Procurement of vehicles through an eight-year contract hire agreement, delivery expected in October 2024.

Resolved:

That the Place Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

28 NEW EPPING LEISURE CENTRE PROJECT UPDATE

A Hoke, Team Manager Leisure and Parking, advised the Committee that Cabinet agreed the delivery of the new Epping Leisure Centre on 13 March 2023. This was at an early stage of construction and all pre-start planning and section 106 conditions had been discharged. The Council's contractor Pellikaan Construction Ltd were on site and had completed site establishment, investigation and clearance works. Excavation of the pool area and the piling works had commenced. The project team and delivery process were the same as that utilised for the successful delivery of the Waltham Abbey Leisure Centre project.

Resolved:

That the Committee noted the update on the delivery of the new Epping Leisure Centre.

29 UPDATED TREE POLICY

M Thompson, Service Director Regulatory Services, advised the Committee that the updated Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) Tree Policy 2024 – 2029 defined the Council's approach to the management of trees owned by District Council and the publicly owned highway under the stewardship of Essex County Council. This would promote responsible tree management and provide clear guidance on responsibilities and expectations for residents within the district.

The Committee queried the cost of a tree and were advised that a specific formula, the Cavat value of trees, was used.

Resolved:

The Committee commended Epping Forest Tree Policy 2024-2029 to Cabinet for approval.

30 LATTON PRIORY STRATEGIC DESIGN CODE

Krishna Shah, Senior Urban Design Officer, provided an overview of the Latton Priory Strategic Design and highlighted key aspects of the process and code.

The Committee received assurance that public and stakeholder consultation had been undertaken and feedback from that consultation was being incorporated into design code amendments or addressed through the wider planning process as appropriate. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) would be developed to address some of the issues raised and these will be made available on the design code engagement website along with a comments and response tracker. Infrastructure and high speed broadband requirements were addressed in the Local Plan and would form part of the planning process.

Resolved:

The Committee commended the report to Cabinet for approval.

31 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee noted that this was the last meeting of this Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

CHAIRMAN