

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES STANDING
SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON MONDAY, 1 AUGUST 2005
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 2.30 - 3.45 PM**

Members Present:	D Stallan (Chairman), M Woollard (Vice-Chairman), Mrs D Borton, T Richardson, Mrs M Sartin and K Faulkner
Other members present:	R Glozier, Mrs A Grigg, D Jacobs and K Wright
Apologies for Absence:	Mrs M Boatman, A Lee, P McMillan and Mrs P Smith
Officers Present	J Preston (Head of Planning and Economic Development) and Z Folley (Democratic Services Assistant)
Also in attendance:	(none)

1. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

The Panel noted that Councillor K Faulkner was attending the meeting as a substitute for Councillor A Lee.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered their Terms of Reference and Work Plan.

(a) East of England Plan (Work Plan item 4).

Noted that that the examination in public for the East of England Plan, which was due to start in September 2005 had been deferred to November 2005. To reflect this it was agreed that the report deadline for the plan be amended to read 'By November 2005 for examination in public'. Noted that the next meeting would consider the issue in depth and a response.

(b) Re use of buildings in the Green Belt/Local Plan and Scheme. (Work Plan items 2 and 3).

The Panel agreed that the review of Buildings in the Green Belt and the Local Plan and Scheme be combined and dealt with at the next meeting.

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

The Panel considered the minutes of the West Essex Management Joint Committee held on 29 June 2005.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Protection presented the minutes. He reported the timescale for the procurement and implementation of the emerging County Wide Waste management Contract. He agreed to identify the sums generated by the County and District bids to DEFRA for recycling initiatives.

Agreed that the County Waste Management Business Plan (to be reported to DEFRA around October 2005) be submitted and considered by the Panel at an appropriate future meeting.

ACTION:

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Protection to report to the next meeting.

5. LOCAL PLAN ALTERATIONS - UPDATE

The Head of Planning and Economic Development drew attention to the revised Local Plan. He explained that the alterations were due to go out to consultation at the end of August 2005. Once responses to the exercise had been assessed the framework would be considered by the Cabinet and need to be completed in time for the Public Enquiry scheduled for Summer 2006.

The Head of Planning and Economic Development advised that the alterations could raise the Council's Development Control performance and would include policies on regional planning guidance and new glasshouse initiatives such as the E13. He reported that the timescale and resource implications for the completion of the alterations was challenging. He advised that attention should be paid to these issues before the decision was made to go ahead with the changes. The next meeting would consider the matter further and receive a progress report.

The Head of Planning and Economic Development also reported that the government had formulated proposals designed to simplify the planning system. It was noted that further developments on this would be reported.

6. EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN - DRAFT LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.

The Head of Planning and Economic Development reported that the Examination in Public (EIP) for the Plan had been delayed due to staffing issues at regional level. He drew attention to the draft list of participants for the EIP. He advised that the list indicated that North Weald, Roydon, Epping Upland and Nazeing Parish Councils and PORA had not yet been invited to participate at discussions at the EIP. It was noted that the Head of Forward Planning had written to the EIP on behalf of the Council to express concerns about inconsistencies within the draft list of participants and the exclusion of the four local interests. It was agreed that representatives of the groups be invited to the next meeting to report their concerns and consider a way forward. The Head of Planning and Economic Development agreed to contact MPs for the areas to make representations about the participation arrangements and report back to the Panel.

ACTION:

Z Folley to write to North Weald, Roydon , Epping Upland and Nazeing Parish Councils and PORA to invite them to the next meeting.

The Head of Planning and Economic Development to invite the Head of Forward Planning to the next meeting.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Panel agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 13 September 2005 at 7.30 in CR2