

EPHING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee **Date:** Tuesday, 25 October 2016

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 7.30 - 8.34 pm

Members Present: Councillors M Sartin (Chairman) N Bedford, R Brookes, S Kane, Y Knight, A Mitchell, S Murray, S Neville, A Patel, G Shiell, D Stallan and D Wixley

Other Councillors: Councillors A Grigg, H Kane, J Lea, R Morgan, G Waller and C Whitbread

Apologies: Councillors L Girling, N Avey, D Dorrell and B Rolfe

Officers Present: S Tautz (Democratic Services Manager), A Hendry (Senior Democratic Services Officer), A Rose (Marketing & Digital Content Officer) and M Jenkins (Democratic Services Officer)

23. 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.

24. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members for the meeting.

25. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 19 July 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

27. PUBLIC QUESTIONS & REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

It was noted that there were no public questions or requests to address the committee.

28. EXECUTIVE DECISIONS - CALL-IN

There were no call-in of decisions to be considered.

29. FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS - REVIEW

The Committee considered the Cabinet's Key Decision List for September 2016 they noted that there was a legal requirement for local authorities to publish a notice in respect of each Key decision that it proposed to make, at least 28 days before that decision was made. The Committee were invited to identify any particular issues which were of concern.

Environment Portfolio

It was noted that the Waste and Recycling Policies were not now going to the 3 November Cabinet meeting.

Housing Portfolio

Councillor Murray wanted to know what the following proposed decisions meant and what were their implications. These were on Sheltered Housing Assets and on Sheltered Housing Service.

He also commented that there were only a few members of the Cabinet were in attendance at this meeting. It was explained that there were three members of the Cabinet on holiday this week and that it was a school half term.

Safer Greener Transport Portfolio

Councillor Waller noted that a decision to award a contract for the off street car parking in the district would be made in November. The various tenders have been opened and were presently being evaluated.

Councillor Knight asked about the on street and off street parking in Loughton and Debden; when would new signage be put in place. Councillor Waller said that the first phase was proceeding quickly but they could not be exact about future timings. Also the weather was a factor in the laying down of the yellow lines etc. and as we were coming into the winter months we would be dependent on having stretches of good weather. We were also dependent on Essex County Council to organise this work.

30. CORPORATE PLAN KEY ACTION PLAN 2016/17 - QUARTER 1 PROGRESS

The Committee received the report on the Council's Corporate Plan, setting out the council's priorities over a five year period from 2015/16 to 2019/20. These priorities or Corporate Aims were supported by Key Objectives. The Key Objectives were delivered by an annual action plan, with each year building upon the progress against the achievement of the Key Objectives for previous years.

The Chairman noted that these results were for quarter 1 and that although we were now past quarter 2, the committee should review these results even though they had already been seen by the various Select Committees.

Progress against the Key Action Plan was reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure the timely identification and implementation of appropriate further initiatives or corrective action where necessary.

There were 50 actions in total for which progress updates for Quarter 1 were as follows:

- 32 (64%) of these actions had been 'Achieved' or are 'On Target'
- 7 (14%) of these actions were 'Under Control'
- 2 (4%) were 'Behind Schedule'
- 9 (18%) were 'Pending'

Key Objective (i)(a):

Item 5 – *review the future options for the HRA Financial Plan and to sell 'high value' empty Council properties* – Councillor Brookes asked if she could be told a little more about this objective. Councillor Whitbread replied that they were still awaiting further guidance from the Government on this.

Key Objective (i) (b):

Item 1 – *complete phase 1 of the Council House buildings* – Councillor Bedford asked how 'under control' was defined in relation to this objective. Councillor Whitbread said that phase 1 had its difficulties but it was now under control and they were making progress. It was also noted that the official definition of under control was "specific deliverables or actions have not been completed or achieved in accordance with in-year targets, but completion/achievement will be secured by a revised target date (specified) or by year-end."

Councillor Brookes asked about the St John's Road redevelopment scheme and when it might start. Councillor Grigg replied that the information was with the lawyers and solicitors and we were awaiting their final decision.

Item 7 – *progress the Epping Forest Shopping Park Scheme* – Councillor Brookes wanted to know if we would manage to be open by September 2017. Councillor Grigg said that the contract work was for 40 weeks and the highway works had started just before the contract to be completed by early July with the main contract scheduled to be completed by mid July. This would just leave the fitting out of the units to be done by the tenants. It was important to get it finished by the August completion date.

RESOLVED:

That the progress achieved at the end of Quarter 1 against the Key Objectives Key Action Plan for 2016/17 be noted.

31. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMMES 2016/17 - REVIEW

(a) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The committee considered their work programme and noted the progress to date.

Item 1 – *Transport for London* – this is further on in the agenda.

Item 3 – *ECC Local Highways Services* – it was noted that officers were still having difficulty in securing anyone from Highway Services to attend the February 2017 meeting.

Councillor Stallan suggested that we liaise with our seven County Councillors (five of whom are members of this council) to see if they could get things moving. Councillor Sartin agreed saying that Councillor Waller had also been trying to move things along.

Reserve Programme

Item 1 – Epping Forest College – it was noted that a new principal had been appointed and some members had already met with him. It was agreed that this item should be slipped to later in the programme.

Item 2 – Barts Health NHS Trust – it was agreed that it would be more appropriate to have them back early in the new municipal year.

Item 3 – Epping Forest 6th Form Consortium – this had not been timetabled in as yet. Members thought that by next May they would have been going for long enough to identify any problems and so should be programmed in for early in the new municipal year.

Item 4 – ECC Children’s Services – it was agreed that this should be left for now.

Item 5 – Princess Alexandra Hospital – they were described as inadequate at their last CQC inspection. It was agreed that it would be appropriate that they be asked to attend this committee to explain why and the reasons behind it. One of the major areas of concern was their Accident and Emergency Department which would affect the majority of our residents using the hospital. Members would like to know if they had an action plan for rectifying the issues identified in the CQC report.

The report had been issued some time ago so it would be appropriate to have them come to a meeting as soon as possible. Members would like a fairly senior officer to address them, possibly at a special meeting in January 2017. This was agreed by the committee.

ACTION: to arrange for a senior officer(s) from the Princess Alexandra Hospital to attend a special meeting of the Committee in January 2017.

Select Committees

Communities Select Committee

Councillor Knight informed the Committee that their 8 November meeting would have the Essex Police District Commander there to question. They will also receive the annual report of the Community Safety Partnership. This meeting will be webcast and open to the public.

32. SCRUTINY OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS - CENTRAL LINE SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Committee then considered the presentation and line of questioning to be taken at their next meeting when they would host officers from Transport for London (TfL). It was noted that coming to the meeting would be the General Manager of the Central Line and the TfL Stakeholder.

At their last meeting the Committee drew up a list of items that they would like to be covered by TfL, and they were now asked if they would like to review this and

perhaps narrow it down and it was difficult for officers from large organisations as TfL to cover everything. Members would also need to decide if they wished to have a presentation or just a simple Q&A session.

Of the items suggested, members would particularly like to know about:

- i. The possible reinstatement of Central Line services between Epping and Ongar, as proposed by the Mayor of London;
- ii. The extension of car parking facilities at local Central Line stations, particularly in view of the previous proposals for additional car parking capacity at Epping Station;
- iii. If the new night time services would be extended up to Epping, and if so would there be staff or security staff on duty;
- iv. Questions on infrastructure for the Central Line, in terms of increasing capacity, rectification of signalling breakdowns and investment in signalling infrastructure and the age of the rolling stock on the Central Line particularly in regard to the operation of automatic doors and unacceptably high temperatures in carriages. Maybe have a short presentation on infrastructure and what they hope to achieve or propose to do;
- v. How much consideration they would have for our Local Plan;
- vi. Ongoing concern about disabled access to platforms;
- vii. Changes to the timetable to the “Roding Valley loop” and their future plans for this section; and
- viii. With the increase in service on the Central Line service, when would they do their maintenance and what impact would it have.

Councillor Waller commented that the questions raised fell into two categories:

- 1) Operational issues; and
- 2) Strategic issues.

Should the meeting be divided into two parts to deal with this? He went on to note that he had recently attended meetings at Redbridge Council to discuss the Central Line and was told that they could not increase capacity by more than 10% in the coming years but the number of people using the Central Line would increase by more than 10% in future years. Members may want to pursue this with them.

Members commented that over the years they have been told that capacity on the Central Line was not an issue and then that there was no capacity on the Central Line. It was important that they got a definitive view on this.

Councillor Shiell said that the 10% figure should be highlighted in connection with our Local Plan.

It was agreed that:

- i. there should be some sort of presentation to preface their talk to present their major themes before they answered questions;
- ii. Questions should be made available to them in advance;
- iii. Members of the public should be made aware of this meeting and be able to pass on their questions to their ward representative to ask at the meeting;
- iv. The presentation to last between 12 to 15 minutes;
- v. Meeting to be publicised in the Council Bulletin;
- vi. Questions to be sent to TfL about 2 weeks before the meeting to enable them to prepare answers.

Councillor Knight asked if it would be worthwhile to ask a representative from British Transport Police to attend and ask them about the impact on them now that there

were less station staff and night time services. Members thought that this may take away from the main issues to be discussed. It was a big subject and maybe should go on the reserve list for future consideration. Councillor Neville suggested that they come next autumn once the night time tube service had bedded in. This was agreed by the Committee.

CHAIRMAN