

Report to Governance Select Committee

Date of meeting: 31 January 2017



Subject: Essex County Council Highways Presentation

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee undertake appropriate external scrutiny of Essex County Council Highways, in respect of work in relation to consultation on local planning applications.

1. (Director of Governance) As included in the current work programme for the Committee, representatives of Essex County Council Highways will be attending the meeting to respond to the concerns of members in respect of the consultation work that they do in relation to District planning applications. The following officers of Essex County Council Highways will be in attendance:

Matthew Bradley, Strategic Development Manager, Transportation, Planning and Development - ECC; and
Matthew Lane, Strategic Development Engineer, Transportation, Planning and Development – ECC.

2. The following specific issues as previously identified by the Select Committee, have been notified to Mr. Bradley and Mr. Lane as the emphasis for such external scrutiny, in order to ensure that maximum value is derived from this external scrutiny activity:

Aspects the Governance Select Committee wish to see addressed

- (a) Who would be attending and what was their role/level of seniority?
- (b) The level of resourcing Essex County Council Highways devotes to assessing referred planning applications prior to commenting.
- (c) Information about the way in which Essex County Council Highways assessed each application, for example, what determines when they visit, what use of technology is available/used to evidence objections or lack of them.
- (d) Members and local residents have real concerns at times over highway issues, particularly safety concerns yellow lining, existing accesses which through increased use become dangerous junctions, turning circles for delivery vehicles, site lines etc – could an explanation of the Essex County Council Highways approach to these issues be given?
- (e) There was a perception that Essex County Council Highways did not sufficiently defend their own parking standards – an insight into their approach on this would

be welcomed.

- (f) In seeking appropriate infrastructure to support new development what guidance and support could/do Essex County Council Highways give to Epping Forest District Council in seeking s106/278 at appropriate times/amounts?
3. The identification of additional lines of questioning to be raised with Essex County Council Highways, were recently sought from members through the Council Bulletin.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to more effectively meet work programme requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities. Although external organisations are not generally required by legislation to attend before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is hoped that most would be willing to engage constructively with the Council's scrutiny activity when invited to do so.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.