

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES GREAT DUNMOW at 7.30 pm on 18 SEPTEMBER 2001

Present : Councillor Mrs J F Cheetham – Chairman.
Councillors Mrs C A Cant, Mrs C D Down, Mrs E J Godwin,
Mrs E Tealby–Watson, A R Thawley and P A Wilcock.

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman: Councillors Mrs S Flack,
M A Hibbs, D M Miller, R J O'Neill and R B Tyler.

Officers in attendance: Mrs M Cox, N Harris, Mrs S McLagan, J Mitchell,
B D Perkins and R M Secker.

ET1 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members to this new committee and John Mitchell – Head of Planning and Building Surveying, Nick Harris – Principal Accountant, Sarah McLagan – Head of Leisure and Amenities and Maggie Cox – Committee Officer to their first meeting.

ET2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W F Bowker and D M Jones.

ET3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on 14 June 2001 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

ET4 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute 30(ii) Planning Policy Guidance Revised Consultation Paper – Development and Flood Risk

Councillor Wilcock asked what action was being taken by the Council to prepare for possible flooding in the coming year. Officers replied that there would be information in the next edition of the Council Page. The previously prepared information leaflet had been widely circulated.

(ii) Minute 34 – Development Control Sub-Committee – Minute P7(h) Certificates of Lawfulness

In answer to a question from Councillor Wilcock, it was explained that the timescale for issuing a Certificate of Lawfulness depended on the complexity of the case. However, in the specific case of Wood Yard, Old Mead Road, Henham there had been a delay and an apology made to the relevant persons.

ET5 HIGHWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Highways Sub-Committee held on 11 July 2001 were received.

(i) Minute HW3 Traffic Regulation Order – Proposed Waiting Restrictions High Stile, Great Dunmow

It was confirmed that a meeting of the Local Transportation Panel had been arranged for 8 October 2001 at the Great Dunmow Offices.

(ii) Minute HW5 Locally Determined Budget Programme 2001/02 – 2003/04

Councillor Wilcock pointed out that one of the resolutions stated that the Area Manager would report progress to future meetings of the Highways Sub-Committee. He asked how this would now be reported under the new Committee arrangements. It was proposed that this information would be circulated via the Members' Bulletin. This arrangement could be reviewed as appropriate.

(iii) Minute HW6 Local Transport Plan Programme 2001/02

It was reported that options in relation to the London to Ipswich multi-modal study had not yet been published for consultation.

ET6 PARKING STRATEGY WORKING PARTY

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parking Strategy Working Party held on 12 July 2001 were received.

(i) Minute PS10(ii) Residents Parking Street Survey

A response had now been received from Essex County Council Transportation and Operational Services indicating that an ad hoc agency agreement would be issued to allow on street charging within the Residents' Parking Scheme. It was hoped that this would be in place by November.

(ii) Future Parking Arrangements in Great Dunmow

Councillor Mrs S Flack declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.

Following a detailed report on the usage of the car parks in Great Dunmow, the Working Party had recommended that charging be reintroduced at the Angel Lane and Chequers Lane car parks. The meeting felt that an exception to these charges should be made for parents/carers dropping their children off at school. Other Members questioned whether a free permit should also be available to those who used the Dunmow Day Centre and maybe to other minority groups. Councillor Hibbs, the Chairman of the Working Party, explained the reasoning behind the reintroduction of charging and felt it

should commence now with a review being undertaken once it had been running for a while

RESOLVED that

- 1 Charging be reintroduced at the Angel Lane and Chequers Lane car parks with the same rates being applied as White Street from April 2002.
- 2 Free parking permits be provided for parents/carers dropping off children in the mornings and afternoons, and Great Dunmow Town Council be asked if a similar arrangement could apply to the Foakes Hall car park.
- 3 Officers look at different measures for season tickets and report to a future meeting.

Councillor Thawley asked it to be noted that he had abstained from voting.

ET7 RESIDENTS' QUESTION REGARDING KYOTO PROTOCOL ON GLOBAL WARMING

RESOLVED that this matter be deferred to the next meeting in view of the recent tragic events in the USA.

ET8 POLICY PRIORITIES AND BUDGETS 2002/03

The Principal Accountant presented a report outlining proposals for budget savings targets and committee cash limits arising from the review of priorities recently undertaken by the Administration. It was intended that, subject to the Council's approval, officers would use these targets and the principles underlining them as the basis for preparing service plans and committee budgets for the next financial year. The Budget Strategy report presented to committee in June had projected a potential savings figure of £465,000, which would allow for a Council Tax increase of no more than 2.5%. This figure would not allow for any new growth items.

Target savings now identified for each Committee totalled £635,000 which was £170,000 more than the funding gap projected in June. This sum would be all that was available to meet any growth items or anything else unforeseen at this stage. This Committee's share of the target savings identified by the Administration amounted to £189,000. Councillor Tyler, the Deputy Leader of the Council, spoke about the effect of the proposed target savings and said that they would give this Committee some choices with regard to growth items. He asked Members to forward to the Administration any suggestions for meeting the savings targets.

Councillor Thawley asked whether the extra income from new homes in the District had been taken into account. The Principal Accountant said that some allowance had been made and he would forward the detailed figures to Councillor Thawley.

Councillor Wilcock referred to the Council's recycling initiatives. He thought it was important to maximise this activity and not make cuts in this area. Members asked questions about recycling, in particular cardboard, paper and glass collection from commercial premises. The Head of Environmental Services said that the cardboard collection was due to commence in January and that a glass collection via mini banks at public houses was already being established in the villages.

RESOLVED that officers prepare service plans and detailed budgets based on the stated cash saving (£189,000) subject to overall confirmation by the Council on 16 October 2001.

ET9 COUNTY WIDE WASTE STRATEGY OPTIONS

The Committee received a report which outlined the options for an integrated waste strategy that had been put forward by the County Wide Waste Strategy Group. The Head of Environmental Services explained that the best model for this district was model 3, in which Uttlesford would collect the waste, a combination of Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council would process the material and Essex County Council would dispose of residual waste.

Councillor Thawley asked that the "Working Together" Essex targets be included within the project plan.

RESOLVED that model 3 as set out above be agreed as the preferred option for this Council.

There was to be an all day inspection of the high diversion trials on 10 October and it was agreed that two Members from this Committee and one Member from the Resources and Transport Scrutiny Committee be invited to attend. Councillor Thawley indicated he would wish to attend.

ET10 CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION STRATEGY

Members were advised that a new duty had been placed on local authorities to inspect their areas from time to time for the purpose of identifying contaminated land. This required the production of an inspection strategy, and an officer working party had produced a draft document that had been sent to a number of external consultees. The Environment Agency had confirmed that it complied with the requirements of the strategy guidance. Councillor Thawley commended the document but expressed some concern about the resource implications in terms of producing the necessary data.

RESOLVED that the Council adopt and publish the Inspection Strategy.

ET11

STANSTED AIRPORT**(i) Consultation Arrangements**

Members were advised of the consultation arrangements in relation to the current planning application to develop the airport from about 15 to 25 million passengers per annum. At the special Council Meeting on 28 August a motion had been agreed which had asked this Committee to consider whether the general public and interested organisations had been provided with all relevant information. Members suggested a number of additional bodies to be consulted.

Officers were beginning the process of assessing and evaluating the application, taking into account all representations received. It was not yet known whether the Secretary of State would "call in" the application for determination in which case a public inquiry was likely to be held. Until then the Council had to continue with the application in the normal way. Some Members asked how the application would be dealt with given its size and significance. Officers were intending to do a progress report later in the year following the conclusion of the consultation period. It then might be necessary to require some specialist consultancy advice before the final report to the Development Control and Licensing Committee. This report would be available to the public for an extended period.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the existing consultation arrangements be noted and the additional bodies mentioned at the meeting be added to the list of consultees.
- 2 Planning officers keep the consultation and information arrangements under review.

(ii) Stansted Airport Advisory Panel

The Council Meeting on 2 July 2001 had resolved that this Committee be invited to form a new Panel for Stansted Airport. The last meeting of the Airport Working Party had discussed possible terms of reference and suggested that meetings could consider one single specific issue. The first meeting would be held on 22 October when it was hoped to have speakers on the issue of night flights/noise.

RESOLVED that

- 1 The terms of reference of Stansted Airport Advisory Panel be "to consider all aspects of the airport and to report to the Environment and Transport Committee".
- 2 The membership be nine members (based on 3:3:2:1) to be nominated by group leaders.

ET12 CLOSE GARDENS SAFFRON WALDEN

The Committee was informed of concerns that had been raised about the condition of the Close Gardens at Saffron Walden. At the moment it was maintained to a minimum open space standard at a cost of £300 per annum. Some damage had been caused to the shelter within the gardens and some of the planting appeared neglected. The report set out a proposal to carry out some landscaping works and also to provide enhanced security. Landscaping works were estimated at £7,500 with the security works £2,500. Annual maintenance would be increased to £1,500 per year.

Councillor O'Neill asked that the £1,500 annual maintenance be included in the draft estimates. He did not consider it would take much extra funding to turn the minimum open space into a garden. Councillor Hibbs said that the most pressing need was for repairs to the built structures of the garden, the walls and the gates, rather than the landscaping. Other Members asked for the provision of a security light to be considered. The Chairman said there should be consideration of partnership working with volunteers. The Committee discussed how other such gardens in the district were maintained and considered that the matter should be pursued in conjunction with the Saffron Walden Town Council. The Committee was not opposed to the request in principle but considered that variations to the proposal and other options should be looked at.

RESOLVED that a decision be deferred until the next meeting to allow dialogue with the Town Council and residents on opportunities for partnership working and financial support.

ET13 GREATER CAMBRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

The Greater Cambridge Partnership had been established in 1998 as an umbrella organisation for a number of organisations of public and private sector interests. The aim had been to produce a vision and framework to provide the overall direction for the area and shape the plans and strategies of the main agencies operating within Greater Cambridge. It was now suggested that because of the significant strategic impact that the growth in the Greater Cambridge area would have on Uttlesford, the Council should consider joining the Partnership. The cost would be £5,000 per year. The Council would also be invited to nominate a Member to join the Partnership Board.

Councillor Mrs Tealby-Watson stressed the significance of the potential growth in the Greater Cambridge area and felt that the Council should be involved in discussions on this issue as soon as possible. However, other Members felt that the joining fee was relatively high and the value of the Partnership needed to be established before a commitment was made.

RESOLVED that

- 1 arrangements be made to attend a meeting to find out more about the Partnership

- 2 this item be further considered at the next meeting as part of the budgetary process.

ET14 **SELECT LIST OF LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS OF PLANTS AND PLANTING SUNDRIES**

The Committee received the list of landscape contractors and suppliers.

RESOLVED that the list be approved.

ET15 **MRS JOY POSTINGS**

The Chairman reported that Joy Postings, the Head of Legal Services would be leaving the Council at the end of the month. Over the years she had provided valuable assistance and advice to the Planning Committees and would be greatly missed. The Chairman and Members thanked her for all her hard work and assistance and wished her all the very best for the future.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.