

**POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL
14 JUNE 2010**

Present :- Councillor Nigel Offen (Chairman)
Councillors Nigel Chapman, Margaret Fisher,
Mike Hardy, Michael Lilley and Jill Tod

Substitute Member :- Councillor William Frame
for Councillor Lesley Scott-Boutell

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 1 March and 19 May 2010 were confirmed as correct records.

Councillor Nigel Chapman (in respect of being a member of the Board of Colchester Borough Homes) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

Councillor William Frame (in respect of being the Chairman of the Board of Colne Housing Society) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

Councillor Michael Lilley (in respect of being the Labour Group's spokesperson on the 2012 Partnership) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

Councillor Margaret Fisher (in respect of her membership of Essex County Council) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

Councillor Michael Lilley (in respect of his role as a carer for his mother) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

4. Work Programme 2010-11

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Corporate Management explaining that by the end of the last Municipal Year the Policy Review and Development Panel had completed a number of very important tasks and received presentations on various interesting and stimulating subjects and presenting a preliminary work programme for the forthcoming year.

A number of Task and Finish Groups had previously been set up by the Panel and details of the progress made by each Group was reported as follows:

Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal

The Task and Finish Group's work was continuing, concentrating on two streams in particular:

- Strongly encourage participation – investigating methods to encourage further participation in recycling including looking at experience elsewhere from the use of incentives, enforcement;
- Food waste collection – to further explore the benefits of food waste collection and look at how potentially this could be trialled in the Borough.

The group had not yet met this year but a schedule was being arranged, bearing in mind the work that was happening around the Street Services Fundamental Service Review so that both processes could be aware of each other.

It was requested to schedule the Waste Task and Finish Group report for the November meeting of the Panel.

Historic Town Centre Improvements

A series of quick wins had been completed which included:

- Works in St Peter's Churchyard, North Hill and a service where the Garrison adopted the church as its town centre location
- A contribution to renovation works on the Essex and Suffolk Fire Office colonnade

The major parts of this work were the need to reduce unnecessary traffic in the town centre and making arrangements ahead of the closure of the bus station in 2012.

It was suggested that the Group should report to the Panel in September 2010 and January 2011.

20 mph Speed Limits

A meeting with Councillor Hume and officers would take place on 20 July 2010 to discuss a number of transportation matters. It was hoped to include an item on 20mph speed limits to seek County Council acceptance of the approach in principle and a potential way forward with a joint engagement programme. This would be the first meeting post-general election following which there had been a number of significant funding announcements on transport and the time may

have to be used to discuss the way forward on a number of projects.

The Task and Finish Group had not met since early February but continued to have a role, subject to further dialogue with Essex County Council.

Night Time Economy

The work of this Group had drawn to a conclusion with the Peer Research and the best practice commissioned report being the only outstanding elements left to complete. The final report was likely to identify those key actions either short, medium or long term that would have the most impact on delivering a town centre which was safe and welcoming to all in the evening.

Mayoralty

This Group reported to the Panel at the end of 2009 when Councillor Hunt's offer to Chair an informal Civic Sub Committee to discuss certain civic related matters was accepted.

Responsibility for civic related matters had been transferred to the portfolio responsibilities of Councillor Smith and arrangements would be put in place to invite Councillor Smith to continue the informal arrangement initiated by Councillor Hunt.

The Council's Draft Strategic Plan Action Plan for 2010 -11 had also been attached to the report for the Panel to bring to members' attention the scope of work upon which the Council would be concentrating its resources for the period April 2010 to March 2011. The Panel was invited to identify potential areas of work, for inclusion, subject to Cabinet approval, within the Work Programme for the year.

A number of potential areas of work were identified as follows:

- **Olympics 2012** with the involvement of the Chairman of the 2012 Partnership to attend and present as well as other key partners from the University and Garrison;
- **Integrated County Economic Development Strategy / The State of Essex report** with contributions from representatives from Essex County Council;
- **Review of Accommodation for Older People** with contributions invited from Age Concern, Essex Social Services, Colchester Almshouses and Balcerne Gardens;
- **Energy Savings Trust** with a detailed breakdown of this Council's energy saving Initiatives;
- **Allotments Strategy** with an exploration of the opportunities to convert more land to use as allotments;

• **Cycle Paths and the Cycle Town Initiative**

The Panel felt that there was a need to raise the profile of the work of the Panel to ensure that its considerations might reach a much wider audience of Councillors, media and members of the public. Additionally, previous attempts to involve the participation of partner organisations and other stakeholders needed to be continued and explored further with a view to developing much greater interest in the work and increased value to the eventual outcomes.

A number of members were interested in additional initiatives for younger people, such as the Youth Bus, and the potential to draw in resources from a variety of stakeholders to widen the solutions available and able to be funded successfully. However, due to other issues taking more immediate priority, this was not considered entirely feasible for inclusion formally in the Panel's work programme at this stage.

At the last meeting of the Panel representations had been made by Parish Councillor John Gili-Ross on the consultation on the development of North Station as part of the Council's Supplementary Planning Document. It was considered that this subject was a matter for the Local Development Framework Committee and any additional involvement by this Panel would lead to unnecessary duplication of work.

RESOLVED that -

- (i) The progress made by the various Task and Finish Groups be noted and arrangements be made for update reports to be considered by the Panel as follows:
 - (a) Waste Prevention and Recycling Options Appraisal – 8 November 2010,
 - (b) Historic Town Centre Improvements – 20 September 2010 and 10 January 2011,
 - (c) 20 mph Speed Limits – 9 August 2010,
 - (d) Night Time Economy (final report) – 9 August 2010;
- (ii) That Parish Councillor Gili-Ross' request regarding the consultation on the development of North Station as part of the Council's Supplementary Planning Document be not accepted on the grounds that this was a matter for the Local Development Framework Committee and Parish Councillor Gili-Ross be informed accordingly.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that agreement be given to the Panel to

undertake detailed investigations and to formulate recommendations, on behalf of the Cabinet, in relation to the following subject areas, with possible dates for consideration as indicated:

- (i) Olympics 2012 – November 2010;
- (ii) Integrated County Economic Development Strategy / The State of Essex report – September 2010;
- (iii) Review of Accommodation for Older People;
- (iv) Energy Savings Trust;
- (v) Allotments Strategy;
- (vi) Cycle Paths and the Cycle Town Initiative.