

POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL

18 JUNE 2012

Present :- Councillor Julie Young (Chairman)
Councillors Mark Cable, Nigel Chapman and
Barrie Cook

Substitute Members :- Councillor Bill Frame for Councillor Mark Cory
Councillor Richard Martin
for Councillor Margaret Fairley-Crowe
Councillor Laura Sykes for Councillor Jo Hayes

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 March and 23 May 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

Councillor Nigel Chapman and Councillor Laura Sykes (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 Laura Sykes (in respect of being a Trustee of the Rosemary Almshouses) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

4. Work Programme 2012-13

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Corporate Management giving details of the work programme which included specific reviews and initiatives previously scheduled by the Panel or already requested by the Cabinet. The meeting in August had a 'Localism' theme to the items of business and it was suggested that the Panel could consider continuing this themed approach for some of the future meetings.

It was hoped there would be opportunities to use techniques that had worked in the past to encourage added participation and discussion, involving invitations to stakeholders to attend the meetings.

Discussion took place regarding the need to adequately publicise the meetings in order to attract better attendance from external partners and the public and the possibility of the meeting in September being given an Encouraging Enterprise theme. Similarly for the meetings in January and February 2013 to concentrate on Town and Rural related themes.

The report also provided detailed updates on the current situation regarding each of the Task and Finish Groups and Councillors J Young, Frame and L Sykes were given the opportunity to give more detailed information in their respective capacities as Chairmen

of the Waste and Recycling Options Appraisal, Future of the Magistrates' Courts and Older Persons Accommodation Task and Finish Groups.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The recent move to fortnightly residual waste collection for those residents included in the Food Waste trial;
- Measures to influence residents willingness to adopt recycling habits;
- The benefits of the visits to different models of care homes which had been undertaken by the Task and Finish Group;
- The contribution of the Group to the formulation of Draft Older Persons Accommodation Strategy which was due to be circulated for consultation;

Councillor Harrington attended and, with the consent of the Chairman, addressed the Panel regarding the lack of progress in introducing 20 mph speed limits in Colchester and, West Bergholt in particular. He requested that the Chairman of the Panel consider revisiting the issue with the Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

Councillor J Young explained that she had been appointed to the newly formed Local Highway Panel, now administered by Essex County Council, and intended to use time at the first meeting to raise this matter with Councillor Derrick Louis, the Essex County Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation. She also expressed her willingness to send a further letter on behalf of the Panel to confirm the Panel's continued commitment to 20 mph limits being introduced in various locations in Colchester.

The Panel members were disappointed with the lack of progress in securing an up to date response from Essex County Council regarding its position on support for the introduction of 20 mph speed limits. Reference was also made to the need for the more prompt adoption as highway of the roads within new residential developments to enable the lower speed limits to be enforceable.

RESOLVED that –

- (i) The current situation regarding the various Task and Finish Groups and the provisional scheduling of initiatives and reviews already identified by the Cabinet be noted;
- (ii) The suggestions regarding themes for future meetings and associated publicity be welcomed and further work be undertaken to assist in the success of this approach;
- (iii) Arrangements be made for a letter to be sent from the Chairman, on behalf of the Panel, to Essex County Councillor Derrick Louis, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, confirming this Panel's continued commitment to secure the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in various locations across the Borough;
- (iii) The Council's Spatial Policy Manager be informed of this Panel's view regarding the more prompt adoption as highway of the roads within new residential developments to enable the lower speed limits to be enforceable with a view to

measures being investigated to address this issue.