

Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee

5 March 2020 – At a meeting of the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee held at 10.30 am at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mr Barrett-Miles (Chairman)

Mr Barnard	Mr R J Oakley	Dr Walsh, left at 3.10pm
Ms Goldsmith, left at 1.10pm	Mr Quinn	Mrs Millson
Mr McDonald	Mr Waight	

Apologies were received from Mr S J Oakley, Mr Baldwin and Lt Col Barton

Absent:

Also in attendance: Mr Elkins

Part I

148. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Code of Conduct the following interests were declared:

Mr Barrett-Miles declared a personal interest in Item 5 as a Member of Burgess Hill Town Council and as Chairman of the Task and Finish Group.

Dr Walsh declared a personal interest in Item 5 as a Leader of Arun District Council as a Member of Littlehampton Town Council.

Mrs Millson declared a personal interest in Item 5 as a Member of the North Horsham County Local Committee and as a member of the Task and Finish Group.

Ms Goldsmith declared a personal interest in Item 5 as a Member of the South Chichester County Local Committee.

Mr Quinn declared a personal interest in Item 5 as a Member of the Crawley County Local Committee.

Mr Barnard declared a personal interest in Item 5 as a Member of the Chantonbury County Local Committee.

149. Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee

149.1 Resolved – that the minutes of the Committee held on 13 January 2020 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

150. Part II Matters

150.1 The Chairman confirmed that he was minded to have this discussed in Part I but with the option of Part II if necessary.

150.2 The Committee agreed.

151. Responses to Recommendations

151.1 The Committee is asked to note the responses to recommendations made at the 13 January 2020 meeting from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure and the Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities.

151.2 The Committee noted that the response from the Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities is also being sent to Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Committee.

152. On-street Parking to Support Traffic Management - Update

152.1 The Committee considered a report by the Executive Director Place Services and Director of Highways, Transport and Planning (copy appended to the signed minutes).

152.2 The Cabinet Member confirmed that the report's purpose is to update the Committee on the current situation and the factors that have affected the original timetable.

152.3 Miles Davy, Parking Manager, introduced the report with a presentation (copy appended to the signed minutes), which explained that progress had be slower than hoped and outlined some of the reasons for this.

152.4 The Committee made a number of comments including those that follow. It:

- Welcomed the acknowledgement that progress had been slower than anticipated.
- Raised concerns about whether there was capacity to deliver all the schemes and manage the expectations of the community. Some areas are very keen that this is brought in soon to alleviate long standing issues.
- Raised concerns that carers and care homes have particular issues with this especially as the aim is to care for people in their own homes for as long as possible.
- Raised concerns that there would be insufficient enforcement.

Resolved – That the Committee

1. Noted the challenges faced to date in delivering the programme, and anticipated further slippage in future.

2. All RSA's should take into account the green agenda and the anticipated change in town centre configuration due to the decline of the retail sector.
3. There is a need to ensure that carers and care homes are not adversely affected by proposals.
4. The proposals need to be more flexible and a phased implementation is welcomed to see if it causes displacement.
5. The Cabinet Member should review the whole programme, to confirm it remains deliverable (with regard to its resourcing and funding, in particular).
6. There needs to be better communications on this, and highways policy in general, particularly with district and borough councils.
7. Wants to be reassured that sufficient enforcement will be undertaken.
8. Having a Growth Deal in place should advance areas up the programme, which should benefit areas such as Littlehampton.

153. Highways and Transport Delivery Programmes 2020/21

153.1 The Committee received a verbal update from the Director of Highways, Transport and Planning.

153.2 The Committee made a number of comments including those that follow. It:

- Raised concerns that members had not been fully informed of the changes.
- Sought clarification on whether the previous service standards were being retained particularly around the issue of temporary pothole repairs.
- Welcomed that Government is looking into the issue of local roads funding and that the Transport Committee stated that 5-year funding is required.

Resolved – That the Committee

1. Would like to review the programme in 6 months to check if the new approach is working.
2. Would like to request that a Member Day or half day is held to ensure that all members up to speed on the new arrangements.

154. Highways Restructure

154.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Highways, Transport and Planning (copy appended to the signed minutes).

154.2 Matt Davey, Director of Highways, Transport and Planning, introduced the report with a presentation (copy appended to the signed minutes), which explained the background to the restructure and some of the changes.

154.3 The Committee made a number of comments including those that follow. It:

- Welcomed the fact that there will be no overall staff reductions although were concerned at the reduction in the number of Area Highway Managers.
- Welcomed that this restructure will result in an expansion of the commercial activity and that there will be a dedicated team to monitor the quality of the new contract.
- Raised concerns around the lack of consultation with members.

Resolved – That the Committee-

1. Support the reorganisation with the expectation of obtaining feedback from members on how the changes have been implemented.
2. Will review in April 2021 unless there are serious problems in the meantime.

155. Licensing of Tables and Chairs on the Highway

155.1 The Committee considered a report by Director of Highways, Transport and Planning (copy appended to the signed minutes).

155.2 Mike Thomas, Highways Area Manager introduced the report with a presentation (copy appended to the signed minutes), which set out the background and the results of the public consultation. Representations regarding tables and chairs had been made in the past by a number of organisations including the RNIB.

155.3 The Committee made a number of comments including those that follow. It:

- Welcomed the policy as it gives clarity to businesses that a licence is required and it will ensure that the pavements are safe for all users.
- Was disappointed to hear that there were so few responses to the consultation from affected businesses.
- Questioned why there were so few licences already in place.

- Requested that the wider issue of licences and obstructions on the highway be discussed at a future Business Planning Group.

Resolved – That the Committee:-

1. Supports the policy.
2. Asks the Business Planning Group to review the adequacy of the existing policies relating to all obstructions on the highway.

156. Appointment of new member to Business Planning Group

156.1 The Committee noted the vacancy for a member of the Minority group on the Business Planning Group.

156.2 The Committee agreed to the appointment of Mr Quinn.

157. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

157.1 The Committee considered the Forward Plan dated 2 March 2020 (a copy appended to the signed minutes).

157.2 The Committee requested that the Review of the Integrated Parking Strategy be added to the agenda for next meeting of the Committee on 24 June 2020.

158. Establishment of a Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group

158.1 The Committee agreed to the establishment of a Task and Finish Group with the expectation that it would meet in April with no more than two meetings. The second meeting if required, would be in early May.

158.2 Mr Barnard, Mr Barrett-Miles and Mr McDonald agreed to become members and that the opportunity would be made available to those members who were unable to attend the Committee today. In addition, two volunteers would be sought from the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee.

159. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 24 June 2020 at 10.30am at County Hall, Chichester. Probable agenda items include:

- Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Household Waste Recycling Sites
- Local Flood Risk Management Plan
- Waste Strategy TFG
- Waste Strategy
- BPG Report
- Approval of Work Programme for 2020/21

Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the meeting must notify the Director of Law and Assurance by 12 June 2020.

The meeting ended at 3.25 pm

Chairman