

**MINUTES of the meeting of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 March 2012 at 7.00pm.**

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**Present:** Councillors Bukky Okunade (Chair), Tom Kelly, Martin Healy (substituting for Aaron Kiely), Joy Redsell (Substituting for Garry Hague) and Gerard Rice

**Apologies:** Councillors Garry Hague, Aaron Kiely and Shane Hebb

**In attendance:** S. Cox – Assistant Chief Executive  
C. Lambert – Regeneration and Sustainability Manager  
B. Newman – Director of Sustainable Communities  
J. Clark – Implementation and Parking Services Manager  
M. Boulter- Principal Democratic Services Officer  
K. Marin – Senior Democratic Services Officer

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**1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 January 2012 were approved as a correct record.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Healy declared a personal interest in relation to Item 5 by virtue that Grays town centre sat within his ward.

**3. BID TO CLG FOR GRAYS TO BE A PILOT TOWN TEAM**

Officers informed the Committee that they planned to bid for £100,000 worth of funding to improve Grays town centre. This would involve establishing a town team and involving the community in decisions about how Grays town centre should develop. Competition was high but the Council believed Grays had a uniqueness to it, including the new campus, which might prove successful. As part of the re-design the Council would need to rethink uses for vacant buildings such as the State Cinema and the magistrates court.

The Committee highlighted the importance of heritage and officers replied that this was part of the bid and would be considered in the overall project. One councillor suggested relaxing parking charges and improving the greenery in the centre could attract more visitors and prove popular.

It was confirmed that councillors would be involved in the town team and that if the bid failed, the Council would continue to pursue section 106 money for the project.

**RESOLVED that:**

- i) The Committee agree to the development of a 'Town Team' funding bid for Grays in partnership with local stakeholders based on the approach set out in this report.**
- ii) The Committee agree to delegate the approval and submission of the bid documents to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regeneration in consultation with the Assistant Chief Executive.**
- iii) The Committee agree to provide match funding to the bid through the allocation of existing S.106 monies for use in Grays Town Centre to develop the town team and its work.**
- iv) If the bid is unsuccessful, agree to continue work with stakeholders and develop a phased approach to Town Centre Management in Grays from within existing resources. Including the development of a Grays Loyalty Card with Grays Shopping Centre and a cross council working group to look at town centre issues.**

**4. INTEGRATION OF THURROCK THAMES GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TTGDC) FUNCTIONS**

Cabinet and Audit Committee had both commented on the work of the integration. Orders for the transfer of certain liabilities, assets and powers had been agreed in Parliament on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and the ICT and office facilities were currently being tested before staff moved into the Civic Offices.

One Councillor asked whether Planning Committee agendas would remain short as the Development Corporation often produced lengthy reports. Officers stated that complex applications would require complex reports but the aim was to keep reports digestible for Members. Officers also agreed to investigate the final arrangements relating to the DP Port to ensure this was able to progress.

The Assistant Chief Executive confirmed that all information and assurances relating to liabilities, assets and cancelled projects would be gathered before final transfers were made.

**RESOLVED that the Committee note the progress being made in preparing for the transfer of functions from TTGDC to the Council.**

**5. AMENDMENTS TO THURROCK HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE POLICY GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS**

It was explained to the Committee that efficiency savings had meant that road maintenance levels and frequency could not be maintained. The amended policy reflected this and gave the Council more time to repair certain jobs, including potholes. The amended policy also allowed the Council to better withstand insurance claims for damaged vehicles as it would be working within the timeframes of its maintenance policy. For 2010-11 the level of damages claims to the Council had risen to £191,000.

Officers clarified a number of procedural changes. With regards to drainage, the existing budgetary provision mainly allows for cleaning to be undertaken reactively. Timeframes for certain street light maintenance activities had also been extended. It was raised that Tilbury suffered particularly bad flooding due to its position in the borough and officers were asked to make a special exception to Tilbury within the policy with regards to drain cleaning.

The Committee discussed potholes briefly and officers clarified that the Council had improved pothole maintenance by investing in the Council's own highways team to undertake the work and where feasible, to co-ordinate repairs.

**RESOLVED that the amendments to the Thurrock Highway Maintenance and Network Management Policy Guidance and Standards, shown in Appendix 1, are approved.**

## **6. WORK PROGRAMME 2012-13**

The Committee discussed future work items and suggested the following:

- East facing slips on Junction 30/31
- Community Regeneration Strategy Implementation Plan
- Examination of the alternative river crossing
- Transport Strategy Refresh (up to 2026)
- Sites Allocations
- Review of policies in Core Strategy
- Role of Thurrock Council as the lead for South Essex Transport Board.
- Bus Services

**The meeting finished at 7.56pm.**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
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or alternatively e-mail [mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk)**

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