

**MINUTES of the meeting of Planning, Transport and Regeneration  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9 January 2014 at 7.00pm**

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**Present:** Councillors Gary Hague (Chair), Charles Curtis, Oliver Gerrish, Steve Liddiard (substitute for Councillor Rice)

**Apologies:** Councillors Gerard Rice, Pauline Tolson

**In attendance:** D. Bull – Director of Planning  
M. Essex – Regeneration  
B. Jackson – Highways and Transportation  
T. Rignall - Regeneration  
J. Natynczyk – Democratic Services  
M. Kiely – Highways and Transportation

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The Chair reminded everyone present that this meeting would be recorded for publication on the Council's website and would normally be available within 3 working days of the meeting.

It was also agreed that agenda item 8 (Provision and Delivery of Skills and Training to Meet Employment Opportunities in the Ports, Logistics and Transport Sector), would be brought forward to agenda item 5.

**13. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2013, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**14. PROVISION AND DELIVERY OF SKILLS AND TRAINING TO MEET EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PORTS, LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORT SECTOR**

Officers set the context for this report, prior to the presentation and explained that its purpose was to present the draft findings of consultants commissioned to establish the skills and training needs of the ports, transport and logistics sector and to consider how these might be best met.

The Chair welcomed Kristine Beuret, Director, Social Research Associates and Steve Rinsler, Director, Bisham Consulting to the meeting, who gave a presentation on their draft findings and drew attention to their recommendations.

The Chair thanked Kristine Beuret and Steve Rinsler for their presentation and invited Members to ask questions/comment on the proposals:

- Would higher level strategic training be available for local people? – yes, there would be opportunities at all levels;
- It was noted that local businesses welcomed these proposals, for example, DP World had received a presentation and feedback was very positive;
- It was felt that the college would be instrumental in the process and the involvement of local schools was to be welcomed;
- The possibility of the co-ordination role being sponsored by the Business Board was raised;
- Good examples of similar schemes elsewhere –The hotel and catering trade was home to some good schemes with the Further Education College of Food and Catering in Birmingham being highlighted as a particular success;
- Premises – It was possible that there could be a centre dedicated to the scheme in the next 4 or 5 years;
- Collaborative working – previous rivalry amongst businesses in this sector had been replaced with a more collaborative approach in recent years. This was also assisting in the area of information technology;
- Organisations representing local businesses in this field – There were several organisations and ways of involving them needed to be explored further;

The Chair thanked Kristine Beuret and Steve Rinsler for making their presentation.

**RESOLVED that the draft recommendations, detailed in the slides presented to this meeting, be endorsed and referred to cabinet for approval.**

**ACTION: HEAD OF REGENERATION**

**15. 2014/15 – 17/18 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Members were informed that this report set out the suggested programme of work for spending the Department for Transport's funding allocation. The report also detailed capital measures to be delivered for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund schemes. Finally, the report indentified a supplementary four year Highways and Transport Capital Programme (2014/15 to 2017/18) that would arrest decline in the Thurrock Highway infrastructure.

Members opinion was particularly sought on the supplementary four year Highways and Transport Capital Programme, with the intention to spend £10m over the next 4 years, which could really make a difference.

Members asked questions/commented as follows:

- Members of the Committee fully endorsed the proposals in the report, including the £10m expenditure over the next 4 years;
- Sale of land – it was confirmed that approximately £4m income would be generated from sale of land and just over half of this would fund the four year Highways and Transport Capital Programme;
- Addressing intensity of traffic – This was covered in the integrated transport bidding and the authority could be awarded £120-130m to address these issues. Substantial funds were also being provided for other schemes, including £150m for Junction 30;
- Residents complaints about the state of roads, particularly potholes – the £10m would help address this problem. It was also noted that the in-house costs, relating to this type of work had been significantly reduced.

**RESOLVED that the Committee's comments be noted, including the endorsement of the £10m expenditure over the next 4 years.**

**ACTION: HEAD OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS**

## **16. LOCAL BUS SERVICES**

Members were informed that this report explained how local bus routes were administered throughout the country and how local authorities could assist such services where they felt the need was required. This report also explained why transport links were vital to all members of the community.

Members commented as follows:

- There was a need to address the way forward, in terms of budget and future strategies from 2015 onwards. The remit needed to look at best practice and other sources of income and involve businesses in terms of employees accessing industrial and retail areas. Building relationships with local bus companies was also fundamental to being successful. Promoting cycling was also crucial.

**RESOLVED that**

1. a Working Group be established to consider the issues raised in the report and the comments above;
2. the Working Group consider the terms of reference, based on the comments detailed at this meeting, at its first meeting.

**ACTION: HEAD OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS**

**17. THE CONSIDERATION OF ROAD SAFETY MEASURES OUTSIDE SCHOOLS**

Members were informed that the purpose of this report was to consider a request to investigate road safety around all schools in Thurrock.

Members were asked to raise any concerns about specific schools, directly with Officers.

**RESOLVED** that the current system of prioritisation for road safety measures in and around schools, as detailed in paragraph 3.2 be endorsed and that measures be determined as appropriate and according to the problems/issues that are determined for each individual school. Measures will be determined and delivered through the Capital Integrated Transport Programme with the support of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund budget allocation.

**18. WORK PROGRAMME**

Attention was drawn to the Work Programme.

The following items were added to the Work Programme, for consideration at the next meeting:

- Issues faced by local haulage companies;
- London Gateway;
- Purfleet Centre Project (Preferred Bidder);
- Grays South.

It was also noted that in view of the fact that the next meeting was the last of the current municipal year and the heavy workload of the Committee, it might be necessary to convene an additional meeting.

Finally, Members raised the issue of Tilbury Ferry.

It was agreed that the outcome for the procurement of the new tender should be awaited, before convening a working group to look at this issue.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1. the Work Programme be noted and the additional items detailed above, be included;**
- 2. the outcome of the procurement for the new Tilbury Ferry tender be awaited, before convening a working group to look at this issue.**

**ACTION: 1 HEAD OF REGENERATION**

**ACTION: 2. HEAD OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS**

**The meeting finished at 8.55pm**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
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