

## MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON

2 July 2008

7.30pm-8.45pm

### PRESENT

### COUNCILLORS

Linda Pailing (Chairman)

Nick Churchill  
Joshua Jolles

Tony Durcan  
Patrick McClarnon

Mark Gough  
Nick Macy

### APOLOGIES

Mike Garnett

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 2. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2008 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Update on Freeview in Harlow  
(Minute 52 Refers)

Members noted that the promised further report would be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

- (b) Sustainability Review – Report Back  
(Minute 54 Refers)

It was noted that there would be an opportunity for Members to reconsider whether to continue with this review, when the 2008/09 Work Plan was considered later in the meeting (See Minute 7).

4. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S BRIEFING**

The Chairman outlined the scrutiny role of this Committee and how she hoped to further the success of the previous reviews, which the Committee had undertaken.

She highlighted possible items for consideration for inclusion in the Committee's work programme for 2008/09 and explained that it may be necessary to run two reviews concurrently in order to fulfil all the tasks that Members set themselves.

One of her proposals for inclusion in the work programme was a health review, for which she proposed working with Uttlesford and Epping Forest District Councils. However, she envisaged that this would not begin until the second half of the year, as preliminary preparatory work needed to be undertaken before the review commenced.

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) the Chairman's briefing be noted;
- (b) the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the scrutiny committees at Uttlesford and Epping Forest District Councils be invited to a meeting, with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee, for preliminary discussions regarding a possible health review.

6. **TRANSPORTATION REVIEW – SCHOOL RUN**

Members noted that this Committee's recommendation to the Environment & Community Committee on this issue, had been referred back to this Committee with a request for a more detailed report.

This Committee received a more detailed report with a proposal to resubmit the recommendation for a task force, to the Environment & Community Committee.

Members agreed to resubmit the recommendation together with the more detailed report and further recommendations, which they hoped would contribute to finding a solution for the problems of parking associated with the school run.

**RECOMMENDED TO ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE** that

- (a) a Task Force be established (School Run Task Force), incorporating representatives from Essex County and Harlow District Councils, the police, school governing bodies and other interested parties, to work constructively to produce solutions to school run and congestion problems;
- (b) the Council's parking wardens be requested to patrol problem parking areas around schools, as a priority;
- (c) the Harlow Educational Consortium be requested to facilitate the implementation of School Travel Plans for all Harlow's schools by the end of the year and a progress report be submitted to the December 2008 meeting of this Committee.

7. **SCRUTINY WORKPLAN 2008/09**

The Committee received a report proposing that a Work Plan should be developed from suggestions received from members of the Committee.

During the meeting, Members produced an ambitious list of possible reviews which they would like to undertake in the coming year. However, it became clear that due to the large number of suggestions, the Committee might not have the time to complete all the reviews in the timescale.

It was therefore, agreed that the proposed reviews should be prioritised, linked together where possible and collated into those reviews which could be undertaken by Task and Finish Working Parties and those which would be undertaken by the Committee.

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) the list of proposed reviews be e-mailed to members of the Committee for each Member to identify their top three reviews requests in priority order; and to state which of the reviews they would prefer to participate in;
- (b) the replies from members of the Committee be translated into a practicable Committee Forward Work Plan by the Scrutiny Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

8. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

9. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chairman of the Committee ruled the following item as a matter of urgent business in order that training could take place before the next meeting of this Committee.

(a) **Scrutiny Training for Members**

The Committee received an invitation for a one day scrutiny training event, together with a draft example programme for the day.

**RESOVED** that the training invitation be declined in favour of a more informal approach.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE