

GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday, 9 December 2009 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 2.40 pm.

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Patrick Greene – in the Chair

Councillor David Nimmo-Smith
Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale
Councillor Charles Mathew
Councillor Anne Purse
Councillor Keith Strangwood
Councillor John Tanner
Councillor David Turner
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner
Councillor Stewart Lilly

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Ian Hudspeth (for Agenda Items 5 & 6)
Councillor Rodney Rose (for Items 5 & 6)

By Invitation:

Officers:

Whole of meeting Corporate Performance & Review Manager, S. Whitehead (Corporate Core), C. Brodie-Levinsohn (Corporate Core)

Part of meeting

Agenda Item Officer Attending

5. Director for Environment & Economy, L. Baxter (Financial Planning), Head of Transport, S. Kent (Environment & Economy), T. Paul (Finance Business Partner), D. Waller (Planning), Head of Property
6. Head of Transport

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports are attached to the signed Minutes.

24/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies for absence and temporary appointments were received as follows:

Apology from	Temporary Appointment
Councillor Michael Gibbard	Councillor Stewart Lilley

25/09 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

Councillor David Turner expressed disappointment that the discussion on the Park & Ride did not include comments from him in relation to the lack of bus shelters on the High Street and the resulting additional car journeys from people not prepared to wait at a bus stop with no shelter from the weather.

RESOLVED: to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2009 subject to the inclusion of the above comments under Minute No. 17/09.

26/09 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda No. 4)

The Chairman has agreed the following request to address the meeting:-

Item	Speaker
5. Service & Resource Planning 2010/11 – 2014/15	Mr A. Day, member of the public

27/09 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING

(Agenda No. 5)

Mr Day highlighted reference in the report to cost savings from waste management and referred to a scheme he had that looked at the same problem from the point of view of energy savings. He outlined what he saw as the advantages of his proposal which included profitability and financial advantage and asked that officers be authorised to discuss the matter with him.

The Chairman stated that Mr Day had made a proposal for a review that would come to the February meeting. The Director for Economy & Environment made it clear that there could be no negotiation around the procurement process with any individuals.

Mr Day responded to a question from Councillor Mathew and outlined his background as a physicist and his experience over 35 years as an architect involved in planning issues. He had no financial, business or commercial interest with anyone in connection with the scheme.

The Committee received a presentation on the papers before them and following a lengthy discussion the following points were made:

- There was some support for the re-introduction of weekend and evening charges 'on street';
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- To look to find new areas of 'on road' charging in areas such as Summertown.
- To ask Cabinet to increase residents parking charges
- To ask Cabinet to ensure consistency of on road/off street charges,
- There was some support for the policy of not charging for 'Park and Ride' parking to be revisited in line with the recent question and answer session on 'Park & Ride'.
- To ask Cabinet to ensure congestion charging is looked at as part of LTP3.
- EE1 – There was a need to ensure staff reductions do not affect service delivery
- EE14 – It was suggested that the targets for light switching off be increased
- EE2 & 14 – Look to increase car allowance savings over the period of the plan and encourage the adoption of this approach across the Council
- EE24 - Increase the target of trade waste saving if economically viable.

It was suggested that the savings be used for:

- the building maintenance programme and further that consideration be given to recharging that programme across all directorates. EE40 was seen as unsatisfactory.
- Tourism –additional resources should be prioritised to the Olympics and there was some discussion as to whether it should be used in the build up to or after the Olympics to take advantage of the general boost expected at that time.

Other points:

- Councillor Mathew strongly endorsed the OCC Highways Drainage and other Pitt Review Flooding recommendations

Councillor Mathew asked that he be recorded as being against the re-introduction of weekend and evening charges and the consideration of congestion charging. Councillor David Nimmo-Smith expressed strong opposition to the introduction of any charges at park and ride sites.

Where a view was expressed members felt that they would wish to see the Council tax rise limited to below 3%, although accepting that it would need to be over 2%.

RESOLVED: to agree to advise Cabinet via the Strategy & Partnership Committee of the views expressed above.

(Councillors Purse and David Turner abstained from the voting)

28/09 RE-TENDERING OF THE HIGHWAYS CONTRACT
(Agenda No. 6)

The Committee received an update on the re-tendering of the highways contract. The intention was to take a report to the March Cabinet meeting with the contract start date on 1 July 2010.

The Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure thanked officers and in particular the Head of Transport for their efforts to ensure a contract would be in place. Councillor Anne Purse added her thanks to Peter Mann for all his work.

Responding to a question from Councillor David Nimmo-Smith, Steve Howell, Head of Transport indicated that from 7 bidders who had put in a quality submission 3 had got through to the latest stage which was about cost and how the contract would be delivered.

29/09 FORWARD PLAN
(Agenda No. 7)

No items were identified for the next meeting.

30/09 INFORMATION SHARE
(Agenda No. 8)

Members noted the following information and updates. .

Subject Matter	Document
the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) has released its response to the consultation on draft PPS15. the County Archaeology Officer will produce a note on ALGAO's response including a copy of ALGAO's response and a copy of the draft PPS in case members have not already seen it and this will be circulated to all members of the Committee.	None
LTP 3 Working Group Update	Noted an update from Councillor David Nimmo-Smith
Scrutiny of Flooding Learning Network – 24 November 2009	Noted a Briefing note. Agreed that an item on flooding be included on the next agenda if possible.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2010