

GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Monday, 20 December 2010 commencing at 8.00 am and finishing at 10.05 am

Present:

Voting Members:

Councillor David Nimmo-Smith – in the Chair

Councillor Michael Gibbard

Councillor Stewart Lilly (In place of Councillor Keith Strangwood)

Councillor Charles Mathew

Councillor Zoé Patrick (In place of Councillor Anne Purse)

Councillor Lawrie Stratford (In place of Councillor Pete Handley)

Councillor John Tanner

Councillor Melinda Tilley (In place of Councillor Roger Belson)

Councillor David Turner

Councillor Nicholas P. Turner (Deputy Chairman)

Other Members in Attendance:

Councillor Ian Hudspeth

Officers:

Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Deputy Director Environment & Economy – Highways and Transport, Deputy Director Environment & Economy – Growth and Infrastructure; L. Johnston, S. Whitehead (Chief Executive's Office)

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting. Copies of the agenda, reports and schedule are attached to the signed Minutes.

38/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Belson (Councillor Tilley substituting), Councillor Handley (Councillor Stratford substituting), Councillor Purse (Councillor Patrick substituting) and Councillor Strangwood (Councillor Lilly substituting).

Apologies were also recorded from Councillor Rodney Rose, Cabinet Member for Transport who was unwell (Councillor Hudspeth, cabinet member for Growth and Infrastructure attending on his behalf).

39/10 MINUTES
(Agenda No. 3)

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2010 be considered at the next meeting.

40/10 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE
(Agenda No. 4)

The following request to address the meeting had been agreed:

Item 5 – Mr Day

41/10 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2010/11-2014/15
(Agenda No. 5)

The Committee considered a report (**GI5**) containing the Business Strategies and savings proposed for their service areas.

Mr Day spoke on the growth and infrastructure proposals relating to waste management, supporting an alternative approach.

There was general agreement on all of the proposals, but the Committee AGREED to recommend the Cabinet to bear the following points in mind when making decisions:

Transport [Highways; traffic and parking; road safety (those areas not covered by the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee); public passenger transport]

- The Committee supported in principle the Park and Ride charging proposals, and recommend that that any parking charge system introduced is easy to implement and understand but also spreads charges fairly across user groups, in particular bearing in mind those who Park and cycle and those who park and do not go into the City.
- There is a need to ensure we are achieving maximum savings from contractual arrangements with Partners
- It is important that we realise opportunities to explore retail opportunities at Park and Ride sites for future income generation
- Any changes to levels of bus subsidy need to be very carefully considered, particularly taking into account subsidies needed for new bus routes.

Growth & Infrastructure [Regional planning and local development framework; economic development; waste management; environmental management; archaeology; access to the countryside; tourism]

- It was agreed that any energy saving proposals need to have sound business cases sitting behind them.

- The impact of changes to waste recycling centres on present and likely future communities need to be carefully considered.
- Opportunities for working with partners on some Council services should be explored for future budget proposals.

Capital

- The committee was in general agreement that any movement in Capital would be helpful in addressing issues in Highways Maintenance.

During the discussion Councillor Mathew referred to empty council properties in his division and the need to ensure that property assets were managed to maximise earnings. He asked that consideration be given to an urgent review.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing