

MINUTES of the meeting of the **TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE** held at 10.00am on Thursday 3rd March 2011 at County Hall, Kingston upon Thames.

These Minutes will be confirmed by the Select Committee at its next meeting on 13th May 2011.

Members:

- * Mr. David Ivison (Chairman)
- * Mr. Mike Bennison (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mr. Stephen Cooksey
Mr. Graham Ellwood
Mrs. Pat Frost
- * Mr. John Furey
- * Mr. David Goodwin
- * Mrs. Frances King
- * Mr. Tom Phelps-Penry
- * Mr. Steve Renshaw

Ex officio Members:

Mr. Geoff Marlow (Chairman of the Council)
Mrs. Lavinia Sealy (Vice Chairman of the Council)

Cabinet Member for Transport:

Mr. Ian Lake

Other Members Present:

- * = Present
- x = Present for part of the meeting

PART 1

IN PUBLIC

14/11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]**

Apologies were received from Ian Lake.

15/11 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 7th January 2011 [Item 2]**

It was agreed that the following addition be made to the second bullet point of minute 07/11:

“The Committee also emphasised the importance of portfolio holder and Member involvement”.

It was agreed that the following addition be made to the third bullet point of minute 11/11:

“Members also felt that reviews should not be implemented at all if there is no funding available. This would avoid creating false expectations”.

It was agreed that the following amendment be made to the sixth bullet point of minute 12/11:

“*Some* Members were generally supportive of the concept of the introduction of on-street parking charges”.

It was agreed that the following addition be made to minute 12/11:

“Members felt that on-street parking charges would be better considered as part of an holistic review incorporating other issues such as Controlled Parking Zones”.

The Minutes of the meeting were otherwise agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

16/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS [Item 3]

There were no declarations of personal interests.

17/11 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]

There were no questions or petitions.

18/11 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE TO ISSUES REFERRED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE [Item 5]

Review of On-Street Parking Charges:

- Members expressed concern that they were only being consulted on how parking charges will be implemented rather than the policy itself.
- Members highlighted the fact that there is a large amount of opposition from Boroughs, Districts and Local Committees and were concerned that these opinions would not be taken into account.
- The Chairman of the Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Member for Transport expressing support for the view that all surplus funding received from the scheme should be retained by Local Committees, who should be able to make decisions on where it is spent. The committee also felt that funding should be made available for a full parking review.

19/11 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKING [Item 6]

Noted the Forward Work Programme and Recommendations Tracker.

20/11 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS [Item 7]

Witnesses:

Diane Mackay, Audit Performance Manager.
Dominic Forbes, Planning and Development Group Manager.

Key points raised during the discussion:

- Officers provided an overview of the audit regarding the Knoll Roundabout and Epsom Road improvement schemes. Members were informed that local Highways Managers took the report to Local Committees last year listing a number of alternative schemes.
- Local Members were unhappy at the fact that they were unable to obtain specific information regarding this scheme, and felt that Local Highways officers failed to perform their duty in this case. This lack of engagement with Members and the public has led to the belief that the scheme did not deliver what was intended.
- Officers stated that what the scheme delivered equated to the money spent.
- Members raised concerns that the overspend on this scheme occurred as a result of a lack of control mechanisms. Officers responded that there are now such measures in place, including monthly budget meetings and quarterly scheme by scheme meetings.
- Mole Valley Local Committee have changed their planning procedure so that any scheme that experiences changes in excess of 10% is brought back to the Local Committee or the Chairman/Vice Chairman for review.
- The Chairman of the Committee congratulated Mole Valley for taking the decision to request an audit report on the scheme.
- The Committee requested to receive a Management Action Plan outlining what has changed in the planning process for such schemes.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Recommendations:

None.

Select Committee next steps:

That future audit reports and Management Action Plans be sent to the relevant Local Committee for review.

21/11 **INTERIM REPORT OF THE WINTER TASK GROUP [Item 8]**

Witnesses:

Simon Mitchell, Maintenance Plan Team Leader.
Jenny Isaac, Assistant Director, Operations, Highways and Countryside.

Key points raised during the discussion:

- The Chairman of the Committee emphasised the need to consider public expectations regarding the subject of grit bins, as compared to neighbouring authorities Surrey has very few. Some Members also felt that more grit bins should be made available. The Chairman of the Task Group responded that proposals to introduce a £1,000 charge for maintenance and refilling of a bin over a five-year period would help to achieve this.
- Members stated they would like to see the current increased level of salt stocks to be maintained, as in the most recent instance of severe winter weather additional salt had to be imported from abroad.
- Although some Members reported that local residents were embracing 'self-help', the Chairman of the Committee felt that awareness needed to be raised further.
- The Committee was informed that the Task Group will send its draft report to Local Committees for consultation.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Recommendations:

None.

Select Committee next steps:

The Committee will receive the Task Group's report prior to Cabinet's July meeting.

22/11 **SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR THE ON-STREET PARKING TASK GROUP [Item 9]**

Witnesses:

Jenny Isaac, Assistant Director Operations, Highways and Countryside.

Key points raised during the discussion:

- Members expressed concern that they were not provided with an adequate opportunity to input into the implementation process.
- The Spokesman of the On-Street Parking Task Group stated that although the proposals have been issued, Local Committees will have the opportunity to make alternative suggestions.
- Representatives of Local Committees will be invited to attend meetings of the Task Group in order to be consulted regarding the group's final recommendations.

Actions/further to information to be provided:

None.

Recommendations:

None.

Select Committee next steps:

The Committee will receive the Task Group's report to Cabinet in May.

23/11 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2011/12 – 2014/15 [Item 10]**

Witnesses: Susan Smyth, Senior Finance Manager.

Key points raised during the discussion:

- The Vice Chairman expressed concerns regarding the fact that money can be vired from budgets in order to cover shortcomings elsewhere. Suggested there should be a contingency instead. Officers responded that wherever possible they try not to vire money, and that there is a central contingency in place.
- Issue was raised with the fact that £1.3 million is to be spent on pay and display machines, while only half that amount has been spent on flooding and drainage.

Actions/further information to be provided:

Officers to provide the Vice Chairman of the Committee with a copy of virement rules.

Resolved:

The Committee noted the draft budget report.

Select Committee next steps:

None.

24/11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 11]**

- 13th May, 2011 at 10.00am in Merrow.

[Meeting Ended: 12.10pm]

Chairman