

MINUTES of the meeting of the **ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS BOARD** held at 10.30 am on 11 June 2015 at Ashcombe, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2DN.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Board at its meeting on Wednesday 9 September 2015.

Elected Members:

- * Mr David Harmer (Chairman)
- * Mr Bob Gardner (Vice-Chairman)
- * Mrs Nikki Barton
- Mr Mike Bennison
- Mrs Natalie Bramhall
- * Mr Stephen Cooksey
- * Mr Steve Cosser
- * Mrs Pat Frost
- * Mr David Goodwin
- * Dr Zully Grant-Duff
- * Mr Ken Gulati
- * Mr Peter Hickman
- * Mr George Johnson
- * Mr Richard Wilson
- * Mrs Victoria Young

In attendance

John Furey, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding
Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning
Peter Martin, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Lead for Economic Prosperity

1/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Apologies were received from Mr Mike Bennison and Mrs Natalie Bramhall. Mr Michael Sydney substituted for Mike Bennison.

2/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 23 APRIL 2015 & 18 MAY 2015 [Item 2]

These were agreed as a true record of the previous meeting.

3/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

4/15 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS [Item 4]

There were none.

5/15 RESPONSES FROM THE CABINET TO ISSUES REFERRED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE [Item 5]

There were no responses from the Cabinet

6/15 RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKER AND FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME [Item 6]

1. Members highlighted two typos, one on page 18 "A meeting for the MRG has been scheduled for 30 March 2015", which should have stated that an MRG meeting was held on 30 March 2015; and page 21 "The next MRG has been organised for 17 April 2015", which should have stated that an MRG meeting was held on 17 April 2015.
2. One Member questioned why the Task and Member Reference Groups document did not contain information regarding the Basingstoke Canal Member Reference Group. The Chairman of the Committee informed Members that Cllr Tony Samuels had been invited to contribute to a task group meeting.

7/15 CABINET MEMBER PRIORITIES UPDATE [Item 7]

Witnesses:

Cabinet Members

John Furey, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding
Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning
Peter Martin, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Lead for Economic Prosperity

Officers

Trevor Pugh, Strategic Director Environment and Infrastructure
Ian Boast, Assistant Director for Environment
Jason Russell, Assistant Director for Highways and Transport

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Members responsible to the board gave an update on their key priorities for the coming year. A Cabinet member priority document had been sent to the board in advance of the meeting.
2. One Member felt that small businesses in Waverley were being impacted by congestion. The Board were informed that planned improvements to the A3 in the Guildford area would help improve congestion in areas such as Waverley.
3. Officers were questioned over whether money should be focused on projects such as the A3 development which encourages people to commute to London when more funds could be diverted towards developing the local area. Officers responded by stating that Surrey is also a big importer of employees which helps drive the economy and that major projects such as the A3 development are essential in increasing connectivity.
4. Members made reference to the increased integration between contractors and Surrey County Council, stating that although there is a benefit in this, there were concerns over accountability and separation. Officers assured the Board that although they are encouraging greater integration, Surrey still remains the client role that will monitor and evaluate development independently.

8/15 LOCAL TRANSPORT REVIEW: DRAFT CABINET REPORT [Item 8]

Witnesses:

Paul Millin, Travel and Transport Group Manager
Nick Meadows, Project Consultant
Ian Boast, Assistant Director for Environment
Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning

Key points raised during the meeting:

1. Officers reported that there had been positive contribution from residents to both consultations of the local transport review. One of the key issues highlighted during the consultation was the bus route to St Peters hospital.
2. The Chairman of the Board questioned that if - as officers had explained within their summary of the report – the proposal will be continually refined up until it is taken to Cabinet on 23 June 2015, how will the Board remain fully informed as to what will be going to Cabinet. Officers assured the Board that any changes would be minor, but that a copy of the final recommendation will be circulated among the Members of this Board by 19 June 2015 prior to it going to Cabinet.
3. Members expressed the need for a platform to voice opinions on specific issues and concerns with regards to local transport. Officers recognised this and assured members they would assess the options for such a platform and report back.

4. One Member spoke of a petition against alterations to route 22 that was not mentioned within the second consultation report. Officers stated that they were not aware of this petition but that they would be willing to factor it in to the results of the second consultation report. It was noted that some bus services on average had two users daily.
5. Members discussed the impact on patronage from the proposed changes and questioned officers on how these impacts could be measured. Members felt there needed to be a means of reporting resident's issues with services. Officers stated that determining impacts on patronage from specific initiatives is very difficult as changes often come with a series of new measures. Officers assured the Board that regular reviews of the service would be administered.
6. Members questioned officers over what measures were in place to increase users on existing services. Officers informed the Board that smart ticketing and real time passenger information formed part of a drive to increase the number of passenger on existing services.
7. Members questioned officers over what measures were being taken to improve connectivity between bus and train services, as some Members felt this would increase patronage. Officers stated that they were working with South West Trains to improve connectivity and assured Members of their commitment to improve this.
8. The Board congratulated officers on the level of hard work and the breadth of the consultation.

Recommendations:

- a) The Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board reviewed and commented on the Local Transport Review draft cabinet report, ahead of it being shared with Cabinet on 23 June 2015.
- b) The Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board agreed that the Travel and Transport group manager circulate to all members of EPEH and those members directly affected by the changes to the bus routes, the recommendations that will be submitted to Cabinet as part of the local transport review by 19 June 2015.

Actions:

None

9/15 INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW OF BUS OPERATING CONTRACTS [Item 9]

Witnesses:

Siva Sanmugarajah, Lead Auditor
Paul Millin, Travel and Transport Group Manager
Ian Boast, Assistant Director for Environment
Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning

Key points raised during the meeting:

1. The Lead Auditor stated that she was happy that work is being done to address the key issues highlighted as part of the audit report.
2. Members questioned when the Internal Audit of Bus Operating Contracts should next be reviewed. Officers informed the Board that another review would be necessary in 12 months time.
3. Members of the board asked for an update on the internal audit to return back to the board at the end of this year.

Recommendations:

The Economic Prosperity, Environment & Highways Board noted the Internal Audit Review of Bus Operating Contracts.

Actions:

- For an update on the Internal Audit Review of Bus Operating Contracts to return to the board in the autumn of this year.

The meeting adjourned at 12.45pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1.30pm.

10/15 THE AGREEMENT WITH SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S COUNTRYSIDE ESTATE: DRAFT CABINET REPORT [Item 10]

Witnesses:

Lisa Creaye-Griffin, Countryside Group Manager
Ian Boast, Assistant Director for Environment
Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning

Key points raised during the meeting:

1. Members asked whether Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) were aware of the proposed changes to the SWT agreement. Officers informed the Board that there had been discussions with SWT and that they agreed with the principle behind the need for change.
2. There was a discussion around what parts of the SWT estate had been reviewed, with specific reference made to the non-built and non-wood parts. Officers stated that all of the estate is reviewed under the Asset Management Plan and that each individual site would be subject to its own management plan. It was explained that each site would be reviewed every 5 years.

3. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning explained that the report going to Cabinet would be a joint report with the Cabinet member for business services and resident experience, Denise le Gal.
4. One Member stated the need to employ experts in agriculture and forestry to help manage the SWT estate. Officers assured the Board that future management plans would take into account any recognised need for staff.
5. Members expressed the view that an update on the SWT business plans should be considered by the Board before the November cabinet meeting. Members felt there needed to be closer monitoring of the asset management plan to ensure maximum income generation of the estate.

Recommendations:

The Board agreed the amendments outlined in the report to Cabinet.

Actions

- The Board requested that the Cabinet member for business services and resident experience attend a meeting of the board to discuss the property on the countryside estate.

11/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 9 SEPTEMBER 2015 [Item 11]

The next meeting will be held on 9 September at 10.30am in the Ashcombe Suite, County Hall.

Meeting ended at: 14.30

Chairman