

Environmental & Community Services Select Committee

10 February 2016 – At a meeting of the Select Committee held at 10.30 a.m. at County Hall, Chichester.

Present: Mr J Rogers (Chairman)

Mr Barrett-Miles	Dr Dennis	Mr Rae
Mrs Brunsdon	Mr M Jones*	Mrs Phillips
Mr Circus	Mr S Oakley	Mr Whittington

In attendance by invitation: Mr O'Brien (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport)

*Arrived at 10.47am

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Jones and Mr Tyler

Declarations of Interests

174. No interests were declared

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee

175. The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting and agreed that minute no 162, point 9, should be changed from: -

- Community Infrastructure Fund

To:

- Community Initiative Fund

176. With reference to minute 150, it was asked to be recorded that neither Mr Barrett-Miles nor Mrs Brunsdon had not agreed the content of the consultation.

177. Resolved – that subject to the amendment in minute no 175 above, the minutes of the Environmental and Community Services Select Committee held on 13 January 2016 be approved as a correct record, and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Draft Developer Contributions Policy and Process Schedules

178. The Committee considered a report by Acting Executive Director for Residents' Services and Strategic Planning Manager (copy appended to signed minutes)

179. Mike Elkington, Strategic Planning Manager introduced the report.

180. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

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- Highlighted the importance of local stakeholders being involved in setting priorities for funding and implementing the allocated budgets. This should include communities, parish councils, and borough and district councils. This funding must be put to good use to meet local plan objectives and other local priorities. This should include all relevant considerations such as cycling and walking priorities. County Local Committees were well placed to monitor this. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport confirmed that a Task and Finish Group was under way to finalise the future process and advised that the Group's report would be shared with the Committee. Annual reports could be shared with the Committee to monitor progress.
- Expressed concern that this funding had in the past been uncoordinated and that local stakeholders were not always properly involved. This at times had led to funding being lost or schemes being implemented without local support. Mike Elkington agreed that a clear and transparent process was important. The senior responsible officer (SRO) would be clearly identified and that person would take part in local negotiations as appropriate including through the liaison group.
- Emphasised the importance of long term planning when considering the impact of development, for example school growth would often occur some years after a development. Major growth such as the possible expansion of Gatwick Airport should be taken into account. It would be helpful for the Committee to receive an explanation of the work undertaken in planning school places.

181. Resolved – That the report be noted and the direction of travel be supported.

Bus Service Funding Update

182. The Committee considered a report by Director of Highways and Transport and Head of Transport and Countryside (copy appended to signed minutes)

183. David Crockford, Public and Mainstream Transport Team Leader introduced the report.

184. The Committee made comments including those that follow. It:

- Welcomed the generally positive overall picture for bus usage but recognised that the reduction in some services as a result of the withdrawal of subsidies will have had an adverse impact in some areas. Mr Crockford advised that the concessionary fares scheme for older people was one of the factors in the overall increase. Major operators had invested in improvements, for example to bus frequencies and fleets. The cost of motoring and parking could also be a factor.
- Noted that many areas have experienced a reduction in services in the evenings and on Sundays. Bus operator labour costs at these times make

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evening services, in particular, expensive to run and difficult to sustain commercially.

- Hoped that remaining subsidies could be sustained. Andy Ekinsmyth, Service Manager, Transport and Countryside, emphasised that subsidies were under constant review to guarantee maximum efficiency, and there were no savings targets at present. He highlighted that commercial operators could choose to amend or withdraw any commercial service at any time so the County Council sometimes had to be reactive. He confirmed that other potential sources of subsidy such as S106 agreements and funding from other local authorities were explored wherever possible.

185. Resolved – That the report be noted.

Business Planning Group Report

186. The Committee considered a report by the Chairman of the Business Planning Group (copy appended to the signed minutes).

187. In response to a concern about guidance on the Call-in process Ninesh Edwards, Democratic Services confirmed that it was the Monitoring Officer's role to give an independent view on what impact a Call-in might have on the County Council.

188. Resolved – That the Committee endorses the contents of the report and particularly the Committee's Work Programme for 2015/16 and 2016/17, revised to reflect the Business Planning Group's (BPG's) discussions.

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

189. The Committee considered the Forward Plan March to June 2016 (copy appended to signed minutes).

190. Resolved – That the Forward Plan be noted.

Possible items for Future Scrutiny

191. In response to a question about how any changes to the Scrutiny function as a result of budget reductions will be considered by select committees, Ninesh Edwards confirmed that members would be involved in due course.

Date of the Next Meeting

192. The Committee noted that its next scheduled meeting will take place on 11 March 2016 at 10.30am at County Hall, Chichester.

193. The Committee was invited to note that an additional meeting of the Committee was likely to be scheduled to consider the Cabinet Member's response to the consultation on the A27 in the Chichester area.

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The meeting ended at 12.50pm

Chairman