

AT A MEETING of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Wednesday, 20 July 2011.

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Ian Beagley

p Rupert Kyrle

p Adam Carew

p Steve Rippon-Swaine

a Vaughan Clarke

p Elaine Still

p Mark Cooper

p Marilyn Tucker

p Edward Heron

p Alan Weeks

Councillor Mel Kendal, Executive Member for Environment and Transport, was also in attendance.

79. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Vaughan Clarke, due to the change in meeting date.

80. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

Councillor Adam Carew declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in Item 5, as he is a Member of Whitehill Town Council.

Councillor Alan Weeks declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in Item 5, as he is Member of Totton Town Council.

81. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Committee held on 12 May 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the

Chairman.

Arising thereon:

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport accepted all of the recommendations made by the Environment and Transportation Select Committee at his decision day on 7 June regarding the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA). The PFRA was approved and had been submitted to the Environment Agency.

82. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The 'Councillor's Guide to Flooding', the main recommendation from the light touch review of Flooding agreed in January 2010, had now had full agreement and funding from the Executive Member for Policy & Resources. This Guide was currently in the process of being printed and distributed to all County, Borough and Parish Councillors within Hampshire.

The Minerals and Waste Plan had been delayed and would be scheduled to be heard at the September Cabinet and October Full Council meeting. Members agreed to place the Plan on the work programme for scrutiny in November 2011.

83. **REVIEW OF THE SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICE**

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport had previously agreed at his March 2011 decision meeting a programme to review existing subsidised bus services and the strategy for their support.

The Committee received the results of the consultation process, as well as the recommendations of the Bus Subsidy review due to be put to the Executive Member at his decision day on 27 July, from the Director for Economy, Transport and Environment. Members heard:

(Take in report and presentation)

- That feedback from Members during workshops has indicated the need for a 'rural' transport toolkit, which would inform residents of the services available in their local area, how to access such services and what to do if there's a gap in provision.
- That previous criteria for bus subsidies were financially based, where journeys with subsidies higher than £2.50 per passenger would not be commissioned. The recent review has shown that other factors other than cost need to be taken into account.
- That a new approach to bus subsidies had been sought, where the County Council took the initiative in approaching bus operators with a fixed budget,

For the Minerals and Waste Plan to be added to the November Select Committee Agenda.

That the Select Committee receive the timeline for implementation of the changes to bus subsidies and supported services following the Executive Member for Environment and Transport's Decision Day, and full details of the Council's engagement plans for informing stakeholder of such changes.

requesting service routes plans to be drawn up which best represented value and equity for the budget available.

- That five new taxi-shares are proposed following the review of bus subsidies. Taxi-shares, like buses, run to timetables and attract similar fares, but must be pre-booked. The saving in implementing taxi-share schemes comes from the reduction in total journeys made.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That the public will be informed of changes to the subsidised bus service by commercial bus companies, who have the primary responsibility for communicating changes to timetables and service. Hampshire County Council will be printing 11 travel guides that will help to inform local district and borough residents of travel routes and services in their area.
- That all new taxi-share services will be put in place before subsidised bus routes are withdrawn.
- That all taxi-share schemes are contracted and monitored internally.
- That a taxi-share scheme is a greener alternative to running regular buses without full occupancy.
- That taxi-share schemes could be renamed 'car-buses' in order to reflect the fact that their role is more similar to a bus than a taxi. This will be considered by the Executive Member.
- That capital funding has been used over the past five years to make bus services more appealing to the public, with the Council investing in bus stations and infrastructure, and supporting commercial operators to purchase accessible vehicles and upgrade fleets. As part of this, operators have been encouraged to provide greener options and reduce carbon emissions.
- That the changes to the bus subsidy program, if accepted, would make existing subsidised bus services more sustainable going into the future.
- That there is a rolling programme of passenger number monitoring, which will inform future decision making.
- That 70% of all tendered bus services are wheelchair accessible, and by 2017 all buses will legally have to have low-floor access. Currently, should passengers not be able to use a bus route, due to step buses still being in circulation, the 'One Community' minibus service will be able to provide the same route accessibly.
- That thanks should be given to the Head of Passenger Transport for his work on the Bus Subsidy Review.

A recorded vote took place on the recommendations as set out below.

For: Cllr Ian Beagley, Cllr Edward Heron, Cllr Geoff Hockley, Cllr Elaine Still, Cllr Steve

Rippon-Swaine, Cllr Marilyn Tucker and
Cllr Sharyn Wheale
Abstained: Cllr Adam Carew, Cllr Mark Cooper, Cllr
Rupert Kyrle, Cllr Alan Weeks

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) the Environment and Transportation Select Committee agrees with the recommendations as set out in Part 1 of the Executive Member for Environment's 'Bus Subsidy Review' Decision Report.
- b) the Select Committee receive the timeline for implementation of the changes to bus subsidies and supported services following the Executive Member for Environment and Transport's Decision Day, and full details of the Council's engagement plans for informing stakeholder of such changes.

84. **ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT EFFICIENCIES UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Director for Economy, Transport and Environment Department on efficiency savings. Members heard:

- That savings were still on track as anticipated.
- That the review of the subsidised bus service will add to the efficiencies programme for 2011/12.
- That contract renegotiations with Amey would not now be concluded until December 2011, but the savings expected from these would be achievable through other means.

85. **EFFICIENCIES, INNOVATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP
WORKING**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment and Amey's Hampshire Service Director on efficiencies, innovations and partnership working between the two organisations. Members heard:

(Take in presentation)

- That the working relationship between Amey and Hampshire County Council has been more partnership focused following the recruitment by the Highway Contractor of a Business Improvement Manager and a Hampshire Service Director.
- That Amey are aware of Hampshire County Council's efficiencies programme and the current economic climate for public services. Both organisations would be working towards a common goal of providing quality services for less. This has been enforced in a

memorandum of agreement between the Leader and Amey's Chief Executive Officer.

Following questions, Members heard:

- That the co-location of Amey and Hampshire County Council staff will enable instant feedback and dialogue between the two organisations.
- That pot-hole filling can now be back-authorised, enabling work gangs on the ground to take the initiative in repairing the roads.
- That white lining is ordered by local highway area offices.
- That ragwort pulling is the responsibility of the County Council, as the highway authority, and effort is made to remove these on highway land adjacent to the road, particularly where grazing/pasture land is present.
- That all sites due to be visited by Operation Resilience have been listed on the Members' Portal.

86. **'COORDINATION AND REGULATION OF ALL WORKS ON HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S HIGHWAYS' SCRUTINY REVIEW**

The Environment and Transportation Select Committee agreed the 'Coordination and Regulation of all Works on Hampshire County Council's Highways' report and its recommendations in May 2011, and forwarded the findings to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport for comment and response.

(Take in response letter)

RESOLVED:

That implementation of the recommendations is monitored by the Chairman, and brought back to the Select Committee no later than the April 2012 meeting.

87. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chief Executive presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the work programme is agreed.

That implementation of the recommendations is monitored by the Chairman, and brought back to the Select Committee no later than the April 2012 meeting.

Chairman, 8 November 2011