

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 7 July 2016 (7:00 pm – 8:35 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor Clarke (Chair); Councillors Mrs Broadhurst, Holden-Brown, Parkinson-MacLachlan, Cross, Lear, Mignot, Pragnell, Balaam, Hatfield and Garton

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RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

1. MINUTES

**It was AGREED -**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 9 June 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items of business on the agenda.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman advised that letters had now been sent to MP's regarding a national card scheme where young people could have access to discounted travel across all types of public transport, and he was awaiting a response.

4. PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/16

The Chairman welcomed Richard Pemberton, Sustainable Transport Manager, to the meeting to explain to Members how bus operators operated within the academic year, the processes involved developing to timetables, and the timescales involved. Richard gave an in-depth briefing explaining that as an example, Xelabus would begin their initial planning for changes in September 2016, at least 7-9 months before it was due to come into effect. Typically, initial plans for timetable changes in September would start to be drawn up between January and April. If Members planned to submit a view to bus operators on changes, then this would ideally be done at the end of one calendar year or early in the next. A review was to come to this Panel in November where further details would be contained in the report.

The Chair commented that if the Panel submitted its concerns too early there was a chance that bus operators might overlook them. It was suggested that a follow up meeting with the operators would be suitable

every March when timetables were being considered. This would make the whole process more transparent and provide operators with a better public profile.

Members raised a number of other public transport issues including various routes being cut by operators, provision of bus lanes/dedicated roads, linking with the Local Plan, and buses not connecting with trains at Hedge End. Richard advised that this was either due to the increase in journey times brought on by congestion, or lack of usage. Some routes only carried one or two people and were not viable. Cuts to commercially operated routes were generally a commercial decision for operators. Some services received a subsidy from Hampshire County Council and/or this Council. Routes supported by Eastleigh Borough Council formed part of the review that was to be considered by Cabinet on 14 July 2016, which aimed to ensure that those services provided value for money to the community and supported the corporate objectives of the Council.

The Chair proposed that key points raised be submitted to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder and operators, to be addressed at the Panel meeting in November, and that all operators be invited to attend the Panel meeting in March 2017.

#### **AGREED -**

- (1) That key points raised at this meeting be submitted to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder and bus operators; and**
- (2) That all operators be invited to the March 2017 meeting of this Panel.**

#### **5. PARKING SERVICES AND ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Consideration was given to the eighth Annual Report of Park Enforcement Operations (Agenda item 5). In 2004 the Council commenced decriminalised parking enforcement under the Road Traffic Act 1981 which gave it the powers to enforce on-street parking regulations as well as off-street car parking, where a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) was issued for a parking contravention. In addition, the Parking Services Team was responsible for the administration of the Residents' Parking Scheme, the maintenance of on and off-street ticket machines and foot systems machines, car parks and CCTV.

The Parking Services Manager went through his report in detail highlighting the various schemes. Over the last year the team had issued over 1300 PCNs resulting from illegally parked vehicles which had contributed to road safety and traffic congestion and netted a surplus of over £1.5M in 2015-16 due to car park charges.

Differential parking penalties came into effect on the 31 March 2008 as part of the Traffic Management Act. The Government's aim was to make

the system fairer. Higher penalties were issued to motorists who parked where it was not generally permitted, for example, on yellow lines, the footway, school "Keep Clear" markings, or in residents' permit or disabled bays without displaying the appropriate permit or badge. The less serious contraventions, which incurred the lower charge, included contraventions such as overstaying time paid for in a pay and display bay, or parking outside bay markings. Following new regulations that Tax Discs were no longer required there had been an increase in vehicles that did not have an 'owner/registered keeper' identified within the current DVLA database. Therefore if the Council issued a PCN and tried to identify the registered keeper it was unable to find a suitable person on the DVLA database to send the communication to. The Chairman raised this as a concern and said that he would write to the DVLA regarding this matter.

Members asked a number of questions with regards to increased parking problems at schools, caused by parent parking and the increased number of complaints made by residents and the public. During 2015/16, Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) made 712 enforcement patrols at schools. The number of PCNs issued during this time was only 126 which highlighted the difficulty when enforcing school parking restrictions due to high number of motorist moving away before the CEOs were in a position to either advise the motorists or issue a PCN. There were only two schools which were not patrolled as they had sufficient on-site parking and the Council had not received complaints from residents regarding unsafe parking. The Chairman requested that Hampshire County Council school travel plan team attend the meeting next year to seek their views on what could be done to reduce the parking congestion outside Schools.

Members also requested that the new Traffic Regulation Order be looked into by the Head of Transportation and Engineering with regards to permits being issued in the Valley Park area Chandlers Ford that currently had restricted single yellow lines.

The Chairman thanked the Parking Services Manager for his thorough report.

**It was AGREED –**

- (1) That the actions be added to the Action List; and**
- (2) That the report be noted.**

#### 6. TASK AND FINISH REPORT - STREETSCENE

Consideration was given to the report of the Task and Finish Group (Agenda item 6).

Members agreed that Malcolm Cross continue as Chairman of the Group until May 2017; and that a fifth action be added to the recommendations

stating that road sweeping on Bodycoats Road, Chandler's Ford be rotated on a regular basis.

**AGREED -**

- (1) That the report be noted;**
- (2) That a fifth action be added to the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group 'That road sweeping on Bodycoats Road, Chandler's Ford be rotated on regular basis'; and**
- (3) That Councillor Cross continued as Chair of the Task and Finish Group until May 2017.**

7. ACTION LIST

The Panel considered its action list from previous meetings, which set out the recent decisions and actions arising from the Panel. It added new ones from this meeting.

**It was AGREED -**

**That actions from this meeting be added and completed ones removed from the list.**

8. FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

**It was AGREED -**

**That the Forward Plan be noted.**

9. WORK PROGRAMME

Panel members considered their Work Programme to March 2013. Councillor Pragnell suggested that the Council itself be scrutinised as so much jargon and acronyms were used that it was confusing for the general public. Job titles should be in plain English and reflect what the role entails.

**It was AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.**