

TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on Monday, 28 September 2015 at 5.30pm in the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

Councillors Stuart Potter (in the Chair)
Simon Boshier
Scott Harris
Lee Hunt
Lynne Stagg
David Tompkins

Officers Alan Cufley, Director for Transport, Environment and Business Support
Stewart Agland, Local Democracy Manager
Pam Turton, Assistant Head of Service.

32. Apologies for Absence. (AI 1)

Councillor Harris attended on behalf of Councillor Ryan Brent and Councillor Simon Boshier on behalf of Councillor Ian Lyon.

33. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

No interests were declared.

34. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

35. Discussion of Future Topics. (AI 4)

The Chair reminded members that the Scrutiny Management Panel (SMP) had asked that this panel undertake the following review: consideration of options for and improvement and variations to Portsmouth's public transport system.

To assist the discussion, Alan Cufley, the Director for Transport, Environment and Business Support explained that the council is actively involved with all operators of the public transport systems and services in the city. It has significant influence in a variety of forums such as Solent Transport whose Business Plan supports such programmes as the Bus Rapid Transport System, Ferry services and Network Rail's study in to rail connectivity. In addition, he informed the Panel that the Department of Transport had recently decided to re-advertise the franchise that is currently operated by South West Trains so the council will be able to submit its views about to the Department of Transport as to what it would like to see from the new provider.

After discussion, the panel concluded that:

- A number of forums have debated public transport.
- The council's influence over private transport companies is limited.

- There would be a cost to the council in implementing any recommendations.
It is important that the council's performance is scrutinised

The Local Democracy Manager clarified that the panel's role is to assist with policy development and to hold the executive to account. The SMP's view was that the more panels can contribute to policy, the more influence they have on the shaping of policy. If this panel wishes to review a different topic, it would have to be submitted to SMP for consideration as it has oversight of the work programme.

Councillor Hunt proposed a review of the impact of the reduction of policing staff and community wardens. Councillor Boshier seconded this proposal and in the subsequent debate, the following points were raised:

- Crime has increased.
- No-one appears to be scrutinising the police.
- South West Trains did not take any notice of the results of a survey of more than 1,000 passengers which showed that 81% were unhappy with the morning service.
- The Isle of Wight Ferry Company took eight to permit the millennium walk to cross its property.
- The roles of neighbourhood watch, city centre managers, police and community wardens could be investigated.
- It is important that work is not duplicated.

A vote was taken and the following resolution was unanimously agreed:

RESOLVED that the following review topic be submitted to the Scrutiny Management Panel for consideration in its work programme rather than the one SMP had proposed:

Community safety - looking at the roles of Community policing, community wardens, city centre managers, the fire service, neighbourhood watch and CCTV.

The meeting concluded at 6.10pm.

Councillor Stuart Potter
Chair