

## **TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL**

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on 5 September 2011 at 4.00 pm in Conference Room K, Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

(NB These minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting, which can be found at [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk).)

### **Present**

Councillors Caroline Scott (Chair)  
Margaret Foster  
David Fuller (deputising for  
Councillor John Ireland)  
Darron Phillips (deputising for  
Councillor Les Stevens)  
Mike Blake

### **Officers**

Simon Moon, Head of Transport & Environment  
Pam Turton, Assistant Head of Service Transport &  
Environment  
Jasmine Fletcher, Principal Climate Change &  
Sustainability Co-ordinator  
Jon Bell, Head of Audit & Performance Improvement  
Alan Cufley, Head of Community Housing &  
Regeneration  
Richard Lee, Environmental Protection  
Divisional Team Leader  
Stewart Agland, Local Democracy Manager

#### **11 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Ireland, Councillor Les Stevens and Councillor Robert New.

#### **12 Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)**

There were no declarations of members' interests.

#### **13 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 February 2011 (AI 3)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2011 be confirmed and signed by the chair as a correct record subject to Councillor Margaret Foster being included under those present at the meeting.

#### **14 Patient Discharge from QA Hospital and St James' Hospital (AI 4)**

The panel received an update from the Local Democracy Manager, who

explained that the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety (TECS) Scrutiny Panel had carried out some preparatory work on behalf of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel during the latter part of the last municipal year, but that it was not completed. He explained that TECS was keen to utilise the Portsmouth Local Involvement Network (LINK) and other stakeholders during the review, but for various reasons not all of them, including LINK had been involved. The Local Democracy Manager went on to explain that around the time that this review had started, an interim review was undertaken by Portsmouth LINK on the discharge from care process in Portsmouth. This report appears to overlap with the preliminary work undertaken by TECS. LINK representatives have met with the chair of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) and two other HOSP members recently. LINK will be deciding at their next meeting whether to make this piece of work their priority and if so to start working on the report with more community evidence based data. In the meantime a number of the suggestions in the report involve collaboration and close working with HOSP and some of the proposed more “easy to implement” actions have been sent to the relevant services including Adult Social Care for their responses which will be co-ordinated.

The Local Democracy Manager suggested that in the circumstances TECS panel could note the situation until HOSP have met informally with LINK representatives. HOSP can then take an informed decision on what if any action it wishes to take on this issue utilising the background information produced by TECS Scrutiny Panel which will be made available to it if required.

Following discussion, the members of TECS agreed this as being the best way forward.

**RESOLVED that TECS Scrutiny Panel note the situation and agrees to make the background information produced by it available to HOSP if they wish to take this forward following their meeting with LINK.**

## **15 Discussion of Future Topics for the TECS Scrutiny Panel (AI 5)**

Suggested topics for consideration that had been put forward had been circulated to members of the panel and were considered in turn.

Road Safety as a result of the extreme shortening of double yellow lines on corners of roads

Following discussion members decided not to pursue this at present.

Changes to Eastern Road between Milton Road and Swordsands Road to improve traffic flow and pedestrian crossing

The panel discussed this briefly and decided that it was not a priority at this time.

### Review of resident parking scheme particularly around Fratton Park on match days

Members were advised that although this question was very topical, work is already in the pipeline as a review of residents' parking in the city had already been commissioned in the service. The panel decided that as work was already scheduled on this matter it would not be appropriate to carry out a scrutiny review at this time but did not rule out a review in the future.

### Looking at improving life for cyclists and how education for cyclists could be improved

These suggestions were looked at together and the following points were made during discussion:

- Cycling has a very strong lobby group in the city and has been given much publicity over recent years.
- Cycling issues have been raised recently as part of several other reviews and the panel felt that a further scrutiny review would be likely to result in repetition.
- The Cycle Forum has recently provided a presentation to Councillor Jason Fazackarley, Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation.

Members decided that cycling was not a priority for a review at this time as it had been reviewed relatively recently.

### Surface water flooding and clearing of gullies

The Head of Traffic & Environment suggested that surface water flooding might be a useful topic for the panel to review in order to feed into an action plan to improve the emergency response to such issues. The Head of Community Housing & Regeneration supported this suggestion and said that Southern Water would be a key contributor to this review. The panel generally felt that this topic would be a very useful area to review although they recognised that the scoping document would have to be carefully worded to ensure that a focused review took place that could be completed within this municipal year.

The panel decided that blocked gullies round the city and how often these were cleared should form part of the review.

### Decrease in car use and decrease in carbon emissions

The panel considered these topics together. The panel was advised that Councillor Eleanor Scott has asked for a document on decrease in carbon emissions and as a result it was probably too early to carry out a scrutiny review whilst work was being done on this topic elsewhere.

With regard to decrease in car use, the panel was advised that the city council already has a car management plan and that a 30% reduction target had been agreed. Currently a feasibility study on reducing carbon emissions in the city centre was being looked at by the Carbon Management Board.

#### Anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance

Although a review had been carried out on a similar topic in 2009, the panel felt that provided that the review was scoped appropriately, it would be a useful review to do as the city council receives numerous complaints on noise nuisance.

#### Late night economy

The panel was advised that the late night economy was a topical issue but that the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel had decided to put forward a suggestion to the Scrutiny Management Panel that they prepare a scoping document for a review into this matter with the expectation that a detailed scrutiny review would be carried out during the 2012/13 municipal year. It was therefore agreed that it would not be sensible for the TECS Scrutiny Panel to consider this separately.

#### Air quality

The Head of Community Housing & Regeneration suggested that a review into air quality could take in a number of concerns raised by the panel under different topic headings. Environmental Protection Divisional Team Leader said that a progress report had been sent to DEFRA and this showed that air quality was deteriorating in all cities and that the levels of nitrogen dioxide were increasing. This meant that the government would not be able to reach the standards laid down by the EU in the timescale given and that a further extension had been requested. Failure to reach satisfactory air quality standards carried a possibility of fines being imposed by the EU and there was a slight chance that these fines would be passed on to local authorities. The Environmental Protection Divisional Team Leader confirmed that air quality monitoring in Portsmouth covered nitrogen dioxide and particulates. He said that the worsening air quality was predominantly caused by traffic.

The panel discussed all of the suggestions that had been put forward and decided that the three topics that would be taken forward for consideration by the Scrutiny Management Panel to allocate and prioritise were to be:-

- (1) surface water flooding to include an investigation into gullies
- (2) air quality
- (3) anti-social behaviour (domestic noise nuisance)

The panel agreed that the actual titles would be agreed with officers outside the meeting and that these would be put to the Scrutiny Management Panel at their meeting on 13 September.

**RESOLVED** that the broad headings for topic titles set out below would be forwarded to Scrutiny Management Panel for prioritisation and allocation:-

- (1) surface water flooding to include an investigation into gullies**
- (2) air quality**
- (3) anti-social behaviour (domestic noise nuisance)**

## **16 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Tuesday 27 September at 4.00 pm to consider the scoping document of the review that was allocated to carry out first by Scrutiny Management Panel. .

The meeting concluded at 5.05 pm.

Chair

VJP/DMF  
14 September 2011  
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