

Environment Scrutiny Panel

PUBLIC MEETING

Record of Meeting

Date: **13th November 2008**

Meeting Number: **86**

Present	Deputy R.C. Duhamel (Chairman) (RD) Connétable K. A. Le Brun of St Mary (KB) Deputy P. V. F. Le Claire (PLC) Connétable A. S. Crowcroft (SC) Deputy C. J. Scott Warren (CSW)
Apologies	
In attendance	Mr. M. Robbins, Scrutiny Officer (MR)

Ref Back	Agenda matter	Action
	<p>1. Minutes</p> <p>The Panel received and approved its Minutes of the meetings of 30th September 2008.</p> <p>RD, KLB, PLC.</p>	
Item 6 30.10.08	<p>2. Matters Arising</p> <p>The Panel recalled its discussion at the previous meeting regarding an abatement notice served by the Minister for Health and Social Services in connexion with public nuisance of noise pollution.</p> <p>The Chairman was still to discuss any possible way forward for the Panel with the Greffier of the States. The Panel requested contact was made with the Deputy Judicial Greffier to establish what needed to be done to appeal the abatement and to obtain any forms necessary. Further, to establish other legal processes available to the Panel relating to composting at La Collette and other waste processes that have created complaints of public nuisance about which nothing seemed to have been done.</p> <p>RD, KLB, PLC.</p>	<p>RD MR</p>
	<p>3. Annual Business Plan</p> <p>The Panel welcomed the Chief Officer and Financial Director of Transport and Technical Services. It was established that their</p>	

	<p>attendance was in response to an invitation to the Minister for Transport and Technical Services (TTS) and his officers to assist the Panel in establishing information regarding the £400,000 shortfall in tipping charges first requested in April 2008.</p> <p>It was explained that contractors on site do much of the recycling on large building sites these days and the overall effect of that combined with the natural change in the projects excavating during 2007 caused the downturn in revenue from States run recycling. The TTS budget has always been subject to the variables of the market.</p> <p>The Chief Officer provided the Panel with copies of a J. D. Edwards accounts printout and discussions ensued relating to the fluctuations in expenditure for individual streams and services from one year to the next.</p> <p>As accounting officer, the Chief Officer considered that he was unable to produce forecasts of cash revenue without a guarantee for the income. He could deal with under spends at the end of a financial year if revenue exceeds expectation, but he was legally obliged to avoid any overspend.</p> <p>Therefore, should building works on a site like the Esplanade Quarter commence the income could be accommodated. However were it to be delayed by a year or two it would present an accounting problem due to those legal requirements which do not allow for long term planning.</p> <p>It was decided that in future a meeting should take place in January between the Chief Officer and the Panel to examine any fluctuations in expenditure. It was agreed that this would increase the Panels understanding of Departmental budgeting.</p> <p>The Panel would recommend to any subsequent Panel that such meetings would prevent any further communication breakdowns and improve the working relationships between Scrutiny and the Minister.</p> <p>This further understanding of the problems would allow scope not only for scrutinising problem areas but to support the Minister in his need for extra budgeting where appropriate.</p> <p>The Panel thanked the Chief Officer and Finance Officer for their attendance.</p> <p>RD, KLB, SC (part), CSW (part), PLC.</p>	
	<p>4. Urban Regeneration Review</p> <p>Delegation from Eastleigh.</p> <p>The Panel welcomed the following people to the meeting:</p> <p>Councillor Chris Thomas, Chair Eastleigh Local Area Committee Cabinet Member for Customer Services and ICT</p> <p>Councillor Peter Wall, Cabinet member for Business and Skills,</p>	

Eastleigh Borough Council

Graham Foreman, MD Foreman Homes

Steve Carrington, Director Foreman Homes and Town Planner

Following a full explanation of the background of the Urban Regeneration Review from the Chairman, the delegation discussed issues relating to the sympathetic regeneration of buildings such as the former Church of the Resurrection in Eastleigh, which had won awards for being a most sympathetic regeneration of Brownfield or recycled building project. This building had lain derelict for 16 years and now housed 25 key workers in one and two bedroom flats. This compared with the demolition of an estate where there was no possibility of regeneration by other means. Eastleigh were also working on live/work properties and the building of small, high-density communities with small public areas.

In discussing the extension to the Environmental Protection and Improvement Areas (EPIA's) proposed by the Panel it was agreed that the Minister for Planning and Environment might be able to devolve his powers downwards to empower the communities in the development of their own areas. The entrustment of this power could for example be in Parish Deputies. If this were to happen, there would have to be safeguards to prevent small communities 'kidnapping' strategic areas. Talk of the supply of mains drains reminded the meeting that the provision of suitable infrastructure brought planned and structured development with it rather than the piecemeal development observed where the infrastructure followed development.

The Panel thanked the visitors for attending, the delegation retired.

Review Update

The Panel considered the update report relating to the review and noted that the Proposed EPIAs' delegated to the Chairman at the meeting of the 30th October 2008 had been established on the large maps purchased for the purpose. That followed the concept that the communities could be involved in the future planning restrictions etc of the local area, allowing each area to maintain / change its character according to the wishes of the local community.

Town Hall Exhibition.

The exhibition at the Town Hall had proceeded although it did not coincide with the opening of the reading room as it had been delayed.

The event was considered a success with the large maps on display clearly showing the proposals of the Panel. There were A3 copies of the map for people to take away and further displays with more detailed explanations of the proposals.

All Panel Members, various members of the public and the architectural profession attended the event. It was further noted that

	<p>two members of the architects' profession had informed the Chairman that it was "radically refreshing to see a plan which allowed concentration within a specific area".</p> <p>Advisor.</p> <p>The Panel received a further draft of the work undertaken by Mr Mason. The Panel was not satisfied with the work provided by Mr Mason and declined to authorise an interim payment. It agreed that a further meeting would be useful with Mr Mason at 13.00 hours on Friday 14th November 2008 during which the Panel could ensure the fulfilment of the contract requirements with best value achieved.</p> <p>Report Draft</p> <p>The Panel received a draft working copy of the report produced in the Scrutiny Office with a request for further direction in relation to the headings and likely content of the report.</p> <p>RD, KLB, PLC(Part) , CSW(Part)</p>	
Item 10 22.07.08	<p>5. Sustainable Procurement Conference</p> <p>Connétable Crowcroft advised the Panel, through the Chairman, that the Sustainable Procurement Conference report would be submitted to the Officer directly. The report was to be circulated to the Panel upon receipt.</p> <p>RD, KLB, CSW, PLC.</p>	
	<p>7. Date of next meeting</p> <p>The Panel noted that the date of its next schedule meeting was 27th November 2008 at 9.30 a.m. in the Le Capelain Room, States Building.</p> <p>RD. PLC. SC. KLB.</p>	