

**ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)**

**19 APRIL 2005**

Chair: \* Councillor Blann

Councillors: \* Arnold Miles  
 \* Knowles \* Vina Mithani (3)  
 \* Lavingia \* Anne Whitehead

\* Denotes Member present  
 (3) Denotes category of Reserve Member

**PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**

**PART II - MINUTES**

148. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

**RESOLVED:** To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Seymour	Councillor Vina Mithani

149. **Declarations of Interest:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

150. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

**RESOLVED:** That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following agenda item be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances/Grounds for Urgency</u>
8. Comments on Draft Traffic Local Implementation Plan	The report was not available at the time of the despatch of the agenda as comments needed to be incorporated into the report prior to its circulation.

(2) all items be considered with the press and public present.

151. **Minutes:**

**RESOLVED:** That the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2005 be deferred until the next Ordinary meeting of the Sub-Committee.

152. **Public Questions:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no public questions were put at the meeting under the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 8.

153. **Petitions:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no petitions were received at the meeting under the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 9.

154. **Deputations:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that no deputations were received at the meeting under the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10.

155. **Comments on Draft Traffic Local Implementation Plan:**

The Sub-Committee received a tabled report of the Director of Organisational Performance, which set out the background to the consultation on the Transport Local Implementation Plan (LIP).

The meeting proceeded to consider the Harrow draft Local Implementation Plan and the comments of Sub-Committee Members on different chapters of the document. The following issues were discussed in detail.

#### Borough Policy Statement (Chapter 3)

**Sharing Road Space Policies:** The Chair welcomed the reallocation of road space to promote public transport, but recognised that motorists might oppose the initiative. A Member suggested that a policy to let cars use empty bus lanes be implemented to alleviate the problems.

**Policies and financial measures:** The Chair voiced concern that charges on road users and parking levy schemes in inner London could have an effect on the outer Boroughs, and was pleased to see that the draft LIP made provision to minimise the impact of these costs locally.

**Policies regarding phasing:** The Sub-Committee endorsed the draft Plan's 'carrot' over 'stick' policy in terms of phasing schemes in.

**Equalities Impact Assessment, The New Harrow Project and The West London Transport Strategy:** The Sub-Committee endorsed these chapters of the Plan. The Chair noted, particularly with regard to the West London Transport Strategy, the importance of Harrow working jointly with other authorities.

#### LIP Programmes for Mayoral Transport Strategy Priorities (Chapter 7)

**Public Transport:** The Sub-Committee endorsed the bus priority initiative and welcomed the plans to improve bus stop accessibility. It was also agreed that improvements to bus shelters be encouraged and that the Council should look into the possibility of providing countdown information at bus stops.

**Safety:** In response to a question from the Chair about increasing the number of zones with a 20mph limit, officers replied that although zones such as town centres had been considered, there was only a limited budget available and difficulties around enforcing the speed limits would also have to be taken into consideration.

**Local Traffic Management Schemes:** Officers advised that these schemes were used to address issues of local concern which required a prompt response. Members noted that the budgets included were not guaranteed across years and asked that funding be included in the medium term budget strategy as long as this was balanced with the needs of other initiatives.

**Town Centres:** The Sub-Committee supported the bid to Transport for London for town centre improvements in Harrow, although it was recommended that local Councillors be asked to consider the matter in more detail.

**Travel Awareness:** The Sub-Committee recognised the importance of a Travel Awareness Officer to encourage the use of public transport and alternative means of travel, and it was felt that the allocated budget for this initiative might not be sufficient.

The Chair noted that the Council's own Travel Plan had been planned for some years with no noticeable steps being taken to implement it.

**Walking:** The Sub-Committee suggested that all guard railings be removed and that only those railings which had been set up for safety reasons should be maintained.

**Cycling:** The meeting agreed that cycle rack facilities, especially at train stations, should be improved. It was further suggested that some of the proposed cycling routes be reallocated to smaller roads and parks. It was felt that mandatory cycle lanes were preferable to advisory lanes, but the Sub-Committee recognised that it may be necessary as a first step for them to be advisory.

**Accessibility:** In response to Members' concern that there were no policy items in this section, officers advised that the local transport policy recommended that separate sections for particular groups be avoided, and that the information on accessibility was evenly spread throughout the whole draft Plan. Nevertheless, officers agreed to amend the document to stress the importance of accessibility. The Sub-Committee pointed out that the Council's accessibility work at station

entrances should be co-ordinated with the train operators' programme of level access to platforms.

Parking and Enforcement Plan (Chapter 10)

It was suggested that a programme for footway parking be implemented, although Members recognised the funding implications linked with such a proposal.

It was agreed that the different parking permits, which were available to particular groups such as carers and priority essential council workers, be better advertised.

School Travel Plan Strategy (Chapter 11)

It was advised that this chapter had been referred to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee for comment. However, Members noted the insufficient funding for the Safer Routes to School Programme.

Performance Measures (Chapter 12)

It was suggested that mention be made of the evaluation of the implementation of the Plan.

Core Capacity (Chapter 13)

The Chair noted that there was no mention in this section of whether the staffing levels were sufficient to deliver on the programmes listed in the Plan, and suggested that this needed to be rectified.

It was agreed that the Scrutiny Unit draw up a submission based on these comments which would be submitted as the view of the Sub-Committee on the draft Transport Local Implementation Plan. A copy of the submission would be circulated to all Members of the Sub-Committee for information.

**RESOLVED:** That (1) the submission based on the comments of the Sub-Committee be fed into the consultation on the draft Transportation Local Implementation Plan; and

(2) the report be noted.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 6.32 pm, closed at 8.35 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR ALAN BLANN  
Chair