

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 64

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Work Plan and Seminar
Date of Meeting: 23 March 2009
Report of: Acting Director of Strategy and Governance
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report is in response to a request at the previous ECSOSC meeting for a Member seminar on transport to be held in May or June.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 (1) That, based on the considerations in this report, a scrutiny seminar on transport be not held at this stage but that transport issues continue to feature at Committee as suggested below in paragraphs 3.4, 3.5, 3.10 and 3.11
- (2) That Committee's work plan 2009 – 2010 be considered in a report to June meeting.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 In considering the work programme at the ECSOSC January 2009 meeting, it was suggested that a Member seminar be arranged before the June Committee meeting. This followed a second detailed report, discussion and replies to questions from the Public Transport Manager and Head of Transport Planning and Policy on the Local Transport Plan, when some members called for more but unspecified information.
- 3.2 Elsewhere on this agenda is a first summary of the Shoreham Harbour Joint Area action plan for which it is anticipated that an additional meeting during late May/early June is likely to be required, to enable ECSOSC comments on the draft proposals alongside the scrutiny work schedules of Adur and West Sussex neighbouring authority partners. It might not be possible to arrange both a seminar and additional meeting at a convenient time during this timeframe.

3.3 Since the Committee was first established Members have received the following items in the service area of transport and highways :

- i. Air quality challenges for the city
- ii. North Street Mixed Priority Route
- iii. Street trees
- iv. Street lighting
- v. Presentation on Integrated transport
- vi. Two updates on the Local Transport Plan

3.4 The current agenda includes a report on Parking Schemes enabling the Committee to comment on a draft policy; and the 22 June meeting is scheduled to receive an item on Parking Enforcement. A request for information on roadworks has been received and a letter on highways obstruction is on the agenda of the 10 March Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

3.5 As part of routine overview, a report on progress towards LTP2 targets is anticipated during 2009-2010 and engaging with the development of LTP3, the third generation of measures will also be scheduled.

3.6 An annual seminar on transport is usually held to which all Members are invited.

3.7 Notwithstanding the strategic importance of the transport and highways service area, the remit of ECSOSC, as listed in the Council's constitution, includes 11 other functions in addition to the 3 which are directly transport-related.¹

¹ Community Safety (including discharging those statutory responsibilities set out in s19 Police and Justice Act 2006)

Parks and Green Spaces

Travellers and Gypsies

Highways Management

Traffic Management and Transport

Parking

Waste

Conservation & Design

Coast Protection

Seafront

Environmental Health

Building Control

Trading Standards

Planning and Licensing

3.8 Arguably therefore the time spent by the Committee on the different parts of its remit can be better balanced between Departmental priorities.

3.9 For the reasons stated above it is suggested that a transport seminar be not held at present.

3.10 However Departmental officers are aware of Members' concerns for example on road safety and if wished during 2009 – 2010 can prepare a report on how the issue is being addressed. An update on cycling is also proposed. Naturally this does not preclude Members requesting further information or scrutiny of a particular area.

3.11 It is suggested that further proposals for other areas of ECSOSC be brought to 22 June Meeting.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Senior officers in Sustainable Transport have been consulted on this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None in relation to this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

None

