

Minutes



To: All Members of the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Michelle Diprose
Ext: 25566

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT CABINET PANEL, FRIDAY, 9 MARCH 2018

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

D A Ashley (Chairman), D J Barnard, S Bedford, S J Boulton, R C Deering, S J Featherstone, A K Khan, G McAndrew, A Stevenson (Vice-Chairman), J A West, A S B Walkington

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

D Andrews, R H Smith

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel meeting on Friday, 9 March 2018 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Cabinet Panel meeting held on Monday, 5 February 2018 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

- 2.1 Sara Bedford presented the petition below:

'The 318 bus provides a vital link for residents of the Abbots Langley area to Kings Langley and Hemel Hempstead. Mullany's decision to cut the part of the route will cause hardship and inconvenience for many residents. We therefore call on Hertfordshire County Council to ensure that this route remains in operation.'

- 2.2 The online petition attracted over 730 signatories by the date of receipt, verified as living or working in Hertfordshire. The petitioner

ACTION

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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also presented the chairman with further hard copy of the signatures. Members noted that the total amount of signatures received was 1258.

- 2.3 The petitioner addressed the Panel on the subject of the petition, the text of which can be viewed at the link below:

[save the 318 bus service](#)

The Chairman received the petition.

- 2.4 Members considered an officer report in relation to the 318 bus service.

- 2.5 During discussion, Members expressed their disappointment at the fact that there had been limited response to the sourcing of alternative funding streams to enable the 318 bus route to continue running in its current route.

- 2.6 S Bedford advised that the matter was due to be discussed at a committee meeting at Three Rivers District Council in the week commencing 12 March 2018, where it was hoped that funding would be able to be secured from Three Rivers District Council to enable a full restoration of the service.

- 2.7 Confirmation was received that should Three Rivers District Council agree to the funding, then officers at Hertfordshire County Council would be willing to reconsider the proposal of full closure of the route within an efficient timeframe, with a subsequent report being considered at a future meeting of the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel. Members agreed that this consideration should be added to the recommendations attached to the report.

- 2.8 A Member challenge regarding the appropriateness of the 318 bus user survey being undertaken during the post-Christmas lull and during a period of bad weather was acknowledged.

- 2.9 The Panel also noted that the Dial-a-Ride Service, as outlined as an alternative provision to the bus route, in the report did not provide the same level of frequency or reliability as a bus service, and could not be booked at short notice. Members expressed concern that the impact of the partial closure of the route would have an extremely detrimental impact on the elderly in the area.

CONCLUSION:

- 2.10 The Panel noted the petition.

- 2.11 The Panel noted the low value for money priority of the route and the fact that to date no external resources have been secured to

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support the continuation of the service.

2.12 The Panel noted the alternative services in the area and the work officers have undertaken to try and mitigate impacts at no additional cost.

2.13 The Panel agreed that officers would keep the decision to close part of the 318 bus route under review, and should an alternative funding source be identified in the future, the decision would be reviewed as appropriate in an efficient and timely manner.

3. JOINT PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS IN SOUTH WEST

[Officer Contact: Jon Tiley, Business Manager Spatial Planning and Economy Tel: (01992) 556292]

Notification of a Declarable Interest: S Bedford advised that she was involved with the strategic plan as a District Councillor for 3 Rivers District Council. . No vote was undertaken on the agenda item and Cllr Bedford was permitted to participate in the debate.

3.1 The Panel received a report informing them of the proposals to prepare a joint strategic plan by the South West Hertfordshire Authorities, Dacorum Borough Council; Three Rivers District Council, Watford Borough Council; Hertsmere Borough Council and the City and District of St Albans. Members views on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were sought.

3.2 Members noted that a number of authorities are currently considering their individual local plans, as such this meant that there were considerable practical and potential funding opportunities for this to continue to develop.

3.3 The Panel were pleased to note the continuing developments outlined within the report.

Conclusion:

3.9 The Cabinet Panel

1. Noted the emerging proposals for a joint strategic plan for South West Hertfordshire
2. Gave support in principle to the proposal
3. Advised on matters in relation to the proposed Draft Memorandum of Understanding

4. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

[Officer Contact: Trevor Mason, Team Leader Strategic Transport & Rail Tel (01992) 556117]

- 4.1 The Panel received a report informing them of the outcome of the recent consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4. The draft plan was subject to consultation for 12 weeks up to 23 January 2018 and nearly 700 responses were received.
- 4.2 Members noted the consultation responses showed there was support for the overall direction of the Local Transport Plan 4 for each of the proposed policies and for each of the proposed major schemes.
- 4.3 It was noted that the panel would receive a further report at its next meeting on the 24 April 2018 outlining any proposed changes to the plan occurring from the outcomes of the consultation. It was noted that this subsequent report would also provide more detail of the consultation responses.
- 4.4 Members discussed the number of responses to the petition, and expressed some concerns regarding the fact that from a county wide consultation, only 700 people had responded. It was explained that the percentage of respondents was not unusual for a consultation process of this nature.
- 4.5 A Member challenge that the length and detail of the consultation document may have meant it was difficult for the public to understand was noted. Members were advised that there had been response to the offer to hold more localised public meeting consultations within the districts to explain the consultation in more detail.
- 4.6 Members discussed the practical implications of using electric vehicles, and it was acknowledged that at present the development of these and the infrastructure to support them was still in early stages, however continued work was being undertaken with the districts to try to encourage and promote electric vehicles as alternative methods of transport.
- 4.4 A suggestion that electric bikes would perhaps be a more affordable and viable option in the short term was noted.
- 4.5 It was acknowledged by the panel that although a reduction in car usage was essential to the full success of the transport plan, this would only be achieved through a significant cultural mind-set shift to considering alternative modes of transport, which in practical terms would not be achievable, given the current transport

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infrastructure within the county and the large amount of rural areas where car usage was essential.

4.7 Members agreed that although there would never be a complete cessation of the use of cars, it was important to continue to encourage and promote consideration for alternative methods of transport, especially for shorter, or urban journeys.

4.8 Members were pleased to note the improvements that had occurred and were planned for cycle routes within the county.

Conclusions:

4.9 The Panel noted the responses received to the Local Transport Plan 4 consultation.

5. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

5.1 There was no other part I business.

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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