

# CULTURE & REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## AGENDA

7.30pm

Thursday  
20 September 2007

Havering Town Hall  
Main Road, Romford

Members 6: Quorum 3

### COUNCILLORS:

Robert Benham (C)

Clarence Barrett

John Clark

Lesley Kelly

Ray Morgon

Vacancy

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# NOTES ABOUT THE MEETING

## 1. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Council is committed to protecting the health and safety of everyone who attends meetings of its Committees.

At the beginning of the meeting, there will be an announcement about what you should do if there is an emergency during its course. **For your own safety and that of others at the meeting, please comply with any instructions given to you about evacuation of the building, or any other safety related matters.**

## 2. MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES

Although mobile phones, pagers and other such devices are an essential part of many people's lives, their use during a meeting can be disruptive and a nuisance. Everyone attending is asked therefore to ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off completely.

## 3. CONDUCT AT THE MEETING

Although members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Committee, they have no right to speak at them. Seating for the public is, however, limited and the Council cannot guarantee that everyone who wants to be present in the meeting room can be accommodated. When it is known in advance that there is likely to be particular public interest in an item the Council will endeavour to provide an overspill room in which, by use of television links, members of the public will be able to see and hear most of the proceedings.

The Chairman of the meeting has discretion, however, to invite members of the public to ask questions or to respond to points raised by Members. Those who wish to do that may find it helpful to advise the Committee Officer before the meeting so that the Chairman is aware that someone wishes to ask a question.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE CHAIRMAN MAY REQUIRE ANYONE WHO ACTS IN A DISRUPTIVE MANNER TO LEAVE THE MEETING AND THAT THE MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED IF NECESSARY WHILE THAT IS ARRANGED.**

If you need to leave the meeting before its end, please remember that others present have the right to listen to the proceedings without disruption. Please leave quietly and do not engage others in conversation until you have left the meeting room.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### **1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (if any) - receive.**

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members are invited to declare any interests in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting. Members may still declare an interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.

### **4. MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 June 2007 and the special meeting of the Committee held on 31 July 2007 and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

### **5. PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

Members are requested to bring their performance information packs for consideration. (Period 3)

### **6. REPORT OF THE CULTURE & REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S INFLUENCE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS – Report Attached**

### **7. WORK PROGRAMME – Oral Report**

**8. URGENT BUSINESS**

To consider any other item in respect of which the Chairman is of the opinion, by reason of special circumstances which shall be specified in the minutes, that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

**Cheryl Coppel  
Chief Executive**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CULTURE AND REGENERATION  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Havering Town Hall, Romford  
Thursday, 14 June 2007 (7:32pm-9:00pm)**

**Present:**

Councillors: Robert Benham (In the Chair), Clarence Barrett, David Charles, John Clark, Lesley Kelly and Ray Morgon

Councillor Linda Hawthorn was also present

One member of the public was present

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the first meeting of the Committee in the current Council year which was also the first meeting under his Chairmanship. He then announced the arrangements to be followed in the event of the building needing to be vacated as the result of an emergency and reminded Members of the need to turn off mobile phones.

There were no absences nor any declarations of interest.

**20 MINUTES**

The Chairman sought confirmation from the Committee that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2007 were correct and signed them as such.

**21 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee was invited to note the changes to the Committee's membership and the Chairman's appointment.

The Committee **NOTED** the changes.

**22 TOPIC GROUP REVIEW**

The Committee received an oral report in which it was informed that only one topic group remained – the Review of the Council's Influence on Public Transport Operators - and that this was nearly complete. Members were invited to decide whether to continue with this topic group and to confirm its membership.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to continue with the topic group until it concluded and that Councillor David Charles should Chair it. The

Committee furthermore, confirmed that Councillors Clark, Kelly and Morgon would continue and Councillor Hawthorn be co-opted. It further directed that Councillors Gadd and Binion who had also been part of its membership, be invited to continue as co-optees.

## **23 REGENERATION SERVICE AND THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF)**

The Committee received an oral report from the Head of Regeneration and Strategic Planning in which the broad strategies were given substance. Members learned that the LDF now modelled “spatial strategy” for the borough, which replaced the Unitary Development Plan. Most elements were subject to public examination during the current year whilst the Romford Area Action Plan was due to be incorporated into the LDF in autumn 2008.

The report covered the regeneration strategy, which embraced transport, environmental sustainability, mineral extraction and waste management and Members were introduced to the Key Themes. Key opportunities across the borough were identified as were areas where communities were expected to grow during the next few years. Members were informed about plans to create new employment opportunities and how future developments would seek to integrate work and residential in the same location.

The Committee was reminded that transportation was crucial to delivering and sustaining the regeneration programme. Romford, which had declined during the 1980s, was now in the process of being revived. Much had already been accomplished, though there were significant areas still to be developed (notably south of the railway and in the vicinity of the redundant Oldchurch Hospital site).

Apart from Romford itself, programmes were already either in progress or were in the planning stage for other town centres. Other strands in the programme related to building the local economy, addressing cultural aspirations and meeting the needs of the community in providing homes that met need and were affordable and providing employment of a quality that would help raise the borough’s profile and ensure that those working in Havering could afford to live here.

Finally, the Committee was offered a vision of an environment that was sustainable with a transport infrastructure that would facilitate the integration of the whole borough; carefully managed resources and planning which placed people’s needs at its centre and which would lead to the enrichment of the community

The Committee **NOTED** the Report

## 24 CULTURE STRATEGY

The Committee received an oral report from the Head of Cultural and Leisure Services and the Head of Customer Services. Members were informed that the strategies being considered would capitalise on the opportunities currently available, such as the:

- Town Centre Developments
- Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012
- LDF policies
- Havering Culture Forum and
- Building on current provision (seeing existing good work getting better)

The report acknowledged that much of its content ran parallel to and integrated with that of Regeneration, indeed, the two elements were inextricable in many instances.

The Committee was advised that the culture strategy would require the production of various action plans to deliver the five priorities, which were:

- Libraries – refurbishment and redevelopment for changing needs
- The Arts – Queens Theatre, Fairkytes, Studio 3. To create other centres across the borough
- Sports – building on the present facilities and developing new sites
- Parks and Open Spaces – to continue to invest in the 100+ green areas in the borough and provide a welcoming and sustainable environment and
- Heritage – to preserve, promote and celebrate the abundant resources around the borough (a new museum in the Brewery is being planned and should be open to the public by the beginning of 2009).

Members were made aware of the challenges that faced the service as it implemented the policies, such as:

- The uneven provision of facilities that existed across the borough
- The lack of understanding about the impact of cultural activities
- The provision for young people which needs to be expanded
- The limitations on resources
- To promote more “joined-up” working and
- Promoting culture as a central feature in the development of town centres and the Thames Gateway programme.

In conclusion, the Committee was invited to consider the “Vision for Culture” in which the various partnership agencies would work together to promote the rich cultural heritage of the borough and build community cohesion.

The Committee **NOTED** the Report

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CULTURE AND  
REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Havering Town Hall, Romford  
Tuesday, 31 July 2007 (7:30pm-9:15pm)**

**Present:**

Councillors Robert Benham (In the Chair), John Clark, +Gillian Ford, +Linda Hawthorn and +Barry Oddy.

Apologies for absence were received from Clarence Barrett, Lesley Kelly and Ray Morgon.

+Substitute Member: Councillor Gillian Ford (for Clarence Barrett), Councillor Linda Hawthorn (for Ray Morgon), and Councillor Barry Oddy (for Lesley Kelly)

Councillors Gary Adams, Michael Armstrong, David Charles, David Grantham, Barbara Matthews, Roger Ramsey, Frederick Thompson and Melvin Wallace were also in attendance.

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman announced the arrangements to be followed in the event of the building needing to be vacated as the result of an emergency.

**1 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

At this point, the Committee **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public were present during those items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

**2 LEISURE OVERSPEND**

A number of questions were raised on behalf of the Committee to which Officers responded.

Certain issues discussed by the Committee, and decisions reached, are recorded in the appendix to these minutes, containing exempt information and not available to the press or public

Members of the Committee were satisfied with the responses and accordingly **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** acceptance of the recommendations in the Chief Executive's report.





MEETING	DATE	ITEM
CULTURE & REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	20 September 2007	6

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE CULTURE & REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S INFLUENCE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS**

In accordance with para. 11(c) of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules, if this report is agreed, Cabinet will be required to consider it no later than 30 November 2007, 10 weeks from the day following the OSC meeting.

### **SUMMARY**

This report contains the findings and recommendations that have emerged after the Topic Group scrutinised the topic selected by the Committee in November 2006.

The environmental, equalities & social inclusion, financial, legal and HR implications and risks are addressed within the topic group's report.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members:

1. Note the report of the Culture & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Topic Group (attached);

2. Decide whether to refer the recommendations of the Topic Group to the Cabinet,

**REPORT DETAIL**

At its meeting on 22 November 2006, the newly formed Culture and Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee decided to undertake a review of Council's influence on public transport operators.

Attached is a copy of the Topic Group's report. The report includes details of the visits and research that it undertook in reaching the conclusions set out.

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Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer  
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**Cheryl Coppel**  
**Chief Executive**

**Background Papers** - None



**REPORT OF THE  
CULTURE & REGENERATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS TOPIC GROUP**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 22 November 2006, the Culture & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee approved the establishment of a Topic Group to examine Council's influence on public transport operators.
- 1.2 The following Members formed the Topic Group at its outset: Councillors Mark Gadd (Chairman), John Clarke, Linda Hawthorn, Lesley Kelly, Ray Morgon and Sandra Binion as Co-optee-. The Topic Group was supported by Stephen Pauling and Daniel Douglas, Transport Planning Team. However, by change of Municipal Year Elections, Cllr Mark Gadd was replaced by Cllr Robert Benham as the new Chairman.
- 1.3 The Topic Group met on six occasions and reviewed the possible opportunities and parameters for improving public transport in Havering Borough. The Topic Group has now reached its recommendations and findings, which are detailed in this report.

**2. THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW**

- 2.1 The Topic Group first met on 12 December 2006 and confirmed that the scope of the Scrutiny was:

**To scrutinise Council's Influence on Public Transport Operators in Havering**

Within the scope, the group aimed to establish the following:

- Current range of transport services available in Havering Borough
- Reviewing the current problems faced by residents and people in Havering
- Ways to improve the transport system in the Borough

### 3. GOOD PRACTICE

- 3.1 The Topic Group has sought examples of good practice to include in the review. To this end it has drawn upon a broad range of information sources in order to enhance its understanding of current strategies and innovative approaches to improve transport facilities in Havering.

### 4. FINDINGS

- 4.1 At the initial meeting the Topic Group received a presentation detailing the bus and railway transport within the borough. Discussion also took place regarding the wider context of improving the transport within Havering.
- 4.2 Public transport makes up some 19% of the total personal trips on a typical weekday in Havering and recent improvements in local public transport have helped influence a slight reduction in overall traffic volumes. While the provision of local public transport in Havering is not the direct responsibility of the Local Authority, the Council does take a very proactive position to support local services and is working with a wide range of partners and stakeholders to see aspirations for improvements secured and delivered.
- 4.3 **Bus Services** - Local Bus Services throughout Greater London are funded and managed directly by London Buses, a division of TfL's Surface Transport. All the local bus routes (red buses) are grouped together and let on a contractual basis by London Buses to commercial bus operators. TfL London Buses consult the Borough only when changes are proposed to these bus routes and when the Transportation Planning Team receives such consultations, it passes copies of TfL's consultation letter on to Elected Members whose wards are affected by the proposed changes. Responses direct to the Transportation Planning Team are invited, so that a coordinated Council response can be submitted to TfL. The contracts TfL let are on the basis of lowest operating cost, as TfL retains the revenue from ticket sales on these contracted bus routes.

There are several commercial bus operators who compete for such contracts in the Borough, primarily based upon where they have local operations established. The main operators in Havering are: -

- East London Buses (part of the Australian owned Macquarie Bank Group and formerly Stagecoach)
  - First London (part of the First group)
  - Arriva Essex (part of the Arriva Group)
  - Blue Triangle Buses.
- 4.4 The Topic Group established that Council's influence over local bus operations is limited to raising matters with TfL's London Buses, as the tendered contract system set out above and enshrined by Law prevents any other bus operator providing local bus services speculatively and without TfL approval. The Council does not have direct control of bus routes or railway services within the borough.

- 4.5 While 100% of local bus services in the Borough are fully accessible to wheelchairs (with all vehicles now fitted with ramps and being fully low floor), the Borough is also served by the North east London Dial-a-Ride service, which is operated by TfL and is available to persons who find accessing conventional bus services difficult.
- 4.6 Within the review, various areas for improvement were highlighted by Members:
- Limited bus services in villages in Havering. Members were particularly concerned with school children having to catch early buses due to the services running on hourly basis only
  - The outlying areas such as Havering atte bower, Cranham, Rainham and Harold Wood. The bus routes not operating on Sundays in atte-bower area
  - Lack of Oyster card availability within certain routes and areas such as the Havering atte bower area
  - Access for the Mobility Impaired persons at stations
- 4.7 There have been a number of improvements within the bus transport system in Havering. It was noted that the Queens Hospital is accessible from various areas both within Havering and neighbouring boroughs. However, it was noted that there are no bus services running from Rainham, Cranham and Upminster to Queens Hospital.
- 4.8 Policing in relation to bus stations is the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police force and Transport Operational Command Unit (TOCU) are the police force that operates on board local bus services. The Topic Group felt that increased police activity around certain areas is needed such as Romford and, Harold Hill. The Topic Group noted the improvement of 18 new Police officers allocated to target areas such as Upminster station. The British Transport Police will be targeting specific stations and also board local buses within the borough.
- 4.9 **Railway Services** - Havering is served by two Train Operating Companies and also the London Underground District Line. Serving Havering "One Railway" operates on the Great Eastern mainline through the Borough from London Liverpool Street serving Romford, Gidea Park and Harold Wood stations providing access as far as Southend and Clacton during off peak periods C2C operates the London Fenchurch Street to Shoeburyness route, serving Upminster Station, and also a service on the Tilbury Loop which serves Rainham Station within the borough. Both 'One' and C2C are part of the National Express Group, currently the largest public transport operator in the country.
- 4.10 Crossrail is a scheme being jointly promoted by Transport for London (TfL) and the Department for Transport (DfT) to provide a continuous rail link across London and further from north east of London at Shenfield, to west of London at Maidenhead with links also to be provided to Abbey Wood, and Heathrow Airport. Implementation of Crossrail will lead to platform extensions at Romford, Gidea Park and Harold Wood stations to cater for longer Crossrail trains and improved access for mobility impaired passengers at stations and will lead to increased capacity on the Great Eastern Mainline to and from the north of the borough.

It was established that the Council already has several rail aspirations including, better transport linkages between Romford station to other transport modes, and more "fast" trains services calling at Romford station during peak periods as well as the lengthening of platforms to accommodate 12 car trains. Havering also has aspirations to see platform extensions along the C2C route to increase capacity on this line.

- 4.11 The Topic Group sought the need to improve the rail service at Romford station. It was considered that further fast train services from and to London direction in the peak times (morning/evening) are needed. Also the lengthening of trains from 8 cars to 12 cars to facilitate more services at Romford. Extension of platform lengths at Rainham and Romford were also suggested to increase the frequency of train service.
- 4.12 It was noted that the British Transport Police (BTP) work with TfL, the communities and train companies to tackle crime and ensure a safe railway environment. Rail and underground stations within the borough are policed by BTP. It was also noted that BTP interact with other Police such as TOCU where necessary.
- 4.13 The Topic Group established that there are a number of future projects planned along the C2C line including increasing (subject to funding available) the number of trains running via Rainham, to introduce 12 car platforms for the Thameside loop which would include Rainham station. There would also be investment in car parking at stations.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The Topic Group noted the successes of bus and rail transport services within Havering and recognized that there are many areas for improvement. The group is aware of the future plans and schemes in place for improving the transport services such as the future projects on the c2c line, and the Crossrail proposals. .

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to address the above findings and conclusions, the Topic Group asks the Culture & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider the following recommendations and decide whether to refer the proposals to Cabinet:

1. That the Lead Member for Housing & Regeneration continue pressuring Transport for London (TfL) to review, on a regular basis, bus services to outlying areas within the borough. Particular emphasis should be given to trying to rectify the current lack of bus services from Rainham/Cranham and Upminster to Queens Hospital.

2. That the Lead Member for Housing & Regeneration lobby London Buses to improve punctuality of bus time tables across the borough, in particular the 370 bus route.
3. That the Transport Planning Team and/or TfL officers provide an update on progress and the current position on Oyster Card availability both at Romford Station and on particular bus routes, after three months have elapsed since the Cabinet decision on the report.
4. That the Council continues supporting the Crossrail proposals and its future implementation within the borough.
5. That for all recommendations adopted by Cabinet, the relevant head of service to report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its first meeting after three months have elapsed since Cabinet adoption, giving an update on the implementation of these recommendations. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to decide if further updates are needed beyond this.

## **7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Topic Group wishes to place on record their thanks for the very positive approach displayed by officers that we have met during this review.

This report is presented by the Public Transport Operators Topic Group of the Culture & regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **The following comments are submitted by members of staff:**

#### **Financial Implications and risks:**

The Topic Group make five recommendations. None of these will have any direct financial implications to the Council. As explained in para 4.2. of the report, local transport is not the direct responsibility of the local authority. This report is targeted at influencing those responsible, to improve services to the Borough.

#### **Legal Implications and risks:**

There are no apparent legal implications

#### **Human Resources Implications and risks:**

There are no HR implications arising from this report.

#### **Environmental risks and implications:**

None

**Equalities and Social inclusion risks and implications:**

None