

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
3 MARCH 1998

Present: Councillor Mrs Ballin (Chairman), Councillors Adams, Bayle, Blatchford, Mrs Clifford, Mrs Doyle, Finnie, Flood, Jones, Onions, Mrs Pile, Ryan, Veakins, Wade and Worrall

County Councillor Mrs Boyd

Also Present: Councillors Good and Harrison

Apologies for Absence had been received from Councillor Sargeant

567 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 1998 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

568 **Minutes of Sub Committees**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Control Sub Committee held on 12 January and 9 February 1998, as set out in Appendices A and B hereto, be received.

569 **Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan: Progress Report and Further Proposed Changes (Item 1)**

- (i) *In accordance with the advice of the Borough Solicitor the following members withdrew from the meeting for the discussion on the responses to objections concerning paragraphs, policies and proposals relating to specific retail issues and to Bracknell Town Centre: Councillors Adams, Mrs Ballin, Bayle, Flood, Jones, Wade and Good;*
- (ii) *Councillor Finnie was elected to chair the meeting during that part of this item in which the above matters were discussed and voted upon.*

The Committee received a progress report from the Director of Planning and Transportation regarding the current position on the preparation of the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan. The supplementary report of the Borough Planning Officer was tabled at the meeting and the Committee noted the additional information contained therein.

At its previous meeting the Committee had been notified of the counter representations which had been received in respect of the further proposed changes to the Borough Local Plan. Since that meeting a further seven representors had forwarded further representations and the Committee agreed that these should be treated as 'duly made'.

An Annexe to the report contained details of the representations received and suggested responses to the representations.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) excluding those parts relating to the Bracknell Town Centre, the suggested responses to the representations on the Further Proposed Changes to the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan detailed in Annexe A to the report (including the continuation pages circulated on 27 February 1998 and as amended by the supplementary report of the Borough Planning Officer) be approved;
- (ii) the additional late representations received since the meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee on 15 January 1998 be treated as "duly made";
- (iii) the amendments to the proposed changes and the further proposed changes contained in Annexe A to the report be approved for development control purposes,
- (iv) the Borough Planning Officer in consultation with the Committee Chairman be delegated to make minor changes of clarity and accuracy to the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan in order to take account of matters such as recent Government policy advice.

COUNCILLOR FINNIE IN THE CHAIR

- (v) that the remaining suggested responses to the representations on the further proposed changes to the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan detailed in Annexe A to the report and relating to the Bracknell Town Centre, be approved.

COUNCILLOR MRS BALLIN IN THE CHAIR

570 **Capital Programme 1998/99 - 2000/01**

The Committee received a joint report from the Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Planning and Transportation regarding progress on the Committee's capital programme for 1997/98 and suggesting schemes which the Committee might wish to put forward for inclusion in the Council's capital programme for 1998/99. The proposals from each service committee were to be submitted to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 19 March. Proposals would then be assessed against the resources available before recommending the capital programme to the Council meeting on 25 March 1998.

It was noted that during the course of the coming year proposals would be developed to extend the capital programme to cover a three year period, thereby helping to provide financial stability for the Council.

RESOLVED that the Committee submit the schemes summarised in Annexe B of the report to the Strategy and Policy Committee for inclusion in the capital programme for 1998/99.

571 **Environment Strategy 1998-2000 (Item 3)**

The Director of Public and Environmental Services and the Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a joint report on the production of a revised draft Environmental Strategy for the Council. The draft Strategy had been endorsed by the Public and Environmental Services Committee on 8 January 1998 where it had been agreed that the Strategy would be submitted to each service committee.

Since the publication of the draft Strategy officer discussion had identified the need to update and clarify a number of points. Specific points relating to the Planning and Transportation Committee were identified within the report.

RESOLVED that the Committee in confirming its commitment to Local Agenda 21, endorses the draft Environmental Strategy save for it being updated and amended as per paragraph 4.5 of the report.

572 **TPP Process 1999/2000 (Item 4)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation advised the Committee of the process which would be followed in the preparation and submission to the Government of the Transport Policy Programme bid for 1999/2000.

The report described the timetable for the bidding process and an outline format for the submission. It was proposed that the submission should be broadly as last year except that greater attention should be given to demand management and an explanation of the Council's sustainable land use policies. It was proposed that the Executive Sub Committee be asked to meet in April to consider and approve a draft submission for consultation purposes.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the contents of this report be noted and that a meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee be arranged to approve a draft for consultation prior to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (ii) the format of the draft TPP and the programme of work set out in the report be approved.

573 **The Future of Regional Planning Guidance - Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions Consultation Paper (Item 5)**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Planning and Transportation advising of the receipt of a consultation paper from the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions regarding the future of regional planning guidance.

The report highlighted key aspects of the paper and suggested a number of comments which could be forwarded to the Department.

RESOLVED that the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions be informed that Bracknell Forest Borough Council:

- (i) welcomes the review of the role and preparation of regional planning guidance;

- (ii) makes comments set out in the report.

574 Mobility Schemes 1997/98 (Item 6)

The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a report on the proposed allocation of the 1997/98 Mobility Schemes budget.

The current year's capital programme, approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 11 February 1997, detailed the provision of £50,000 for Mobility Schemes throughout the Borough. The Mobility Schemes budget had been established to make improvements to existing facilities and to create new facilities to improve access in the Borough for disabled people. The report detailed a number of areas which had been identified by the Access and Mobility Officer.

RESOLVED that

- (a) approval be given to the Mobility Schemes set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report; and
- (b) the works be carried out using the Borough Council's term contractor.

575 Designing for Accessibility (Item 7)

In a report from the Director of Planning and Transportation, the Committee was advised that as part of the Local Plan process it was proposed to review the Appendices to the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan. In particular, the report related to Appendix 10 of the Local Plan "Design Standards for Disabled Access". The report proposed that this Appendix be replaced by "Designing for Accessibility" 1997 edition, which was a much more comprehensive document adopted by the Council's Access Committee in July 1997.

RESOLVED that "Designing for Accessibility" (1997 edition) be approved as Supplementary Planning Guidance to be used for development control purposes.

576 The Concessionary Fares Scheme 1998/99 (Item 8)

In accordance with Standing Order 23 Councillor Finnie declared a pecuniary interest in this matter and withdrew from the meeting for the duration of this item.

In a joint report from the Director of Corporate Services and Director of Planning and Transportation the Committee was invited to consider an extension of existing concessionary fares scheme for a period of six months whilst a review of the current scheme was undertaken by Babcote Public Services Division.

Whilst the review of the scheme was underway it would be necessary to make arrangements to protect existing users. Consequently it was proposed to extend the current scheme for six months until 30 September 1998, pending the outcome of the review. A supplementary paper including the proposed charges for the period April to September 1998 was tabled.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Babbie Public Services Division administers the payments to operators required by the Council's concessionary fare scheme from 1 April 1998.
- (ii) That the proposals for a detailed review of the concessionary fares scheme by Babbie Public Services Division during March/April 1998 be noted and that a further report be submitted to the Committee at its meeting in June.
- (iii) That the existing scheme be extended for the period 1 April to 30 September 1998.
- (iv) That payments to operators and charges for the passes for the period 1 April to 30 September 1998 be agreed as follows:

	Payment to Operators		Proposed Charge
	1997/98 Current Cost	1998/99 Indicative Cost April - Sept	
	£	£	£
Free Fare	145	75.18	10.40
Half Fare	64.92	33.66	2.60
Blind Travel Pass	138.14	71.63	5.20
Senior Citizen's Rail Card	11.90	6.17	4.10
Disabled Rail Card	11	5.70	3.10

577 **Local Authorities National Type Approval Consortium LANTAC: Revised Indemnity Resolution (Item 9)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation advised the Committee of the current position with regard to the adoption and continued implementation of the Local Authorities National Type Approval Consortium (LANTAC) Scheme.

The Local Government Association had requested all participating authorities to adopt a new model indemnity resolution by 31 March 1998. The Council had adopted the current resolution in January 1995 and the proposed changes were required to ensure that a new initiative entitled the Partner Authority Scheme was properly covered and included within the LANTAC Scheme procedures.

RESOLVED That Bracknell Forest Borough Council agrees to adopt the "Rules of Membership of a LANTAC Consortium" currently applying and adopted by the LANTAC Executive Committee and the Local Government Association in particular the Council agrees to provide the Secretary of the appropriate Consortium, and the LANTAC Co-ordinator, with an undertaking approved by its public liability insurer that in the event of a claim arising in respect of any work shown on plans passed by it under the regulations, or on plans deposited with it in reliance of a type or system approval notice in respect of which notice of rejection has not been given within the relevant period from their deposit, the Council:-

- (i) shall not pursue any action, claim or other proceedings against any other Council which is a member of a LANTAC Consortium dealing with Type or System

Approved matter or under the Partner Authority Scheme within LANTAC, any officers of such Council or any other person or body concerned with the procedure relating to the Type and System Approval Schemes or Partner Authority Schemes; and

- (ii) shall indemnify and keep indemnified all such Councils, Officers, persons and bodies against all losses, damages, proceedings, costs and expenses whatsoever in respect of the claim.

578 The Road Traffic Reduction Act 1997 - Consultation (Item 10)

The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a report advising that a consultative document on the Road Traffic Reduction Act 1997 had been received from the Government and responses were invited by 20 April 1998.

It was suggested that a small group of members and officers be formed to discuss the paper and formulate a response, which could be considered by the Executive Sub Committee if it were to meet before the closing date for comments of 20 April 1998. The Committee considered that the group should also include members of the Public and Environmental Services Committee in view of that Committee's interest in the environmental and pollution aspects of traffic reduction.

RESOLVED that

- (i) a group of members and officers be formed to consider the consultative paper, and that a response be made through the Executive Sub Committee, or as appropriate; and
- (ii) the party group leaders be invited to nominate an appropriate number of members to serve on the group.

579 North Bracknell Study - Traffic and Road Safety (Item 11)

The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a report on proposals for a study into the effects of traffic in the areas of Binfield, Warfield and Winkfield, including roads leading from the northern fringe of Bracknell town.

A joint meeting had been held in September and a number of individual discussions had been held to progress the idea of the traffic study. A draft study brief had been established with the Council's consultant and this had been revised and was reproduced as an Annex to the report. A further consultation with the Parishes was suggested before the Brief was formally accepted.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Brief be approved for consultation with the Parishes;
- (ii) the Director of Planning and Transportation be authorised to revise the Brief after discussions with the Parishes and consultation with the Chairman;
- (iii) the Brief be issued to the Consultant; and

- (iv) the preparatory actions taken by the Director of Planning and Transportation be confirmed.

580 **Surrey Heath Local Plan - Deposit Draft (Item 12)**

The Committee received a report on the Surrey Heath Local Plan which contained land use policies and proposals for Surrey Heath Borough until 2006 and had been placed on deposit for a period of six weeks from 12 January 1998 to 23 February 1998.

The closing date for comments on the deposit draft had fallen before the meeting of the Committee. Following consideration of the issues which might affect Bracknell Forest Borough, an objection had been sent to Surrey Heath Borough Council on 18 February 1998. The Committee was invited to endorse this objection.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the contents of the Deposit Draft Surrey Heath Local Plan 1998 be noted; and
- (ii) the objection to Policy M23: Park and Ride Schemes, be endorsed as detailed under the comment section of paragraph 4.4 of the report, which was forwarded to Surrey Heath Borough Council on 18 February 1998.

581 **The Use of Tactile Paving and Dropped Kerbs (Item 13)**

The Committee received a report which outlined consideration given by the Access Committee on 3 December 1997 to the extended draft guidance on the use of tactile paving surfaces which had been published by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions in September 1997. The guidance recommended the use of different types of tactile paving for various features.

The Access Committee had agreed to recommend the adoption of the new guidance with the exception that tactile paving would not be installed at dropped kerbs where these could be off-set from a junction. The Committee discussed the wording of the proposed policy and invited the Director of Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chairman, to finalise the wording to avoid ambiguity.

RESOLVED that this Committee adopts, with effect from 1 April 1998, the guidance of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions on the use of tactile paving surfaces, drafted September 1997; this policy to apply to new installations and where there would be appropriate maintenance to existing installations; and that the Director of Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to finalise the wording of an exception to the guidance regarding the use of tactile paving in conjunction with dropped kerbs.

582 **Items for Information**

The Committee received the following reports submitted for information only:

Modernising Planning: Statement from Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (Item 14)

Unmetered Electricity Supply Contract (Item 15)

SERPLAN - Pre-Consultation Draft Regional Strategy (Item 16)

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.45pm.

CHAIRMAN