

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
15 JANUARY 1998

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

Apologies for Absence had been received from:
Councillors Flood, Veakins and County Councillor Mrs Boyd

454. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 October 1997 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

455. **Minutes of the Sub Committees**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Control Sub Committee held on 6 October, 3 November and 1 December 1997, and of the Highways Sub Committee held on 8 December 1997, as set out in Appendices A, B, C and D hereto, be received.

456. **Urgent Action Taken Under Delegated Powers**

The Committee received details of urgent action taken under delegated powers to authorise a response to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions regarding its consultation document on an integrated transport policy.

RESOLVED that the urgent action taken under delegated powers be noted.

457. **Service Plan (Item 1)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a service plan for the areas of service for which the Planning and Transportation Department was responsible. The plan contained objectives, key tasks and targets for each service area against which the Department's performance could be measured during the year. It was noted that, pending the completion of the Council's budget process, the objectives and targets were to be treated as provisional at this stage.

Members of the Committee welcomed the service plan as a valuable working document. Specific comments were made on a number of matters raised in the service plan. In particular, it was agreed that the references within the departmental activity profiles to cycling issues should be drawn out and treated separately within the document when it was revised.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Planning and Transportation Committee adopts the service plan as a basis for detailed service planning; and

- (ii) the property and land drainage elements of this report be referred to Finance and Property Sub Committee and Public and Environmental Services Committee respectively.

458. Revenue Budget 1998/99 (Item 2)

The Director of Planning and Transportation and the Director of Corporate Services submitted a joint report on the Committee's draft revenue budget for 1998/99, which had been prepared within the framework set by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 17 December 1997. All service committees were considering their revenue budgets during January in order to make recommendations to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 11 February 1998. The overall budget of the Council was to be considered at the Council meeting on 26 February 1998.

A large proportion of the Department's base budget for the first year of the unitary council was derived from the disaggregated County Council budget. The report described the detailed work which had been undertaken to disaggregate the County Council's budget in order to prepare estimates of this Council's budget requirements for 1998/99. A list of the main variations from the disaggregation was presented, totalling £377,000.

It was noted that the Strategy and Policy Committee had indicated to committees that they should resist the cost of inflation increases on running expenses budgets wherever possible. However there were some areas where this was not possible and list of such items was reported, totalling £129,000.

A list of service developments in respect of highways maintenance was presented, amounting to an additional £176,000 in 1998/99. With respect to economies, the Department's budgets had been carefully scrutinised to identify where further efficiency measures may be possible. A list of such items was presented for the Committee totalling £196,000

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Committee's draft base budget for 1998/99 be approved as shown in paragraph 4.4.3 of the report submitted; and
- (ii) the Strategy and Policy Committee, in considering the Council's budget for 1998/99, be requested to:
 - (i) add an allowance for inflation to the running expenses budget identified in Annex B of the report submitted.
 - (ii) consider the potential service developments/pressures and economies identified in Annexes C and D of the report submitted respectively.

459. Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (Item 3)

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 Further Proposed Changes agreed by the Committee on 2 October 1997 and by the Council on 23 October 1997 had been published for public consultation on 13 November 1997. The consultation period had expired on Friday 9 January 1998. The supplementary report of the Borough Planning Officer was tabled which advised that some 2,740 duly made Further Counter Representations had been received to the Further Proposed Changes by the closing date. A further 70 representations had been received following the closing date, prior to the Committee meeting. It was agreed that all the representations, including those received between 9 January and 15 January, would be considered duly made for the purpose of examination at the Public Local Inquiry.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the report be noted and that a report detailing a suggested response to each of the further counter representations be presented to the Committee meeting on 3 March 1998; and
- (ii) all the representations including those received between Friday 9 January and Thursday 15 January 1998, be considered to be duly made for the purpose of examination at the Public Local Inquiry.

460. **Highway and Transportation Policies (Item 4)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation reported to the Committee on the requirement to have a range of policies which would guide the Council's Highway and Transportation activities and promote the Council's aims and objectives.

Many of the policies currently in force stemmed from the County Council as Highway Authority, and it was proposed that these continue after 1 April 1998, until amended by the Council through its service plans or otherwise.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Highway and Transportation Policies and Practices contained in the publications shown in List A be followed by the Borough Council, except where modified by the approved Service Plan or otherwise changed;
- (ii) the guidance and advice contained in the publications shown in List B be followed in general, except where modified by the approved Service Plan or otherwise changed;
- (iii) the existing arrangements and practices relating to these policies should continue on the present basis, and at the appropriate times, reviews should be presented to Committee for consideration; and
- (iv) where required by the context of the policy, practice, procedure or arrangement, the phrase "County Council" should be interpreted as the "Borough Council".

461. **Bracknell Town Centre Urban Design Framework (Item 5)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a report on the Urban Design Framework for Bracknell Town Centre, produced by the Council's Consultants URBED with Jon Rowland. The draft Urban Design Framework had been approved by the Committee for public consultation on 2 October 1997.

The report detailed comments received from local residents, landowners/developers and the Access Committee in respect of the consultation draft.

The supplementary report of the Borough Planning Officer indicated a minor amendment to the document.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Bracknell Town Centre Urban Design Framework as amended, be approved as supplementary planning guidance for the future regeneration and redevelopment of the Town Centre; and
- (ii) the framework document be made available for purchase at a cost of £20 (including postage and packing).

462. **Zeneca Planning Brief (Item 6)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a report on the preparation of a planning brief for the Zeneca Agrochemicals site at Jealotts Hill Research Station in Warfield. The planning brief had been prepared to provide a framework for this major developed site within the green belt, which was facing pressure for development to respond to the unprecedented changes in technology and health and safety requirements of the agrochemicals industry.

The preparation of the planning brief had been assisted through the helpful co-operation of Zeneca, who had contributed greatly to a successful partnership with the Borough Council. Members of the Committee commended the company for the pains it had taken in consultation with the public over its plans for the site and congratulated everybody involved in producing the planning brief.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the planning brief be approved for development control purposes, except for the definition of the site boundary shown in Appendix 2 thereof, which remains defined as that shown on the proposals map, and under proposed change 104, of the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (incorporating Further Proposed Changes, November 1997); and
- (ii) That the planning brief be made available for purchase at a cost of £20 (including p&p), and the public consultation file be made available for purchase at a cost of £10 (including p&p).

463. **Kennel Lane Bus Gate (Item 7)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a report regarding a proposal for a bus gate within the new development around Kennel Lane, Bracknell. The report provided details of the scheme and sought approval to advertise the draft Traffic Regulation Order.

The bus gate was a long-standing proposal originating from the Bracknell Transport Plan in 1993. It would be funded from developers contributions.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the proposed scheme be approved in principle and the details delegated to the Director, following consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Ward Members; and
- (ii) That a draft Traffic Regulation Order be published, and if no sustained objections are received, the Director be authorised to confirm the Order following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

464. **Unmetered Electricity Supply Contract (Item 8)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a report regarding the supply of electricity to street lights, traffic lights and illuminated signs and bollards.

The County Council currently had a contract to purchase unmetered electrical energy on a County-wide basis. This contract was due to expire on 31 March 1998 and it was proposed that a joint arrangement between the unitary authorities be put in place to deal with this issue following vesting day.

The proposed new contract would be put in place from April 1998 covering the whole County area for an initial two year period. It had been jointly agreed that Bracknell Forest Borough Council would act as clients to the contract and administer the allocation of management and energy costs on behalf of the six Unitary Councils for which a formal agreement would be drawn up.

RESOLVED that

- (i) unmetered electrical energy should be purchased on a Countywide basis with Bracknell Forest as lead Authority for a new two year contract;
- (ii) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to conclude an agreement with the other Berkshire District/Borough Councils providing for the appointment of Bracknell Forest as lead authority and agent to purchase unmetered electrical energy on their behalf; and
- (iii) the Director of Planning and Transportation be authorised to accept the lowest schedule of rates tender received subject to consultation with the Chairman and concurrent confirmation by the other five Unitary Authorities in Berkshire.

465. **Surrey Structure Plan - Consultation Draft October 1997 (Item 9)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a report on the Surrey Structure Plan Consultation Draft which set out the strategic framework for development in the County from 1996 to 2011. Comments had been requested on the draft plan by 30 January 1998.

The main issue of relevance to Bracknell Forest Borough Council in the draft structure plan was the proposed strategy on housing. The Committee accepted the proposed response as set out in the report.

RESOLVED that Surrey County Council be informed that Bracknell Forest Borough Council:

- (i) recognises the difficulty of meeting the additional housing requirement without the loss of an area of Green Belt or damage to the character and environment of existing urban areas and supports the commissioning of a comprehensive urban capacity report.
- (ii) is concerned about Surrey County Council's failure to meet the additional housing requirement in accordance with the 1992 based household projections. The failure to accommodate this additional housing is likely to result in extra development pressure on adjoining areas which face similar difficulties to Surrey County Council in accommodating the additional housing requirement

466. **Blackwater Valley Network - Members' Steering Group (Item 10)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation submitted a report advising of the need to amend the Borough Council's nominations to the Blackwater Valley Network Members' Steering Group.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs M P Ballin be nominated to attend future meetings of the Blackwater Valley Network Members' Steering Group, in place of Councillor P L North.

467. **Items for Information**

The Committee received the following reports submitted for information only:

Transport, Policy and Programme Approval 1998/99	(Item 11)
Wokingham District Local Plan - Deposit Draft	(Item 12)
Revised Budget 1997/98	(Item 13)
SERPLAN - New Constitution and Review of the Regional Strategy	(Item 14)
Green Leaf Awards	(Item 15)

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.15pm.

CHAIRMAN