



REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE held on 21 JULY 2003 at 7.00 P.M. at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Neil WATSON (Chair)
Councillor Paul BATES (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Graham NEALE, Sarah WELFARE, Billy KAYADA and David BRADBURY

OFFICER Robert Bollen – Corporate Strategy
Leigh Henderson – Scrutiny Team

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The Members listed as being present were confirmed as the Voting Members.

NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT

There were none.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests made nor dispensations notified.

RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES

Council Procedure Rule 1.17(5) allows a Member to record her/his vote in respect of any motions and amendments. Such requests are detailed in the following Minutes. Should a Member's vote be recorded in respect to an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the Minute File and is available for public inspection.

The Committee considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been incorporated in the Minute File. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

1. **PERFORMANCE DATA AND EXECUTIVE REVIEW**

Prior to the Executive review with Councillor Thomas, members had the opportunity to discuss the Transport Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) reported to the Executive in June. Members expressed concern regarding the value of the transport BVPIs and the timeliness of the reporting of this data to members. Many of the transport BVPIs were discontinuous over the 2000/01-2005/06 timeframe due to changes in the Government's reporting requirements. Note that Paul Evans, Director of Regeneration accompanied Councillor Thomas.

Availability of Information

Paul Evans outlined the separation of responsibilities for transport between Department of Regeneration and Department of Environment and Leisure. The Regeneration Department is responsible for the strategy and planning plus accident prevention/safety (BVPIs 99 and 165). The Environment and Leisure department has responsibility for most other aspects of transport including highways. As such, Gill Davies, Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure should be contacted regarding highways performance data.

Paul Evans, Strategic Director of Regeneration, reported to the Sub-Committee that other transport performance indicators are regularly reported and that departments would continue to monitor discontinued BVPIs if deemed useful.

Councillor Thomas and Paul Evans reported that, the draft Borough Spending Plan (BSP) to be considered by the Assembly shortly outlines key transport strategies and funding levels. Budgets and timeframes for key projects will be detailed. In addition the Sub-Committee may wish to review TFL data, namely major transport trends and congestion charges data.

Accident Prevention Budget

In response to members request for details regarding the accident prevention budget and how funding is prioritised, members were advised that this process is under review. Councillor Thomas gave an undertaking to write to the Mayor, Ken Livingstone regarding the BSP and lack of flexibility in the funding process.

Target Setting

Members questioned the Executive member regarding potential repercussions of not achieving targets. Members were advised that the Council did not face specific penalties for failing to achieve targets, but that key BVPIs are included in the Council's CPA judgement. Paul Evans advised that changes in population as a result of the 2001 census might result in fluctuations in performance against BV99.

Improving Transport Links in the South of the Borough

Councillor Thomas noted a number of key issues to improving transport links including; improving stations in Peckham, undertaking trials for bus re-routing (P30), Camberwell/Peckham tram project and lobbying for Camberwell station. Paul Evans noted two key long-term projects – the East London Line and Thameslink 2000, which are back on the agenda.

Quality of Street Lighting

Councillor Thomas and members agreed that the BV98 (percentage of street lights not working as planned) was not a meaningful measure of quality of street lighting. For members the key issues for street lighting are the extent of illumination and community safety. Satisfaction with street lighting would be a more informative indicator for members.

Policy Successes and Improvements

When questioned about policy successes and improvements, Councillor Thomas highlighted the funding for Walworth Road and the progress on the home zone as two key policy successes. Deaths of roads and addressing anti-social behaviour on Southwark streets were policy areas Councillor Thomas wished to improve.

Relationship with Transport for London (TFL)

Councillor Thomas and Paul Evans assessed the relationship between Southwark Council and TFL as strong. They noted that prompt implementation by the Council of measures supporting Congestion Charging was looked upon favourably by TFL and that Southwark performs relatively well in the TFL funding processes.

Having responded to Members questions or given an undertaking to respond at a later stage, Councillor Thomas left the meeting. Paul Evans agreed to stay for the remainder of the meeting so as to contribute to the discussions on the work programme and UDP.

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Thomas will provide further details on BV97b in particular the upward movement of the target from 2003/04 to 2005/06.
2. That Councillor Thomas will contact Mayor, Ken Livingstone regarding the BSP and the lack of flexibility in the funding process.
3. That the Sub-Committee will review the draft Borough Spending Plan when released and seek clarification from Councillor Thomas as required.
4. That the Sub-Committee will write to Councillor Thomas thanking him for attending.

2. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair reported a proposal by OSC to amend the Sub-Committee's 2003/04 work programme, requesting that the Sub-Committee undertake a brief review of the Elephant and Castle regeneration project discussing, reasons for the delay and lessons to be learnt.

Paul Evans advised that a wealth of information exists on the Elephant and Castle and offered to present information to the Sub-Committee in September. Many lessons have been identified and the Canada Water scheme has been managed differently in light of the lessons learnt from Elephant and Castle redevelopment programme.

Members resolved to seek further clarification from OSC on the brief review of Elephant and Castle. Clarification is sought prior to meeting with Councillor Bowman in September.

3. Briefing from Robert Bollen on the UDP

Robert Bollen advised that the second draft of the UDP would be available for the Sub-Committee to review early next year. Paul Evans gave further details about the process of agreeing the UDP. A public inquiry will follow the release of the second draft. This inquiry is anticipated to run until the middle of next year. The second draft of the UDP will be able to take into account key features of the London Plan which is due to be released in approximately two months.

Regeneration Performance

Paul Evans undertook to provide the Sub-Committee with a prioritised, updated version of the Quarterly Regeneration Project Report for the Executive in September, prior to meeting with Councillor Bowman.

Paul Evans also discussed the planning performance data to be reviewed in September. Processing of planning applications is reported monthly and is assessed as part of the CPA. Two issues, namely recruitment and technology were highlighted as being currently addressed to improve the processing of planning applications. Staff resourcing has been restructured to create a fast-track team to process a high proportion of standard applications.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Sub-Committee receive the updated Quarterly Regeneration Project Report for their meeting with Councillor Bowman.
2. That the Sub-Committee will write to OSC requesting clarification of the brief for the review of Elephant and Castle.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

CHAIR:

DATED: