



SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE B

MINUTES of the meeting of SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE B held on March 26th 2009 at 7:00PM at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor David Hubber (Chair)
Councillor Althea Smith (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Denise Capstick
Councillor Jenny Jones
Councillor Lorraine Zuleta

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Barbara Selby – Head of Transport Planning
Cheryl Powell – Scrutiny Project Manager

ALSO PRESENT:

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jenny Jones.
Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Denise Capstick

NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS AS URGENT

There were none.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

Minutes

The minutes of the 21st January to be circulated to Members of the committee in attendance for consideration and approval.

1. **BUS SERVICES IN SOUTHWARK**

- 1.1 Councillor Hubber reviewed the background literature received to date and highlighted the following:

Way to Go! - London Council's response:

Key issue: reviewing bus route planning – this review should include examining the option for the way in which services are organised including consideration of the idea of a London-wide “grid system” supported by some key radial and orbital routes.

Councillor Hubber stressed the need for Southwark to respond in a way that highlights the lack of orbital routes in the borough, particularly in the Rotherhithe – Camberwell Green conurbation.

Barbara Selby informed the Committee that Southwark's response to Way to Go suggested that routes should be addressed holistically not route by route as is recommended in the consultation.

- 1.2 **Way to Go! - London Council's response:**

Connect Transport and Planning

We strongly support the Mayor's desire to better connect transport and planning. London Councils believes that London needs better integration between its transport and planning policies.

Councillor Hubber suggested Southwark must ensure Transport for London (TfL) provides bus services that are in line with new developments throughout the borough.

- 1.3 **London Borough of Southwark Local Implementation Plan (LiP)**

Southwark would like to see a service provided within the peninsula to the north of the river, particularly the business area of Canary Wharf. In this regard, the Council is disappointed at TfL's decision to remove the route 395 service, which provided a service from Rotherhithe through the Blackwall Tunnel towards Tower Hamlets.

Councillor Hubber stressed the need for members of the committee to lobby TfL into reconsidering the planning of bus routes throughout the Borough. This should include the shortness of routes, for example, the 199 should logically terminate at Bromley. Instead this route terminates at Catford Bus station. It was noted that the shortness of this route coupled with poor frequency and reliability ought to make this a prime example for review by TfL.

- 1.4 **Analytical Hub statistics**

All Members felt the information provided by the Analytical hub was helpful in showing them which parts of the borough experienced low car ownership.

- 1.5 Councillor Zuleta enquired if any passenger surveys were carried to ascertain passenger perception of reliability and frequency of bus routes

Barbara Selby informed Members of the Committee that this is not statutory function carried out by Southwark Council. TfL carry out random sampling on various buses throughout the Capital. The surveys provide TfL with information about passengers journey experience by asking:

- Where the passenger started their journey
- Where the passenger alighted
- The purpose of the passengers journey

- 1.6 Barbara Selby discussed the Members responses submitted to the Sub-Committee, namely the comments submitted by Councillor Ward in connection with the number 42 route.

This route ends in Sunray Avenue and a proposal has been submitted for an extension past Dulwich Hospital and Lordship Lane. This area is very difficult to clear of other vehicles and would make extending the bus routes more difficult. TfL has discussed extending this route to Goosegreen roundabout as part of their business case. To extend to Sainsbury's this would impose a "2 bus" extension. To extend to Goosegreen roundabout would impose a "1 bus" extension. TfL's Business case allows for only a 1 bus extension. In light of this, Southwark Council have explained that the development in the area through a new hospital, library and housing development will ensure more people will be travelling into the area and the route will eventually pay for itself. Although the 42 route is underperforming TfL don't always extend routes of this nature due to the fact that more pressure to perform well is assumed to correct underperformance and unreliability.

- 1.7 Councillor Hubber thanked Barabara Selby for her input and invited her to the Committee's next meeting in May

RESOLVED: The next meeting on the 13th May 2009 will be an evidence gathering session to assist the committee in its deliberations. Witness package to include:

- Caroline Pidgeon AM;
- Valerie Shawcross AM;
- Bus operator(s);
- TfL Officers;
- Sally Crew;
- Barabara Selby; and
- Community Council Members

2. **THE COMMON LETTINGS POLICY**

- 2.1 The Committee have agreed to carry out pre decision scrutiny as this policy will not be received by the Executive until September 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Scrutiny Manager formulate a timetable for the Scrutiny Sub Committee.

3. WORK PROGRAMME

3.1 The Committee agreed the work programme

RESOLVED: To note the report

The meeting closed at 8.11pm