



Minutes of the meeting of the PERFORMANCE REVIEW PANEL held on WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2006 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor Morris (Vice-Chair in the Chair)
Councillors Barry, Campbell (substitute for Councillor Wilson), Carruthers, Eastman, Morris and Tunney

Officers: J Boothroyde (Overview and Scrutiny Manager), I Dyer (Passenger Transport Manager) and S Parker (Senior Committee Manager)

Also Present: Councillor Crooks and K Hayward (MK Metro)

Apology: Councillor Wilson

PR07 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Performance Review Panel held on 19 July 2006, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

PR08 IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT - PARK AND RIDE

The Panel received a report on the performance of the Park and Ride service in Milton Keynes, as part of its work examining the Council's priority of improving public transport.

The results of a service sampling exercise, carried out by Councillor Wilson, with Councillors Eastman and Morris, were reported at the meeting.

The Council's Passenger Transport Manager was thanked for the response which he had prepared to the fact finding by Members, which was circulated at the meeting.

Comments from Members included the following:

- There was a lack of information on the coherence between Park and Ride, a green transport policy/strategy and the Council's car parking pricing strategy, car parking provision

and strategic land use planning. This information would provide a context within which Park and Ride could be effectively scrutinised, and informed consideration could be given to whether to continue the provision of a Park and Ride scheme or facilitate the car.

- There is a need to look at creative ways to encourage people to use Park and Ride. At present, the Park and Ride based at the Coachway is unwelcoming, dirty and gives the impression of being rundown. Those using Park and Ride need to feel that they can leave their cars in a safe area and are provided with a fast reliable service into the city.
- Whilst the improvements arising from the planned medium and long term development for the Junction 14 area, including the Coachway and Park and Ride, are recognised, there are a number of small scale and low cost improvements which would have an immediate beneficial effect, including:
 - The need to encourage increased use of the Park and Ride service through publicity of the service amongst large employers (for example, Abbey National and within the Council), commuters and the wider public.
 - Consideration should be given to increasing the frequency of the Park and Ride service and the benefits of extending the service to the railway station.
 - Consideration should be given to improving the facilities for the security staff (for example, toilet facilities).
 - The security staff should be provided with contact information to enable them to report problems on the site.
 - Additional Park and Ride sites should be appropriately / conveniently placed to encourage usage (for example, a site at Stoke Hammond would be more appropriate than Denbigh).
 - There is a need for an equalities impact assessment of the Park and Ride site at the Coachway.
 - There is not presently a Park and Ride strategy to enable performance of the service to be measured.

RESOLVED -

1. That Cabinet be requested to consider the following short term, low cost improvements suggested by Members to improve Park and Ride at the Coachway:
 - (a) improved information, including bus timetabling;
 - (b) improved seating, particularly for the disabled and elderly;

- (c) regular emptying of bins;
 - (d) minor improvements to the car park; and
 - (e) provision of contact information to security staff, to enable them to report problems on the site.
2. That the Environment Policy Development Committee be requested to consider development of a Park and Ride strategy, that will both relate Park and Ride to other strategies and enable the performance of the service to be adequately measured, and make its recommendations to Cabinet.
 3. That the Passenger Transport Manager be invited to the Panel's December meeting to update on the short term, lower cost improvements.

PR09

WORK PROGRAMME PLANNING - UPDATE

The Panel considered the detailed planning exercise carried out to date on the Panel's work programme.

RESOLVED -

1. That the planning carried out to date, as detailed in the report, be approved.
2. That Councillor Wilson be the lead Member on performance information monitoring.
3. That Councillor Morris, aided by Councillor Barry, investigate the enforcement of retrospective planning permission refusal and report back to the Panel on their findings.
4. That Councillor Wilson, aided by Councillor Morris, investigate Empty Homes (both Council and the private sector) and report back to the Panel on their findings.
5. That the issue of CPA criticisms of Overview and Scrutiny be raised at the next Chairs' meeting to consider a way forward.
6. That the next Chairs' meeting be asked to decide whether the Audit Committee or the Performance Review Panel, should consider trends arising from budget monitoring reports.
7. That the Panel, as a whole, investigate ways of looking at HBS performance.
8. That the Panel consider a standard item on Inspection Reports.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.09 PM