

ITEM 3

Minutes of the meeting of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2013 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Tallack (Chair)
Councillors Edwards (substituting for Councillor Legg), Hawthorn, D McCall, I McCall, McKenzie and Wallis.

Officers: N Fenwick (Director for Planning and Transport Services), B Matthews (Head of Transportation Services) and L Sung (Overview and Scrutiny Officer).

Witnesses: Richard Flindell (Network Rail) and Caryl Jones (East West Consortium)

Also Present: Councillors A Geary and Hopkins

Apologies: Councillors Klein and Legg

No. of Public: 3

ET03 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Environment and Transport Select Committee held on 27 March and 22 May 2013 be approved and signed by the Chair as correct records.

ET04 EAST / WEST RAIL

Richard Flindell (Network Rail) and Caryl Jones (East / West Consortium) advised the Committee on Network Rail's Communications Strategy, which was due to be signed off by the Joint Delivery Board at the end of July 2013, and provided an update on the high level milestones for the East West Link.

The Committee was advised that in May 2013, the Transport and Work Act Order had been granted for work to commence on phase 1 (Oxford to Bicester) of the East West Rail link as from 15 August 2013.

The representative from Network Rail advised the Committee that Network Rail would be undertaking a wide range of consultations throughout the length of the project, advising that the aim of the Communications Strategy was:

- to raise awareness, communicate and engage with all stakeholders as the EWR Phase (1&) 2 project progresses;

- to engage relevant statutory bodies, local authorities and communities on how East West Rail can be delivered efficiently, amicably and sympathetically;
- to draw on the knowledge and expertise of local authorities and communities ensuring they are fully engaged;
- to identify at an early stage likely advocates, supporters and challengers/challenges to the scheme;
- to phase and/or group our stakeholder communication to make efficient use of time and resource required;
- to support Network Rail's application for one or more Transport and Work Act Orders to obtain necessary powers to re-instate the line;

The Network Rail representative advised that consultations had taken place with line side neighbours and residents, land owners impacted by the improvements to the line, local communities and the wider public, specialist interest groups, rail users and user groups, parish and town councils, MPs, LEPs, local authorities and objectors. Communications had been conducted through East West Rail exhibitions, publicity at local stations including Bedford, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury and Oxford and in local authority foyers and public spaces. Further communications were planned to work alongside future phasing of the programme.

Consultation was currently being undertaken on the following issues:

- Environmental statement - mitigation solutions (ES due early 2015) entire route
- Design options – stations, structures eg bridges (Alliance contractor appointment mid to late 2014) local issues
- Construction methodologies – access, hours of work, road vs rail (local issues)
- Level crossings – alternatives if closed or making them safe (local issues)

The responsible Cabinet Member reported that a number of residents in the Bow Brickhill and Woburn Sands area had made enquiries about their local level crossing and had received differing and sometimes, conflicting responses. In addition the plans at Network Rail identified areas of development that had not been indicated in the Council's Core Strategy.

In response, the representative from Network Rail advised that a Joint Task Force had been set up to look at all level crossings along the route.

Councillor A Geary, the Council's representative on the Joint Development Board advised the Committee that communications from Network Rail needed to be better and that this matter would be raised at the next Board meeting. He would also relay to the Board the issues raised at this meeting.

The East / West Rail representative advised that the contributions made by the local authorities was based on a population based grant formula and reported that this authority had committed £50m to the programme over a 15 year period. She reported that only one local authority was not fulfilling their obligation and the matter had been communicated to the Department for Transport (DfT).

RESOLVED –

1. That the Network Rail Communications Plan be noted.
2. That Councillor A Geary, the Council's representative on the Joint Development Board, be requested to take some of the concerns of the Committee and that of the responsible Cabinet Member to the Joint Delivery Board for consideration.

ET05 ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2013/2014

Following the setting scrutiny priorities workshop held on 30 April 2013, the Committee considered a draft work programme for the year.

RESOLVED -

That the proposed work programme for 2013/2014 be agreed.

ET06 ESTABLISHING A MAJOR EVENT MANAGEMENT REVIEW GROUP

The Environment and Transport planning group (consisting of the Chair and both Vice-Chairs of the Select Committee) suggested that a review group to consider major event management be established to tie in with the overall theme of the work programme, that of Visiting MK. The planning group had suggested that the review group should consider issues around major event management, including issues of locations, training facilities, Milton Keynes' ability to cope with a large influx of people trying to gain entry to one particular event, visitors navigating around the city and the availability of suitable facilities

RESOLVED –

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee be requested to approve establishing a Major Event Management Review Group.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.30 PM