



Haverhill Area Working Party

Record of a Meeting held on 8 September 2011 at 4.15 pm in the Conference Room, Samuel Ward Academy, Chalkstone Way, Haverhill

Present (please tick if present)

Ager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McManus	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms Byrne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Redhead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
French	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Richardson (Chairman)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mrs Gower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Rushbrook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marks	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Whittaker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Substitutes

Clifton-Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farthing	<input type="checkbox"/>

By Invitation

Haverhill Town Councillor Pat Hanlon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gordon Mussett, Clerk to Haverhill Town Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Officers in attendance

Luke Barber (SCC Highways), Carl Bowen-Price (SCC Highways), Sam Cliff (SCC Highways), Geoff Rivers (SEBC Chief Executive), Ivan Sams (SEBC Head of Property and Engineering Services)

14. Substitutes

No substitutions were declared.

15. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors French, Marks and McManus.

16. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. Declarations of Interests

Members' declarations of interest are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

18. Haverhill Council Offices Partnership Project, Lower Downs Slade: Progress

The Working Party received and noted Report C115 (previously circulated) which updated the Working Party on progress regarding the provision of shared office accommodation between St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) at SEBC's existing offices at Lower Downs Slade, Haverhill.

The Working Party noted that the business case for sharing offices in Haverhill had previously been approved by both authorities' Cabinets. A summary of the proposal was contained in Section 2.3 of Report C115 with current progress on the project outlined in Section 3.

In response to questions, the Working Party was informed that:-

- (a) as part of progressing the project, investigations would be undertaken into whether a private telephone line to directly connect both telephony systems at the Council offices with Haverhill Arts Centre could be installed; and
- (b) SCC was awarding the building contract to the successful contractor identified through its Construction Framework Agreement. Members were assured that taking this procurement route would achieve the overall best value for money.

19. High Street Enhancement Scheme

(Councillor Mrs Richardson, Chairman, declared a personal interest as her employer, Haldo Developments Limited, supplied street lighting furniture to Suffolk County Council. Councillor Mrs Gower declared a personal interest as a Member of Suffolk County Council. Both Members remained in the meeting for the consideration of this item.)

The Working Party considered Report C137 (previously circulated as a late urgent report by email) which sought approval for consultation to be undertaken on a new scheme to enhance High Street, Haverhill. Approval was also sought to advertise a new Access Restriction Order to cover access in Swan Lane at its junction with Murton Slade; Camps Road and for the full length of the High Street to Eden Road. Access would be prohibited for all vehicles Monday to Thursday from 10am to 4pm and Friday and Saturday 6am to 6pm.

The original design had envisaged that the section of the High Street from Quakers Lane to Eden Road would be pedestrianised Monday to Thursday from 10am to 4pm and Friday and Saturday from 6am to 6pm, with the section from Swan Lane to Quakers Lane being restricted access on Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm and on Saturday from 6am to 6pm. This design was dependent upon using Quakers Lane for all vehicles legitimately accessing Market Hill. The Working Party noted that once the detailed design of the scheme had been undertaken, concerns had been expressed regarding the proposal to use Quakers Lane as the alternative access from Market Hill.

The concerns were detailed in Report C137 and in response to these the original proposals had been re-evaluated and a new scheme designed.

Report C137, which had been prepared by Suffolk County Council's (SCC) Highways Officers, contained the new proposal for the Enhancement Scheme which the Working Party considered in detail. Members were reminded that £750,000 Growth Area Funding had already been allocated to the scheme (less £8,000 plus £2,000 contingency allocated to the Public Art in the Town Centre of Haverhill (PATCH) task and finish group) and additional funding would be sought from SCC's existing budget for highway improvements.

A detailed discussion was held and Members expressed concern regarding a number of issues connected with the proposed design for the new scheme. Consequently, Members requested that they needed to discuss the new proposal further at a specially arranged meeting with members of the ONE Haverhill Board, SCC's Portfolio Holder for Roads, Transport and Planning, and SCC's Highways Officers before considering the recommendations contained in Report C137.

RESOLVED:-

That following Suffolk County Council's (SCC) Highways Officers' investigation into a number of issues connected with the proposed design for the new scheme, a 'special' meeting of the Haverhill Area Working Party be arranged with the ONE Haverhill Board and SCC's Portfolio Holder for Roads, Transport and Planning to consider the design element of the proposal for the High Street Enhancement Scheme, Haverhill.

(Gordon Mussett, Clerk to Haverhill Town Council and Councillor Mrs Rushbrook left the meeting during the consideration of this item.)

20. ONE Haverhill

(Councillor Mrs Gower declared a personal interest as the Chairman of ONE Haverhill and remained in the meeting for the consideration of this item.)

The Working Party received and noted an oral update on the current situation regarding the work of ONE Haverhill.

The Chief Executive explained the remit of ONE Haverhill, including how its long term vision was to inter-relate with other bodies located in Haverhill and to ensure that duplication of work across partners was avoided. The Haverhill Area Working Party would continue to function as a separate entity at least until ONE Haverhill was fully established.

21. Dates of Future Meetings

The Haverhill Area Working Party noted the dates for future meetings as listed on the agenda.

22. Conclusion of Meeting

The meeting concluded at 6.37 pm

This record has been completed by Ivan Sams, Head of Property and Engineering Services

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