

Report to: Scrutiny Committee

Date: 21 March 2019

Title: Scrutiny Transport Panel

Report of: Democratic Services

Ward(s): All

Purpose of report: That the Transport Panel be once again referred back to the Committee to clarify the expectations of the panel and ascertain whether it was still necessary, or whether the Panel's objective could be achieved by means of another process.

Officer recommendation: That the current Scrutiny Transport Panel be dissolved and the the Committee considers how the topic might be addressed in the future when it agrees its 2019/2020 work Programme.

Reasons for recommendations: To make use of the requirement of the Council's Constitution that a Panel be referred back to the Committee, should the Panel's agreed timescale for completing a review become unrealistic.

Contact Officer(s): **Department:** Tondra Thom
E-mail: tondra.thom@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk
Telephone number: 01323 415677

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The current membership of the Transport Panel is Councillors Peter Gardiner (Chair), Nigel Enever, Joanna Carter, Vic lent and Julian Peterson.
- 1.2 The topic under consideration within this report was put forward by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 8 September 2016. For information, at its meeting on 17 October 2017 East Sussex County Council had a Full Council debate with relation to 'The Big Petition - A259 South Coast Road Congestion'. The Council agreed the following motion as its recommendation:

This Council recommends to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment that traffic monitoring on the A259 continues, and that the Lead Member continues to work with Lewes District Council and Brighton & Hove City Council to deliver the package of planned transport interventions identified during the development of the Lewes Local Plan.

- 1.3 The Panel was referred back to the Scrutiny Committee in order to clarify its scope. At its meeting on 11 January 2018 the Scrutiny Committee determined that the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Transport Panel would be to scrutinise

the impact of the A259 within Lewes District with particular reference to its effect on the local economy, also taking into account the Air Quality motion, pursuant to the Council resolution from the Full Council.

Objectives of the review would include:

- a) Understanding how the strategic direction set out in both the Council Plan and the Local Plan in relation to all transport provision in the District is being implemented by the Council in practice;
- b) Understanding how the Council works with its partners to ensure effective public transport planning and delivery, and to investigate whether this was being undertaken in a way which supported the local economy and;
- c) Understanding how transport infrastructure planning was likely to take place in the future, in line with legislative requirements.

It was decided that the following external guests would be invited to attend and contribute to the Panel's ongoing review into the A259:

- a) A259 Action Group
- b) Newhaven Town Council
- c) East Sussex County Council

It was anticipated that the final report of the panel would be presented to the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 28 June 2018.

- 1.4 The Scrutiny Transport Panel has met three times and so far welcomed presentations from representatives of the Peacehaven Focus Group and Newhaven Town Council regarding the A259. A copy of the minutes from previous meetings can be found on the Council's website.
- 1.5 The last meeting of the Scrutiny Transport Panel took place on 15 January 2018. At this meeting East Sussex County Council officers were invited to attend to discuss the A259 evidence base with the panel. Unfortunately this invitation was declined due to the impending meeting between Lewes District Council, East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council Councillors and the live nature of the Lower Hodden Farm planning application.
- 1.6 Due to the strict timeline imposed by the new National Planning Policy Framework, key officers from the Planning Policy Team consulted the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and there was an understanding that the Local Plan Part 2 and its pre-submission publication would be prioritised.
- 1.7 Following this, and taking into consideration a changeover of staff, officers requested that the Transport Panel be once again referred back to the Committee to clarify the expectations of the panel and determine its future.

2 Financial appraisal

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. The Scrutiny Committee has a limited budget for use when undertaking scrutiny reviews if required.

3 Legal implications

8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

4 Risk management implications

9.1 There is no requirement for an analysis of risks arising from this report.

5 Equality analysis

10.1 An equalities impact assessment is not considered necessary for this routine report. Individual projects and service areas are subject to separate equality analysis as part of the Council's wider equality programme.

6 Appendices

None

7 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

[Part 4 Scrutiny Procedure Rules - Lewes District Council](#)

[Full Council - East Sussex County Council](#)

[Previous Agenda and Minutes of the Scrutiny Transport Panel](#)