

TRANSPORT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD 6 October 2011

The meeting commenced at 8.30am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Pamela Hargreaves, Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder

Officers: Mike Blair, Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

Also Present

Councillor Steve Thomas, Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum

1. 20's Plenty Review of Action Plan *(Assistant Director (Transport and Engineering))*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To review the Action Plan in respect of the 20's Plenty scheme, developed as a result of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum investigation.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum carried out an investigation into the 20's plenty speed limit programme in 2010/11. As subsequent public consultation exercise showed the majority of people were not in favour of the scheme and Cabinet therefore decided not to proceed on a town-wide basis. However more localised areas would be investigated if there was support from residents and members. The Action Plan from the original scrutiny investigation had therefore been updated to reflect these changes. A copy of the updated action plan was appended to the report.

Deleted: 11 10 06 Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio

The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum acknowledged that public response to the consultation had been very disappointing and that there was clearly no support for full implementation across the town. However he was aware of areas where the public would support 20mph zones. These included West Park, Oval Grange, Warrior Park, roads leading off Oxford Road and parts of Foggy Furze. He felt that these areas might benefit from 20s plenty schemes and recommended that a wider area pilot be considered where there was real local demand and costs would be minimal. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager agreed that West Park might be a suitable area for such a pilot scheme as it would involve very little additional signage. The Portfolio Holder noted that the Council were making a concerted effort to reduce road signage and clutter. She also felt that the area in question might not be indicative of some other areas across the town as the Park ward was quite distinct. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager highlighted that the 20s plenty ethos had been concentrated on signage rather than traffic calming. The Portfolio Holder acknowledged the limited budget available to implement calming measures but felt that in some cases strategic calming measures were necessary.

The Chair of Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum also asked that the 20mph restrictions around schools be extended past the current 50 yard limits. The Portfolio Holder fully supported this. She also highlighted the recommendation in the updated action plan that accident maps be circulated to all councillors. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager noted that only accidents resulting in injury would be included. The Portfolio Holder noted this and asked that this be made clear to councillors when the information was being distributed.

The Portfolio Holder noted the updated action plan and thanked everyone involved for their hard work. She asked that the message behind 20s plenty continue to be publicised through the Council's press office and Hartbeat in an effort to re-educate drivers. She also asked that a local consultation be carried out prior to any pilot scheme being introduced. Officers were asked to provide regular updates on 20s plenty at the Portfolio briefings with the next update to take place in early 2012. Members of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum were thanked for their work on this issue.

Decision

- i. That the updated action plan be noted
- ii. That where requests for 20 mph speed limits are received a local public consultation be carried out prior to implementation, and detailed proposals brought back to Portfolio if there is wider public support.
- iii. That the 20mph areas around schools be widened

Deleted: 11 10 06 Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio

- iv. That the press office continue to promote 20s plenty

2. Catcote Road / Owton Manor Lane Improvements

(Assistant Director (Transport and Engineering))

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To report objections to the proposed junction improvement scheme at Catcote Road / Owton Manor Lane.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

An improvement scheme was proposed for the east and west junctions of Owton Manor Lane with Catcote Road. 31 letters were sent out for the initial consultation to which 7 responses were received. Details of these responses and the actions taken by officers to address the issues raised were given within the report. The works were estimated at £300,000, jointly funded by the Department for Transport and Hartlepool Borough Council through the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements Scheme. Appended to the report were details of the responses and 2 maps showing the proposed improvements before and after the consultation responses were taken into account.

The Portfolio Holder commended officers for taking the viewpoints of residents into account and amending the scheme accordingly. This demonstrated that the Council would take practical suggestions on board and try to reflect public opinion in the best way possible for residents. The Portfolio Holder asked whether ward councillors had expressed a viewpoint on the proposed alterations. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager advised that they had been consulted but had expressed no viewpoints, positive or negative. The Portfolio Holder clarified that funding being used through the Local Transport Plan was specifically ring fenced for road schemes of this nature and could not be used to protect jobs. The Portfolio Holder queried whether the cost quoted was the full cost. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed that the estimated cost included a contingency for any unexpected issues and the actual cost could be less than was quoted. Amounts for utility protection would also be included. The Portfolio Holder queried how long the work was expected to take. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager clarified that once the utility companies had carried out their necessary work the improvements carried out by the Council would be completed as quickly as possible, ideally before the end of the financial year. The Portfolio Holder asked officers to ensure that as little disruption as possible was caused to the residents of the area and that every effort be made to complete the work as quickly as possible, reporting any problems back to her informally. She also asked that the final costs be reported back to her.

Deleted: 11 10 06 Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio

Decision

That the objections be noted and the junction improvement scheme approved.

The meeting concluded at 9:05 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 10th October 2011

Deleted: 11 10 06 Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio