

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

3 June 2013

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Peter Jackson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Ainslie, Cook, Dawkins, Gibbon, Loynes and Tempest

Also Present: Councillor James

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Mike Blair, Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager
Paul Robson, Integrated Transport Manager
Peter Frost, Traffic Team Leader
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes

None

4. Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (Transport Working Group) – Final Report (*Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To seek consideration of the conclusions/recommendations contained within the final report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (Transport Working Group)

Issue(s) for consideration

The Integrated Transport Manager presented the report which outlined the background to the investigation. The Working Group completed its investigation on 15 April 2013 and presented its findings to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 3 May 2013. The Committee's final report, attached as an appendix to the report, included background information to the investigation, discussions undertaken and subsequent conclusions and recommendations. It was highlighted that issues around emissions and fuel consumption would be taken into consideration as individual zones were identified and as part of the evaluation of zones process.

The Chair welcomed the report and thanked the Working Group and officers for their hard work in formulating some excellent recommendations.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the report together with conclusions be noted.
- (ii) That the recommendations of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (Transport Working Group) as set out below be approved:-
 - a) A Hartlepool Bus Service - The Working Group recommended that at this point, the development of an in-house bus service would be cost prohibitive under current Local Authority economic climate.
 - b) Community Travel - Members welcomed the efforts of officers and ward members in exploring the viability of the creation of a Community Travel Club.
 - c) Transport to Work - Members were advised that as part of the Transport to Work project, consideration had been given to the provision of scooters for 16-25 year olds. This included potential benefits, capital outlay required and implications of such a project (i.e. security issues and possible partnership arrangements with other organisations). Taking into consideration the information provided, and concern regarding potential liability issues,

given accident statistics for young people of this age, Officers were unable to recommend the scheme to Members.

The Working Group agreed that other schemes would be examined in order to consider zero contribution and maximum sustainable opportunities.

b) 20 MPH Zones:-

- i) The Council embrace a policy in relation to the introduction of 20mph zones, whereby

‘Subject to clear resident support, 20mph zones be introduced into streets (including where possible neighbouring streets to create extended zones)’

- ii) That the identification of a street, with appropriate neighbouring streets, to act as a pilot zone for the new 20mph policy be explored.

- iii) A campaign be undertaken to promote the benefits of reduced speed in the provision of fuel economy for drivers.

5. **Local Transport Plan 2012/13 Outturn and 2013/14 Programme** (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Key Decision tests (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference No RN06/13

Purpose of report

To inform the Neighbourhood Services Committee of the progress made under the Local Transport Plan delivery programme, and to seek approval for the 2013/2014 budget allocations.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report set out the background to the Local Transport Plan together with details of some minor amendments to the 2013/14 programme. The £24,000 allocation against Consultative Neighbourhood Forums had been reallocated to fund a car parking lay-bys budget. A budget value of £78,000 had been allocated to “Sustainable Transport” consisting of previous years Local Transport Plan budget underspends, a breakdown of which was

included in the report. Members were referred to the budget allocations for the 2013/14 programme to the value of £561,000 together with details of works delivered during 2012/13 and proposed schemes for 2013/14 for each individual budget heading as set out in the report.

With regard to the recent works at Catcote Road/Owton Manor Lane, a Member was pleased to report the positive feedback that had been received and the benefits achieved as a result of this scheme. Clarification was provided in response to the Chair's query regarding budget allocations.

Decision

- (i) That the works/schemes delivered during 2012/13 be noted.
- (ii) That the proposed programme of works for 2013/14 be approved.

6. Five Year Highway Maintenance Programme 2013-18 (Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)

Type of decision

Key decision (tests (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference No RN 08/13

Purpose of report

To seek approval to the five year planned Highway Maintenance Programme for the period April 2013 to March 2018.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Highways, Traffic and Transport Manager reported on the background to production of highway condition reports and the £641,000 that had been allocated for highway maintenance from the Local Transport Plan for 2013/2014. Assuming similar allocations in future years, it would not be possible to reduce the maintenance backlog and it was likely the condition of the network would deteriorate further. Additional highway maintenance funding which equated to £142,000, announced by Central Government in December 2012, as previously reported at the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Portfolio, had been added to the Local Transport Plan budget for 2013/14.

Due to the extent of deterioration of the highway network a complete review of previous years programmes had been undertaken with all roads being rated using a traffic light system, an explanation of which was provided.

Members were referred to the five year programme, attached at Appendix 1. Given the current budget constraints and that future condition surveys would result in additional works being identified, it was unlikely all of the works identified could be treated in a five year period. Consideration was therefore being given to renaming the five year plan to better reflect future proposals.

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods reported that at the meeting of Finance and Policy Committee on 31 May 2013 £200,000 had been identified to deal with highway maintenance and would be submitted to Council for consideration. Subject to Council's approval, arrangements would be made for proposals to be presented to this Committee for consideration.

The Chair welcomed the additional funding identified and requested that officers explore potential future schemes to enable proposals to be presented to this Committee following approval by Council.

In response to a Member query, the Highways Traffic and Transport Manager provided details of the timescales for Highway maintenance repairs.

Decision

- (i) That the five-year planned Highway Maintenance Programme for the period April 2013 to March 2018 be approved.
- (ii) In relation to the £200,000 additional highway maintenance funding identified, subject to approval by Council, officers explore potential future schemes to enable proposals to be presented to this Committee as soon as possible.

7. Raby Road Loading Bay (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To advise the Committee of discussions which had taken place regarding the loading bay at Raby Road following a report to Portfolio in February 2013.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Traffic Team Leader presented the report which provided background information to the concerns expressed by local residents and Residents Associations in relation to the loading bay on Raby Road. Following a request from the Portfolio Holder further discussions had taken place between all parties with a view to achieving a solution to the problem.

A meeting had taken place with representatives of the Residents Association and Baby Blessings and it had been suggested that shortening of the existing two car loading bay would improve turning manoeuvres for motorists exiting Cameron Road, details of which were attached as an appendix to the report. This proposal had been accepted by both parties.

Members noted that the recommendation would resolve the difficulties experienced by local residents whilst still retaining parking facilities for local businesses.

Decision

The Committee approved the advertisement of an amendment to the traffic regulation order to reflect the proposals to shorten the existing 2 car loading bay on Raby Road.

The meeting concluded at 10.00 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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