

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

14 July 2014

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

Present:

Councillor: Peter Jackson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Ainslie, Allan Barclay, Steve Gibbon, Marjorie James and Brenda Loynes.

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Mike Blair, Technical Services Manager
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Keith Dawkins.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2014

Received.

4. Local Transport Plan 2013/14 Outturn and 2014/15 Programme *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Reference RN15/14.

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of the progress made under the Local Transport Plan delivery programme and to seek approval for the 2014/15 budget allocations.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the third Local Transport Plan (LTP) which set out how a safe and sustainable transport system can be delivered within Hartlepool. The LTP was designed to look towards 2026 and evolve over this period. The current plan was approved by Members in March 2011 and over a period of time priorities had changed which necessitated a number of amendment proposals to the 2014/15 budget allocations for the Integrated Transport Block and these were detailed in the report.

The Technical Services Manager highlighted that the LTP budget allocation for 2014/15 for structural highway maintenance was £626,000. It was noted that there was also additional highway maintenance funding of £79,000 and £131,268 (pot hole funding) available. Members were informed that further details would be reported to a future meeting of Committee of additional funding of approximately £166,000 for the repair of pot-holes that had recently been made available.

A Member sought clarification on the funding for the additional camera sites as requested from the Police as part of the Safety Camera Partnership. The Technical Services Manager confirmed that the Police would provide the majority of the funding for these schemes in addition to an element of co-funding through the NDORS scheme, as well as a contribution from the Council in relation to the safety element of the scheme.

In response to a question from a Member, the Technical Services Manager confirmed that where a railway goes over a highway, it was Network Rail's responsibility to maintain the highway but where a highway goes over a railway, this was the responsibility of the local Highway Authority.

A Member questioned the location of the Claxton Bridge and the Technical Services Manager indicated he would forward a detailed response to that Member.

Decision

- (i) The works and schemes delivered during 2013/14 as part of the Local Transport Plan were noted.
- (ii) The proposed programme for the Local Transport Plan for 2014/15 was approved.

5. Street Lighting: The Marina Quayside *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To advise Members of the un-adopted street lighting columns located on the quayside at Hartlepool Marina and to seek approval for Hartlepool Borough Council to undertake their future maintenance and associated energy costs.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the un-adopted land around the marina area which, upon investigation had proved to be unregistered. It was noted that presently, several lights had lantern tops were missing or had been damaged by the weather and lack of maintenance.

In view of the ongoing complaints received from residents in relation to the state of repair of these lights, it was proposed that until such time as responsibility can be determined, the Council would include these lights as part of its street lighting inventory and undertake the maintenance and associated energy costs. The estimated cost to undertake these works was £3,000 and the cost of future energy consumption was £79.02 per annum.

Members were supportive of the proposals but mindful that all costs associated with the proposals on the unregistered land should be recorded for future recovery should the owner of the land be identified. A Member highlighted another area of land to the east of the proposed area which also had similar problems with street lighting. It was suggested that the issue of street lighting in this additional area be explored further and reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Chair requested that this report also include information on the options available to the Council to commence legal proceedings to register this area land for future Council ownership should the owner not be identified.

Decision

- (i) The proposals for the Council to assume responsibility for future maintenance and energy costs for the street lighting columns identified in the report until such time as responsibility can be determined were approved.
- (ii) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to highlight the street lighting issues on the land to the east of the proposals.
- (iii) That the report include information on the options available to the Council to commence legal proceedings to register the land for future Council ownership should the owner not be identified.

6. Hartlepool Rail Update 2013/14 (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of the rail patronage outturn for 2013/14 – Hartlepool and Seaton Carew stations and to compare the data with outturns from previous years.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the previous reporting of patronage on the railways across the Tees Valley area which was undertaken by regular station audits. It was noted that during 2013/14 Hartlepool and Seaton Carew railway stations had increased patronage to 574,121 and 53,556 respectively. Compared to 2012/13 this showed a total combined increase of 46,283 which equated to 8%.

Across the Tees Valley it was noted that 6,345,704 passengers were recorded using railway stations which showed an increase of 2.8% on the previous year. Members were informed that on 18 May 2014, a station was opened at James Cook University Hospital which was on the Esk Valley line and would be served by an enhanced Monday to Saturday service resulting in 17 southbound trains and 16 northbound trains passing through the station.

The Chair passed on the thanks of the Committee to Officers who were working closely with Network Rail on the improvement of local railway stations and congratulated Officers on the improvements achieved at the Hartlepool and Seaton Carew stations.

Decision

The content of the report was noted.

7. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following items of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in

order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

8. Any Other Business – Meetings Schedule

A schedule of meetings of the Neighbourhood Services Committee as printed in the Municipal Diary 2014/15 recently distributed to Members, was circulated to the Committee for information. The Chair referred to a recent discussion at Council and sought Members' views on the timings of the Neighbourhood Services Committee. All Members were unanimous in their views that the commencement time of the Committee to remain as diaried.

Decision

- (i) That the schedule of meetings for the Neighbourhood Services Committee was noted.
- (ii) Members unanimously agreed that the commencement time of the Committees should remain as diaried.

9. Any Other Business – A19 Junctions at Elwick and Dalton Piercy

The Chair requested that Officers bring a report to a future meeting detailing what the Highway Agency's plans were in respect of the potential closure of the gaps in the A19 at Elwick and Dalton Piercy, in light of the most recent fatal accident at the Dalton Piercy junction.

Decision

That the Committee receive future update reports as this issue progresses.

The meeting concluded at 9.40am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 21 JULY 2014