

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

15 June 2015

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: Councillor Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jim Ainslie, Steve Gibbon and Peter Jackson

Also Present: Councillor George Springer

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Alastair Smith, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods  
Mike Blair, Technical Services Manager,  
Phil Hepburn, Parking Services Team Leader  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allan Barclay, Brenda Loynes and Jean Robinson.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2015**

Received

### **4. Fulthorpe Avenue, Verge Tarmacking Update** *(Assistant Director)*

**Type of decision**

For information

### **Purpose of report**

To provide Members of the Committee with an update from the report previously presented to Committee on 16 February 2015 which advised on a request to have a grass verge in Fulthorpe Avenue tarmacked.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director reported on the background to the decision taken by this Committee that the verge would not be tarmacked but other options would be explored to facilitate delivery vehicles to the nearby shops. The Nisa shop, which received the largest deliveries, did agree to use smaller vehicles providing the bus stop remained in the same position which should resolve the issues around vehicles over riding and damaging the grass verges. This commitment had since been confirmed in writing as set out at Appendix 1.

In response to a query raised regarding monitoring arrangements, Members were advised that there had been no reports of any further damage to the grass verge since the commitment had been received from Nisa to use smaller vehicles. It was noted that the damaged grass verge would be rectified in due course. The Chair advised that arrangements had been made for the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee to visit the site to ensure no further action was necessary.

Whilst one resident in attendance indicated that no further damage was evident, another resident had observed an articulated lorry in the area the previous week. The Chair provided assurances that the issue would continue to be monitored and encouraged residents to feedback any evidence of further damage to the Council.

### **Decision**

That the contents of the report and comments of Members be noted.

## **5. Transport Asset Management Plan** (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods*)

### **Type of decision**

Key decision tests (i) and (ii) – Forward Plan Reference No RN8/15

### **Purpose of report**

The TAMP was intended to provide a comprehensive analytical approach to

maintenance. It had been prepared following national best practice, had been considered previously by Members and was now presented for approval as a means of helping to secure best value from the Council's transport assets.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

It was reported that local authorities were required to demonstrate that they were making best use of their property and other assets through asset management plans. The assets had been broken down into a number of relevant groupings, details of which were set out in the report. Asset valuation was the calculation of the current monetary value of an asset. A breakdown of the values for carriageways, footways and street lighting was provided.

Members were advised that the current version of the plan, a copy of which had been placed in the Members' Library for reference represented work in progress as this was a living document that would regularly be updated. It defined levels of service, described present maintenance techniques and analysed spending allocations against condition.

In the discussion that followed presentation of the report officers responded to issues raised by Members in relation to the report and provided clarification on the estimated timescales for completion of various works.

### **Decision**

Members approved the use of the Transport Asset Management Plan as a basis for managing and maintaining the highway infrastructure assets.

## **6. Local Transport Plan 2014/15 Out-turn and 2015/16 Programme** *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Neighbourhood Services Committee of the progress made under the Local Transport Plan delivery programme during 2014/15, and to identify potential schemes for 2015/16.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The report set out the background to the Local Transport Plan. At the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee on 16 March 2015, the LTP Strategic Delivery Plan 2015-2021 had been approved with funding details covering a 6 year period, as detailed in Appendix 1. There had been two minor budget re-allocations due to the original funding stream no longer being required. £10k had been re-allocated to highway improvements and £5k had been re-allocated to road crossings, details of which were included in the report.

Members were referred to the works delivered during 2014/15 and the proposed schemes for 2015/16 for each individual budget heading as detailed in Appendix 2.

In response to a query from a Member, clarification was provided regarding the funding arrangements for the Safety Camera Partnership following re-allocation of the budget to highway improvement schemes.

With regard to cycling schemes for 2015/16 a Member placed emphasis upon the need for improvements to cycle lanes in Hartlepool and was of the view that a higher proportion of funding should be allocated to Hartlepool given the limited investment in this area in comparison to neighbouring authorities. The Technical Services Manager advised that there was a reliance on Local Growth Funding to deliver larger cycling schemes in full. The Chair commented on the benefits of utilising the expertise of the Cycling Champion in the planning process of schemes of this type and requested that a meeting be arranged with the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee together with the Cycling Champion to progress this issue.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the works/schemes delivered during 2014/15 be noted.
- (ii) That the proposed schemes for 2015/16 be approved.
- (ii) That a meeting be held with the Chair and Vice-Chair and Cycling Champion to consider the detail of proposed cycling schemes.

## **7. Petition Requesting the Introduction of Two-Hour Free Parking at Hartlepool** *(Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods)*

### **Type of decision**

Non-key

## **Purpose of report**

To consider a petition requesting the introduction of an initial two hour free parking period within Council managed car parks and to note a secondary petition which requested a similar arrangement on the privately managed site at Hartlepool Marina.

## **Issue(s) for consideration**

The report outlined the background to receipt of a 517 name petition from residents and local businesses seeking an initial two hour free parking period within the town centre local authority managed car parks and a similar arrangement at Hartlepool Marina.

Details of the current Parking Strategy as well as the various initiatives that had been introduced to encourage trade and boost activity were set out in the report. Such measures had included a revision of the hourly pay and display charge and removing the previous minimum two hour stay tariff, extending an initial Christmas promotion “free parking after 4pm” to operate all year round in all the integrally linked car parks to Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

Members were advised that the petition made specific reference to the success of the Middlesbrough initiative. Operating an initial two hour free parking period in Hartlepool would have significant financial implications for the Council, details of which were provided.

Members debated the significant financial implications of such a proposal given the budget deficits already facing the Council from continuing reductions in Government grant funding. The Committee highlighted the reliance on this income which had been taken into account when the budget was set by full Council and acknowledged that the loss of income of this level would be unsustainable. The impact of the reduction in business rates was also highlighted.

It was noted that the department would arrange to write to the lead petitioner to confirm the decision of the Committee.

## **Decision**

- (i) That the two petitions be received and noted.
- (ii) That the petition requesting the introduction of a two hour free parking period be refused given the financial implications of such a proposal.
- (iii) That the ongoing support for parking initiatives in the town centre continue:-
  - 1) Free after 4.00 pm (within those sites integrally linked to the shopping centre
  - 2) Free Saturday parking in December
  - 3) Continued free parking on Sundays

The meeting concluded at 10.35 am.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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