

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

20 March 2017

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paul Beck, Brenda Loynes, Jean Robinson and George Springer

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2 (ii), Councillor Kevin Cranney was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Sandra Belcher

Officers: Denise Ogden Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Tony Hanson, Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhoods
Peter Frost, Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader
Phil Hepburn, Environmental Enforcement Team Leader
Kieran Bostock, Principal Engineer (Environmental Engineering)
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

81. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 82 – North Gare Sands – Update – Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhoods) This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings (para 5).

- 82. North Gare Sands - Update (Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhoods)** This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings (para5).

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To update Members on the progress made to date at North Gare Sands.

Issue(s) for consideration

A brief summary of the investigations undertaken and the proposed options were considered. Further details can be found in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

Further details can be found in the exempt section of the minutes.

The meeting returned to open session.

83. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sandra Belcher.

84. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Kevin Cranney declared a personal interest in minute 84.

85. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2017

Received.

86. Five-Year Highway Maintenance Programme (Assistance Director, Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Type of decision

Key decision tests (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Ref No RN 02/17

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the five year Highway Maintenance Programme, determined by carriageway conditions surveys and following Department for Transport recommended asset management processes (See Appendix 1).

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhoods presented the report which included background information to highway condition reports and the £1,053,000 that had been allocated for highway maintenance from the Local Transport Plan. The highway maintenance planned for the next five years was set out at Appendix 1 and was based on the assumption that future year allocations would be of the levels indicatively provided by the Department for Transport.

Reconstruction works had been identified where other processes were not appropriate and would be carried out in the interests of highway safety. Generally, however, other treatments such as re-surfacing and surface dressing, which were cheaper but had shorter term impact than full reconstruction would be utilised. The schemes would be funded primarily from the Structural Maintenance element of the Council's Local Transport Plan, with contributions from the Government's Pot hole and Incentive Funds giving an estimated total cost for 17/18 of approximately £1,250,000.

In response to a question from a Member, the Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader confirmed that the part of Rossmere Way adjacent to the A689 would also be included within the works to be undertaken as part of the resurfacing of the A689 between Brierton Lane and Owton Manor Lane.

Decision

That the proposed Highway Maintenance Programme, as shown at Appendix 1, be approved.

87. Review of Concessionary Fare Payments to Bus Operators for 2017/18 (*Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (i) and (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference No RN 301/16

Purpose of report

To report the proposed re-imbursement arrangements with local bus operators for concessionary fares to be implemented from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 inclusive.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme had been in place since 2008. There had been various local enhancements during this time, details of which were included in the report. In March 2011 agreement had been reached with the operators to continue the fixed payment system in 2011/12, with a revised enhancement of a fixed price of 30p per journey for trips commencing before 9.30 am which had remained in place since this date.

The Department of Transport had now issued its guidance for ENCTS reimbursement in 2017/18. Details of operators' costs were included in the report and it was noted that fares had continued to increase above the general inflation rate and the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) cost index. Increases averaging 0.6% were made across England to September 2016. Across the country local bus passenger journeys had shown a decrease of 1.5% in 2016 compared to the same period in 2015. ENCTS journeys had shown a broadly flat trend and it was thought to be mainly due to the rising eligibility age for pensioners.

It was recommended that approval be given to the continued participation in the Tees Valley Wide English National Concessionary Travel Scheme with an enhancement of a thirty pence flat fare for trips before 9.30 am for the financial year 2017/18.

With regard to the financial considerations, the current estimates showed an overall increase of approximately 0.66% (compared to a 0.6% decrease in 2016/17).

Decision

- (1) Approval was given to continue participating in the Tees Valley wide enhancement to the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) offering travel within and between the areas covered by Hartlepool, Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Councils.
- (2) The Council continue to operate an enhanced scheme whereby all journeys prior to 9:30am on weekdays attract a nominal fare of 30p.
- (3) Charges for replacement passes remain at £5.

88. New Permit Charge – Consultation Response *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To report the results of a recent consultation with residents to remain within or opt out of the permit controlled parking scheme.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhoods reported on the background to the changes to the permit scheme approved in July 2015 with the introduction of an incremental permit parking charge based on the number of permits issued per household. When permit renewal letters had been sent to a number of properties in Zone A of the existing scheme, many residents had been unaware of the amendments to the scheme and, in particular, the loss of the previous town centre subsidy charge that had applied. As a result, a petition had been submitted by the residents challenging the legality of the scheme and seeking a review of the new charge rates.

The petition had been signed by 62 signatories by residents of St Paul's Road, Mitchell Street, Alderson Street, Stotfold Street, Johnson Street and Thornton Street.

With regard to the results of the consultation, of the 186 letters delivered, 43 responses had been received of which 38 were in favour of remaining within the permit controlled parking scheme and 5 against remaining in the scheme. A full breakdown per location was set out in Appendix 1.

Decision

- (1) That the consultation response, as shown in Appendix 1, be noted.
- (2) Given the consultation response, St. Paul's Road, Mitchell Street, Alderson Street, Stotfold Street, Johnson Street and Thornton Street be retained within Zone A under the revised terms and conditions of the Hartlepool Residents' Permit Parking Scheme Traffic Regulation Order.

89. Proposed 20 mph Speed Limit Restriction along Tanfield Road and Whistlewood Close *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhoods)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval from the Neighbourhood Services Committee for the implementation of a 20mph speed restriction along Tanfield Road and Whistlewood Close – see Appendix 1.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that following requests via local Ward Councillors consultation had taken place with local residents to seek their views on the proposal to introduce appropriate 20mph speed restriction signage at the junction of Tanfield Road/Stockton Road with smaller repeater signs located throughout the full extent of the scheme. The 20mph restriction would be identified by signage only. There would be no additional traffic calming measures installed such as speed cushions.

With regard to the results of the consultation, 58 letters that had been hand delivered, 33 responses had been received, 31 in favour of the scheme and 2 against.

It was estimated that the scheme would cost approximately £750 to £1,000 and would be funded from the Local Transport Plan budget allocation.

Decision

That the proposed 20mph speed limit scheme, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved.

90. Quarter 3 – Council Overview of Performance and Risk 2016/17 (*Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform the Neighbourhood Services Committee of the progress made against the relevant areas of the 2016/17 Council Plan at the end of quarter 3. The report also provided the Committee with an update on Highways and Transportation as agreed by this Committee on 26 July 2016.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods reported on the third quarter performance against the four specific areas the Committee had chosen for detailed quarterly updates. Overall progress against those actions, performance indicators and risks that were relevant to the Neighbourhood Services Committee were identified in the appendix to the report.

The Department had also provided an update on recent activities in relation to Highways and Transportation. The Highway, Traffic and Transport Team Leader highlighted salient points and was pleased to report that performance figures were on track.

A discussion ensued on the use of the additional Pot-hold Fund received from the Government and it was noted that whilst repair work was carried out to pot-holes where necessary, where possible the affected road was resurfaced as a preventative and more long term measure which enhanced the 5-year Highway Maintenance programme.

Decision

- (1) That progress made on the specific areas of the Council Plan relevant to the Committee at the end of quarter 3, be noted.
- (2) That the update in relation to highways and transportation, as set out in Appendix 2 be noted.

89. Ward Member Budgets 2015/16 (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of Ward Member Budget final outturn for 2015/16.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the Neighbourhood Services Committee with the final outturn for Ward Member Budgets during 2015/16. Appendix 1 to the report highlighted that during 2015/16 £144,588 Ward Member budget funds had been approved. Appendix 1 showed the funding remaining which included Ward Member Budget and Civic Lottery carry over from previous years.

Following a review of the Ward Member budget and the Civic Lottery approval process by this Committee in March 2015, from April 2015 the Civic Lottery budget had been merged with the Ward Member budget.

Any Ward Member budget unspent funds had been carried over. Each Elected Member had an additional allocation of £4,500 for 2016/17 to which any underspend had been added.

Members were referred to the legal considerations as set out in the report.

Decision

- (1) The Ward Member Budget outturn for 2015/16 was noted.
- (2) The confirmation of Ward Member Budget and Civic Lottery carry over from previous years was noted.

90. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

91. Next Meeting

The Chair noted that whilst the meeting schedule for the forthcoming municipal year 2017/18 had yet to be agreed, there may be an additional

meeting of this Committee in April, however the date was yet to be determined. All Members of the Committee would be informed if an additional meeting date was agreed.

The meeting concluded at 4.20 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 27 March 2017