

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

4 December 2017

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Dave Hunter (In the Chair)

Councillors: Stephen Akers-Belcher, Sandra Belcher and Brenda Loynes

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2(ii) Councillor Kevin Cranney was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Carl Richardson and Councillor Allan Barclay as substitute for Councillor Marjorie James.

Also Present:

Officers: Tony Hanson, Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services
Phil Hepburn, Environmental Enforcement Team Leader
Peter Frost, Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader
Alyson Carr, Head of Finance, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Helen Beaman, Team Leader, Waste and Environmental Services
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

31. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Tom Hind, Marjorie James and Carl Richardson.

32. Declarations of Interest

None.

33. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2017

Received

34. Minutes of the meeting of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee held on 20 September 2017

Received

35. Local Safety Schemes (*Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Key – test ii applies (Ref RN12/17)

Purpose of report

To seek approval for a number of safety schemes across Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services presented the report which provided background information to the proposals to introduce a number of safety schemes across the town. Schemes had been developed for Rafton Drive, Bruce Crescent, Thorpe Street, Northgate and King Oswy Drive, details of which were set out in the report.

With regard to the results of the consultation, a summary of which was included in the report, no objections had been received in relation to the proposals at Rafton Drive, Bruce Crescent and Northgate. In relation to Thorpe Street and Penrith Street, 6 respondents were in favour of the scheme and 6 were against. To take account of the objections, the scheme had been scaled back to just include the outside area of the school (Thorpe Street). With regard to King Oswy Drive, given that only 1 response had been received in favour of the proposals and 3 against, it was proposed that this scheme should not proceed. The total cost of the schemes would be approximately £100,000 and would be funded from the Council's Local Transport Plan.

The Chair sought clarification on the nature of the objections received for the Thorpe Street scheme. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader indicated that the original scheme was over a wider area and the majority of objections related to that. The scheme had since been scaled down but the Parish Council had indicated they wished their objection to stand.

Decision

That the proposed safety schemes for Rafton Drive, Bruce Crescent, Thorpe Street and Northgate be approved.

36. Strategic Financial Management Report – as at 30 September 2016 (*Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and Chief Finance Officer*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the 2017/18 Forecast General Fund Outturn, 2017/18 Capital Programme Monitoring and to provide details for the specific budget areas that this Committee was responsible for.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background and financial reporting arrangements for 2017/18 as well as a summary of the overall Council financial position and General Fund outturn information in relation to the Neighbourhood Services Department.

Details of the overall budget position for the Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services Department was summarised in a table included in the report together with the reasons for the forecast outturn. Further details of specific budget areas were outlined at Appendix A. The report included details of recommended reserves together with planned capital expenditure.

Members' approval was sought to fund the cost of additional works required as part of the Seaton Carew Car Parking changes for disc parking areas, business bays and residential controlled permit zones at a cost of £46,000 from the unallocated Local Transport Plan Grant.

In response to a question from the Chair in relation to income shortfalls, the Head of Finance (Regeneration and Neighbourhoods) confirmed that £100k had been identified as part of the Regeneration and Neighbourhood Services Departmental savings proposals across a 12 month plan to support income shortfalls with additional external income opportunities to be explored. It was noted that anticipating income generated from within Planning was more difficult as this was dependent on income from applications but if required, reserves would be accessed to support that.

A Member questioned whether to support accessibility for people with disabilities, the Local Transport Plan could be utilised to provide financial support for Shopmobility as had happened previously. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader confirmed that a report would be

submitted to the Committee outlining proposals for the funding provided within the Local Transport Plan for the forthcoming year and any proposals submitted would be considered.

Decision

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) The Committee approved the allocation of £46K from the unallocated Local Transport Plan Grant to fund the cost of the additional works required as part of the Seaton Care Parking changes.

37. Merlin Way – Proposed Bus Stop Locations *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To report objections to proposed bus stop locations in Merlin Way.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided background information to the proposals to install three bus stops on Merlin Way, the locations of which were provided and set out in appendices to the report. The identification of bus stop locations had been carried out in conjunction with Stagecoach and it was not proposed to install bus shelters at the proposed locations.

With regard to the results of the consultation, letters had been sent out to 38 properties in the vicinity of the proposals of which seven objections had been received, three for location 1, three for location 2 and one for location 3. Members were provided with details of the objections together with responses, as outlined in the report.

The estimated cost of the scheme was £12,000 and whilst this did not include the lay-by referred to in location 3, the intention was that these works be carried out at the same time.

In response to a number of questions from Members, the Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader confirmed that Officers did work in partnership with bus companies to agree locations of bus stops.

Decision

That the proposed bus stops in all three locations in Merlin Way be approved.

38. Resident Permit Scheme – Consideration of Objections (*Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To consider objections made in relation to residential parking proposals which had previously been supported by Members.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services), presented the report which provided background information to the decision taken by this Committee at the June meeting to support, in principle, the introduction of restrictions at Eltringham Road, Hutton Avenue, Lansdowne Road and Stanhope Avenue. Members had rejected the inclusion of Arncliffe Gardens, Eamont Gardens, Wansbeck Gardens and extension to the existing schemes at Linden Grove and Grange Road as the consultation demonstrated a clear lack of support from residents.

As a result of advertising the appropriate legal orders, objections to the proposals had been received and Members were now requested to consider the objections and the impact on their original decision made in June 2017. Of those areas that progressed to the formal advertising stage, no objections had been received to the inclusion of Eltringham Road or Stanhope Avenue. However, one letter of objection had been received opposing the inclusion of Hutton Avenue and a petition signed by 39 residents had been submitted objecting to the inclusion of Lansdowne Road within a permit controlled zone. The Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services) indicated that in view of the objections received from some residents in Lansdowne Road, it was proposed to remove the section of Lansdowne Road from Elwick Road up to the junction with Lister Street from the scheme which should satisfy the majority of the objections received.

Decision

- (1) It was noted that no objections had been received in relation to the proposed schemes in Eltringham Road and Stanhope Avenue. As a result, the Traffic Regulation Order for both locations would become effective and the parking bays will be signed and marked to reflect the new restrictions.
- (2) The objection received in relation to Hutton Avenue was noted, but the Traffic Regulation Order was approved as per the advertised legal order and previous decision made in June 2017.
- (3) The petition opposing the inclusion of Lansdowne Road into the resident only permit scheme was noted and a modified scheme was approved, which would see a reduced number of properties on Lansdowne Road (between Park Road and Lister Street) included within the permit controlled zone as shown in Appendix 2. The properties on Lansdowne Road (between Lister Street and Elwick Road) would remain unregulated as shown in Appendix 3.

39. Introduction of Charges for Non-Household DIY Wastes *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

The Neighbourhood Service Committee agreed to the introduction of charges for non-household waste at Burn Road Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) from April 2017 as part of the Council's Mid – Term Financial Strategy for 2017/'18. This report will provide an update on the impact of these charges specifically with regards to:

- Reduction of tonnages and costs associated with the disposal of non household 'DIY' wastes; and
- Concerns that the introduction of charges may result in an increase in these materials being flytipped.

The report highlighted the detailed analysis of flytipped waste that was undertaken to help provide an informed view regarding this concern, and also provided an insight into the broader issue of flytipping in the Borough. The report also sought to gain approval to amend an error in the pricing structure which was presented to Committee as part of the 'Three Year Savings Programme on 13th December 2016.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services) presented the report which outlined the charges implemented at the HWRC and the impact of those charges on waste tonnages and costs. It was noted that the disposal of rubble/demolition waste had reduced to around 10% of the previous year's tonnages and the first quarter of this year had achieved a saving of over £11,000 against the first quarter of 2016/17.

One of the key concerns associated with the introduction of the charges was that it may directly contribute to increased cases of flytipping. However, the recorded incidences of flytipping had actually decreased following the introduction of the charges in April 2017 and further detail was provided within the report. Of the incidents of flytipping that had occurred, the majority occurred in back street areas and was generally bulky waste items such as wardrobes, mattresses, fridges which can be currently deposited free of charge at the HWRC.

The report highlighted an amendment that was required to the Three Year Savings Programme as a result of an error in the report presented to Committee in December 2016 in relation to the charges introduced at the HWRC.

The proposals were outlined in the report and included the continuation of the current arrangements at the HWRC with a review once 12 months data had been collected; that the further promotion of the HWRC and bulky waste collection be undertaken through a positive media campaign.

A discussion ensued on the ongoing problem of fly-tipping and the Environmental Enforcement Team Leader confirmed that this was an issue that was widespread across the town and best practice from other Local Authority areas was being looked at including potential new covert cameras in hot spot areas.

Concerns were expressed by Members at the amount of time between requesting and receiving a bulky waste collection and a number of issues around the dumping of waste in back street areas. It was suggested that the potential of reducing the timescales for undertaking bulky waste collections to 2 weeks from receipt of request be explored further but that an aspirational target of 1 week should also be looked at. The Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader indicated that changing locks and reissuing keys for alleygates in particular problem areas was an option to deal with illegal dumping of waste within back street areas. It was suggested by Members that working with charitable organisations for the collection of bulky waste should be explored may be a way forward to assist to increase the frequency of collections.

In response to a number of questions, the Team Leader, Waste and Environmental Services confirmed that residents were able to pay by cash

at the Civic Centre or by card at Burn Road Household Waste recycling Centre (HWRC) and that this appeared to be working well. During the discussion that followed, it was noted that a media campaign was being undertaken to promote the waste and recycling services available to residents and it was suggested that this should also be included within the Council's Hartbeat magazine which was delivered to all households across the Town. The Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services) added that work was ongoing with the Communications Team to explore ways to promote services including utilising the side of refuse vehicles and cleansing vehicles and increasing the use of social media including apps. It was hoped that the media campaign would also encourage residents to contact the Council if they became aware of any illegal dumping of rubbish.

A discussion ensued on the ongoing issue of dog fouling and the Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services) indicated that Dog Control Orders were now Public Space Protection Orders and the Team were looking at what other public space protection orders can be introduced to assist with enforcement. It was noted that information received from residents was invaluable as the Teams were very good at responding once they were made aware of any problems.

The Chair requested a further report be submitted to the Committee in February 2018 to provide an update on the marketing and media campaign to be undertaken to promote waste and recycling services and combat fly-tipping as well as encouraging residents to contact the Council should they become aware of any illegal dumping of waste.

A Member commented that targeting areas where dog fouling was a problem and at particular times was key to getting the message across and intelligence from residents would be key to the success of this course of action. It was suggested that the report requested above should include information behind the charges implemented at the HWRC against the tonnage of waste collected and the costs associated with fly-tipping.

Decision

- i) The continuation of the current charging scheme at the HWRC, Burn Road was approved.
- ii) That support be increased to tackle flytipping in backstreet areas by working more collaboratively across Council services.
- iii) That the potential to reduce the timescales for the collection of bulky waste to 2 weeks be explored further with an aspirational target of further reducing this to 1 week.
- iv) That the potential of working in partnership with charities to undertake bulky waste collections be explored.

- v) The 'Three Year Savings Programme – Neighbourhoods' report be amended to reflect the actual current charges and to enable the projected savings to be achieved.
- vi) That a positive educational and media campaign around charges and flytipping be undertaken and an update be provided to Committee in February 2018.
- vii) That a further review but undertaken at Committee after 12 months data had been gathered and analysed in more detail.

40. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 22 January 2018 at 2.00pm in the Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 2.50 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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