

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

10 October 2018

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

Present:

Councillor: Stephen Akers-Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors: Tom Cassidy, Marjorie James, Brenda Loynes and Tony Richardson

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2(ii) Councillor Jean Robinson was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Sandra Belcher

Also Present: Councillor Rob Cook

Officers: Tony Hanson, Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

31. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Sandra Belcher.

32. Declarations of Interest

Councillors S Akers-Belcher, James and Loynes declared personal interests in Minute 35 in terms of their involvement with residents on local safety schemes.

33. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2018

Received

34. Westwood Way – Proposed Double Yellow Lines (Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To report objections to the proposed double yellow lines in Westwood Way, (See Appendix 1).

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that complaints had been received from residents and Ward Councillors regarding parked cars on Westwood Way opposite the Tavistock Close junction. The parked cars required traffic turning right out of Tavistock Close to enter Westwood Way on the wrong side of the carriageway which was particularly hazardous because of the bend and poor visibility approaching the junctions. The parked cars also impacted upon traffic travelling towards Templeton Close, details of which were set out in the report.

The parked cars were predominantly owned by residents from Thornbury Close. These residents had off street parking at the rear accessed via a private drive. It was proposed to implement double yellow lines on both sides of Westwood Way between Thornbury and Templeton Close.

The statutory legal notices had been posted on site and in the local press. Consultation had been undertaken with the 12 properties fronting this section of Westwood Way and 3 objections had been received. It was estimated that the scheme would cost approximately £1,000.

A local resident, who was in attendance and invited to address the Committee, spoke in favour of the proposals and raised concerns around visibility and safety issues. The resident shared with the Committee the visibility problems experienced by drivers at the Tavistock Close junction as a result of parked cars on Westwood Way.

In the discussion that followed the Assistant Director clarified the proposals and provided assurances that there was parking for residents from Thornbury Close and Templeton Close, details of which were provided.

Members considered the issues raised and, given the representations made in relation to health and safety implications, the Committee unanimously supported the proposals.

Decision

That the proposed installation of double yellow lines on Westwood Way, as set out at Appendix 1, be approved.

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

Type of decision

Key – tests (i) and (ii) apply (Ref RN24/18)

Purpose of report

To seek approval for a programme 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 pinch points at Owton Manor Lane, speed humps at Windermere Road/Kendal Road and a school safety scheme at Greatham School, details of which were set out in the report.

A proposal had also been put forward for a puffin crossing at St. Aidan's School to be delivered in the current financial year. However, this would be presented as a separate report to this Committee in November.

Consultation would be undertaken on all schemes, where residents/businesses were directly affected and, should there be any major objections, these would be reported back to Committee for a decision on how to proceed. The total cost of the schemes would be approximately £190,000 and would be funded from the Council's Local Transport Plan.

The Chair commented that given the number of concerns raised by residents that the proposed schemes be implemented as soon as possible.

A Member raised concerns that there was insufficient time allowed at pelican crossings for pedestrians with mobility issues to cross the road. It was suggested that the timings of traffic lights at pelican crossings be reviewed to accommodate pedestrians crossing with mobility difficulties and pedestrians with children.

Decision

- (i) That the proposed safety schemes for Owton Manor, Windermere Road/Kendal Road and Greatham School be approved.
- (ii) That timings of traffic lights at pelican crossings be reviewed to accommodate pedestrians crossing with mobility difficulties and pedestrians with children.

36. Vehicle and Equipment Approvals 2019-2021 *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

- (i) Propose the vehicle and associated equipment replacement programme for the 3 year period covering 2019/20 to 2021/22;
- (ii) To request that Finance and Policy Committee recommend that the approval for borrowing to fund the related capital expenditure is included in the 2019/20 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) approved by Council; and
- (iii) Update the current year replacement budget taking into account the re-phasing of vehicle purchases previously approved which are now included in replacement programme for 2018/19 to 2021/22.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services, presented the report which outlined the background to the combined vehicle asset appraisal and service review that had been undertaken with Service Managers and Team Leaders. An options appraisal of vehicle financing had previously demonstrated that borrowing was the most cost effective way of funding vehicle purchases, particularly as vehicles were now kept for their maximum usable economic life. The advantages of borrowing compared to leasing were provided, as set out in the report.

The review had resulted in a revised replacement programme for the current year and a new three year vehicle replacement programme for the period covering 2019/20 to 2021/22. The Committee was referred to the financial considerations including the revised programme, as shown in

Appendix A, which required borrowing of £1.780m compared to the original budget position of £3.305m. Therefore £1.525m of the original approved budget was no longer required. Given that the approvals were already in place for these vehicles their procurement was planned to proceed in this financial year.

Details of the procurement approval process 2019-2021 together with final budgetary checks were provided. Members were referred to the revised replacement programme for the three year period covering 2019/20 to 2021/22, attached at Appendix B, and the future borrowing approvals to be recommended for inclusion within the 2019/20 MTFS, a summary of which was included in the report.

A Member commented on the uncertainties around Brexit and the potential future implications on vehicle and equipment replacement arrangements. The need to consider the impact of any delays in relation to supply as well as the financial implications was highlighted.

Decision

- (i) That the revised replacement budget for vehicle purchases already approved in previous years, as set out in Appendix A, be noted.
- (ii) The Committee approved that proposed replacement programme of vehicles, heavy plant and associated equipment, as set out in Appendix B, and related borrowing approvals set out in paragraph 5.7, to be referred to Finance and Policy Committee to recommend to Council as part of the 2019/20 MTFS.
- (iii) That the impact of Brexit, in terms of vehicle and equipment replacement arrangements, be considered.

37. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 14 November 2018 at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 4.15 pm.

HAYLEY MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 17 OCTOBER 2018