

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

18 March 2019

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

**Present:**

Councillor: Stephen Akers-Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors: Sandra Belcher, Tom Cassidy, Marjorie James, Brenda Loynes, Ann Marshall and Tony Richardson

Also Present: Councillor John Tennant

Officers: Tony Hanson, Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services  
Kieran Bostock, Transport and Infrastructure Manager  
Peter Frost, Highways, Traffic and Transport Team Leader  
Steve Hilton, Senior Public Relations Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

**66. Apologies for Absence**

None

**67. Declarations of Interest**

None

**68. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2019**

Received

**69. Minutes of the meeting of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee held on 5 December 2018**

Received

## **70. Highways Code of Practice** *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Key decision test (ii) applies – Forward Plan Reference No RN02/19

### **Purpose of report**

1. To update the Council's highway policies and procedures to introduce elements from the document 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice' published in October 2016, which was commissioned by the Department for Transport and produced by the UK Roads Liaison Group.
2. The document is a combined replacement for the three previous individual documents, namely 'Well Maintained Highways', 'Management of Highway Structures' and 'Well Lit Highways'. It is a risk based process and the majority of the recommendations within the document are already adhered to within existing policies.

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

The Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services reported on the background to the Code which was designed to promote the adoption of the an integrated asset management approach to highway infrastructure, based on the establishment of local levels of service through adopted risk based assessment.

It was important to note that the level of highway maintenance funding the Council received from central government was determined by the authority being able to demonstrate it was following the recommended Department for Transport asset management principles, including those set out in the Code of Practice.

The Code itself was not a statutory document and it was left to the discretion of individual highway authorities as to what, if anything, was implemented. However, 36 recommendations were summarised at the beginning of the Code, as set out in Appendix 1.

It was proposed that the Council followed the recommendations of the new Code and subsequently implements a risk based programme of inspections, reactive works and planned works. The Council's Highway Inspectors currently followed a regime whereby defects were placed into a 1 hour/24 hour or 28 day category for repair as detailed in paragraph 3.7 of

the report and the updated Code recommended that this was determined by a risk based analysis.

### **Decision**

The Committee approved the adoption of the updated documents, relevant to the Council's highway maintenance policies, which reflected changes brought about in the new Code of Practice. These documents comprised the Highway Maintenance Plan, the Highway Inspection Manual and the Highways Communication Strategy.

## **71. Five Year Highway Maintenance Programme** *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Key decision test (i) and (ii) apply – Forward Plan Ref No RN03/19

### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval for a Five Year Highway Maintenance Programme, determined by carriageway conditions surveys and following Department for Transport recommended asset management processes.

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

The Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services presented the report which included background information to highway condition reports and the £1,188,000 that had been allocated for highway maintenance from the Local Transport Plan.

In light of the Committee's decision to invest in the "Highway Improvement " Scheme, the 19/20 programme had been developed accordingly. The additional £2.5m investment into the borough's highways through the aforementioned scheme had allowed this updated programme to focus on some of the major routes throughout the Borough.

The highway maintenance programme 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 similar levels to this year.

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, as part of the capital grant allocation for highway maintenance, giving an estimated total budget for 2019/20 of approximately £1,188,000.

In response to clarification sought in terms of progress made around the potential to utilise plastic recycling initiatives for road maintenance, the Committee was advised that whilst work had commenced on this issue, given that this was a new initiative, there was a need to explore this in greater detail, which would include liaising with other local authorities, the outcome of which would be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

### **Decision**

- (i) In accordance with the authority delegated by Council within the approved MTFS for 2019/2020, the proposed Highway Maintenance Programme, as shown at Appendix 1, be approved.
- (ii) It was noted that this would fully commit the £1,188m available in 2019/2020.

## **72. Local Transport Plan 2018/19 Outturn and 2019/20 Programme** *(Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Key decision test (ii) applies – Forward Plan Ref No RN05/19

### **Purpose of report**

To inform the Committee of progress made under the Local Transport Plan delivery programme during 2018/2019 and to identify potential schemes for 2019/2020.

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

It was reported that the third Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026, sets out how a safe and sustainable transport system can be delivered within Hartlepool. The strategy was not limited to the five year timescale of previous LTP's but was designed to look towards 2026 and evolve over this period. This extended timescale ensured that the LTP was aligned with regional strategies and local development frameworks.

The Local Transport Plan funding had enabled the Council to undertake a

significant number of projects in 2018/19 to help maintain and improve both our strategic and local road network. Details of the schemes delivered in 2018/19 as well as proposed schemes for 2019/20 were set out in Appendix 2. All works/schemes would be funded via the Local Transport Plan allocation from Central Government, as detailed in the Local Transport Delivery Plan (2015-2021) which had been approved by this Committee on 16 March 2015. The integrated transport block allocation was expected to remain at £719,000.

In the discussion that followed officers responded to a number of queries raised in relation to the report. Clarification was provided regarding the links between access to employment and local road schemes, funding arrangements for cycle to work routes and the timescales for implementation of the dropped kerb schemes. In relation to a query raised regarding responsibilities in terms of costs in relation to printing and updating bus timetables, it was agreed that this issue be explored and clarification be provided following the meeting.

In relation to a suggestion that traffic signal improvements be explored at Park Road/Osborne Road, the Chair requested that the detail of this option be explored following the meeting.

A Member referred to the proposed works for the Construction Academy at Brenda Road Salt Barn and suggested that the street lighting at this location be considered as part of the improvement works.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the works/schemes delivered during 2018/2019 be noted.
- (ii) That the proposed schemes for 2019/2020 be approved.
- (iii) That the comments of Members, as detailed above, be noted and actioned as appropriate.
- (iv) That clarification in response to the queries raised in relation to bus timetables and traffic signal improvements be provided following the meeting.

## **73. Chair's Concluding Remarks**

The Chair announced that this was the last meeting of the current municipal year and took the opportunity to thank all Members of the Committee, the recently appointed Vice-Chair, the Democratic Services Officer as well as all officers and attendees for their invaluable input and contributions to the work and success of the Committee. The Chair referred to some of the successes and achievements of the Committee in the last 12 months and noted the benefits of cross-party working highlighting that the majority of decisions had been taken unanimously. Best wishes were also conveyed to

all Members who were standing in the forthcoming local elections.

## **74. Date of Next Meeting**

It was reported that the next meeting would be scheduled in the new municipal year, dates of which were yet to be arranged.

The meeting concluded at 4.20 pm.

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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