

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

26 July 2022

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: Tom Cassidy (In the Chair)

Councillors: Rob Cook, Rachel Creevy, Helen Howson, Peter Jackson and Shane Moore

Also Present:

Councillor Bob Buchan

Officers: Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services  
Kieran Bostock, Assistant Director, Place Management  
Jane Kett, Environmental Health Manager (Commercial Services)  
Steve Hilton, Communications and Marketing Team  
Denise Wimpenny, Democratic Services Team

### **12. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Little.

### **13. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **14. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2022**

Received.

In relation to Min 6 – Parking Strategic Assessment a Member highlighted that comments expressed by Members at the meeting should be included in the strategy.

In relation to votes taken at meetings and “no dissent” decisions, it was suggested for completeness and consistency that reference to decisions of this type be included in future minutes of meetings.

**15. Minutes of the meeting of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee held on 12 July 2022**

Received.

**16. Local Safety Schemes** (*Assistant Director, Place Management*)

**Type of decision**

Key decision – tests (i) and (ii) apply. Forward Plan Reference No NRS03/22

**Purpose of report**

To seek approval for a delivery programme of safety schemes across Hartlepool for the financial year 2022/23.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The report provided background information to the Local Transport Plan (LTP) allocation for 2022/23 as reported at Committee in March 2022 which included a budget for local safety and safer routes to schools schemes for 2022/23. The Committee was advised that following approval of a number of local safety and safer routes to school schemes in October 2019, a programme of safety schemes had been developed based on a prioritisation approach given the level of demand for safety schemes outstripped the Local Transport Plan budget. All potential schemes, as set out in Appendix 1, had been prioritised using a criteria based on factors such as accident data, speed survey results, the presence of a school/playground, higher pedestrian usage and community concerns raised.

A programme of potential safety schemes had been developed, subject to approval by Members, at Park Road (West Section) and Coronation Drive, details of which were included in the report. The total cost of the schemes would be approximately £170,000 and would be funded from the Council's Local Transport Plan.

In the lengthy discussion that followed officers responded to a number of queries raised in relation to the report. Clarification was provided in terms of how schemes were prioritised using the points based scheme, how the accident classifications were determined as well as the decision making process to bring reports back to Committee for approval in the event that savings were realised allowing a further scheme to be brought forward.

A Member raised concerns, on behalf of residents, regarding speeding issues in Newton Bewley and commented on the need for traffic calming measures. Assurances were provided that the team would explore these concerns under the relevant criteria and prioritisation process which would include liaising with the police and seeking their support in tackling the alleged speeding issues.

Members went on to further discuss the points based system and prioritisation process and there were differing views in terms of the benefits/fairness of the current prioritisation process. Given the number of comments from Members, it was suggested that the process around assessing and prioritising schemes be reviewed by Members at a future meeting of this Committee.

A query was raised as to whether current budget allocations would be sufficient to deliver the proposed two schemes in the report given the cost increases linked to materials. The Assistant Director advised that a contingency budget was allocated to projects to address such issues.

Elected Members and members of the public in attendance spoke in support of the potential need for additional safety schemes referring to speeding issues on Easington Road/Coast Road and a fatality on Mowbray Road to which the Assistant Director advised that not all accidents warranted a road safety scheme, the reasons for which were outlined earlier in the meeting.

### **Decision**

- (i) The Committee noted the oversubscribed LTP budget and the requirement for prioritisation.
- (ii) It was noted that the proposed list was live and further schemes may be deliverable should savings within the 2022/23 programme be identified.
- (iii) That the two proposed safety schemes for 2022/23 be approved.
- (iv) That the process around assessing and prioritising schemes be reviewed at a future meeting of this Committee.
- (v) The comments of Members be noted and actioned as appropriate.

**17. Health and Safety Service Plan 2022-23** (Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)

**Type of decision**

Non key decision

**Purpose of report**

To approve the Health and Safety Service Plan for 2022-23 which is a requirement under Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services reported that the Health and Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2022/23, submitted as an appendix to the report, had been updated to reflect last year's performance. The Plan detailed the service priorities and highlighted how these priorities would be addressed.

During 2021/22 the service completed health and safety interventions in a total of 124 premises. In addition officers had undertaken a range of interventions which involved 1 revisit to monitor compliance, working with 99 new businesses during the year and 165 enforcement visits to assess compliance with smoke free legislation.

Further detailed information was provided in relation to the performance of the service in terms of response times to complaints, visits to premises and accident notifications. It was noted that during 2020/21 no legal proceedings had been undertaken. However, one prohibition notice and one improvement notice had been served, details of which were provided. Members were referred to the financial pressures facing the service along with local priorities as set out in the report.

In response to clarification sought, examples of proactive interventions undertaken were outlined.

**Decision**

That the Health and Safety Service Plan for 2022/23 be approved.

## **18. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair reported that the next meeting would be held on 19 September 2022 at 3.00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 3.40 pm

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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