

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

24 MARCH 2022

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Cameron Stokell (In the Chair)

Councillor: Rob Cook.

Also Present: in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 the following substitutions were in place: -
Councillor Tom Feeney as substitute for Councillor Rachel Creevy.
Councillor Brenda Harrison as substitute for Councillor Helen Howson.
Councillor Shane Moore as substitute for Councillor Peter Jackson.
Councillor David Nicholson as substitute for Councillor Darren Price.

Martin Craddock, Capita

Officers: Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services
Kieran Bostock, Assistant Director, Place Management
Steve Hilton, Communications and Marketing Team
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

37. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Rachel Creevy, Helen Howson, Peter Jackson, and Darren Price.

38. Declarations of Interest

None.

39. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021

Received.

40. Minutes of the meeting of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee held on 2 March 2022

Received.

41. 5 Year Highway Maintenance Programme *(Assistant Director (Place Management))*

Type of decision

Key Decision test (i) and (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference No. NRS 02/22.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the annual refresh of the Council's 5 year Highway Maintenance Programme.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director (Place Management) reported that for the financial year 2022/2023 the capital grant allocation for highway maintenance is expected to be broadly similar to 2021/22 at £1,578,000. The programme refresh has been prepared assuming a similar level is allocated each year. The five-year programme was set out as an appendix to the report. The Assistant Director indicated that should any specific road, or part, deteriorate significantly, it could be brought forward on the programme, funding allowing.

Members acknowledged that the amount of work was limited by the finance available and questioned if the Authority had lobbied government for an increased allocation. The Assistant Director stated that in the past two years, Hartlepool had been successful in gaining additional funding of £0.5m in each case to supplement the programme of works through the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Members raised some specific points around highways issues;

- Works on A179 – the need to ensure the works integrated with the existing network;
- The need for some footpath works in the Clavering area.
- The deterioration of some flagstone laid pathways.
- The schedule for inspections. Officers indicated that this was monthly for primary routes, 6 monthly for secondary routes and pathways.
- The programming of works on Worset Lane. It was indicated these may be spilt due to the condition of certain sections of the road.
- A Ward Councillor requested that details of the works in the Headland Area.

- The calculation of cost estimates of some of the schemes was questioned. The Assistant Director stated that it may simply be the scale of the works but would review the costs and share details with Members.
- A member of the public raised an issue with the recent dropped kerb works in Kesteven Road. The Assistant Director stated he would contact the member of the public to discuss the matter after the meeting.

There was no dissent to the following decisions.

Decision

1. That the proposed programme detailed in the appendix to the report be approved, and it was noted that this would fully commit the funding available in 2022/2023.
2. That the Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee, be delegated authority to approve any changes to the proposed year one of the programme.

42. Local Transport Plan Programme (*Assistant Director (Place Management)*)

Type of decision

Key Decision test (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference No. NRS 01/22.

Purpose of report

To inform the Neighbourhood Services Committee of the current position with the Local Transport Plan Delivery Plan, progress made under the Local Transport Plan delivery programme during 2021/2022, and to identify potential schemes for 2022/2023.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director (Place Management) set out details of the third Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026, which detailed how a safe and sustainable transport system can be delivered within Hartlepool. Last year's committee report provided a refresh to the LTP Delivery Plan, by updating Members on strategy developments and the various projects/initiatives taking place in Hartlepool and across the wider Tees Valley.

The LTP was also aligned with key regional strategies and local development frameworks such as the Tees Valley Combined Authority's Strategic Transport Plan which covered the period up to 2030.

To further support the transport sector, the government provided significant funding to the public transport industry during the first lockdown from March 2020, to ensure the continued provision of bus services despite significantly reduced passenger numbers. This recovery funding had been intended to support the sectors return to financial sustainability.

In order to be eligible for potential future funding in this regard there are two requirements which must be met, which are the submission of a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), and the implementation of an Enhanced Partnership (EP). The BSIP set out a vision for delivering a step-change in bus services following a local public and wider stakeholder engagement process, and the EP is a statutory agreement between TVCA, the five Tees Valley local authorities and the bus operators to ensure full and effective implementation of the BSIP.

An update on works identified for delivery during 2021/2022 was shown in an appendix to the report, along with proposed schemes for 2022/2023 (subject to further committee reports where necessary).

In 2021/22 the level of demand for safety schemes outweighed the Local Transport Plan budget and a prioritisation matrix, which was approved by Neighbourhood Services Committee in 2019, had been used. This allowed schemes to be prioritised on the basis of requirement, with a further report being taken in the summer of each year.

Members raised the following issues during debate: -

- The proposals for dropped kerbs, did these include those requested by residents improving access to their property. The Assistant Director stated that these were mobility enhancing crossing points usually at junctions. Access to private residences were approved separately and paid for by the resident.
- When will the consultation on school safety schemes be completed. The Assistant Director stated that he would circulate details after the meeting. Some will already have been completed. All schemes listed had been requested either by the school or local residents. Members also sought further details on the schemes for local safety improvement around schools that were highlighted during the recent discussions on school crossing patrols.
- Cycleways throughout the borough and the inter connection of those routes. The Assistant Director stated that there was a good network of inter-connected cycleways across the borough and maps showing the network were available from the Council's Sustainable Travel Officer.
- Cyclists using the promenade at Seaton Carew.
- The problems caused by some users of electric scooters.
- The potential of joint working with Thirteen Housing to implement hard standing for vehicles. The Assistant Director stated that officers met regularly with Thirteen and would discuss the matter further.

There was no dissent to the following decisions.

Decision

That the proposals outlined in the report and the anticipated budget breakdown for 2022/2023, be approved.

43. West Park 20mph Limit and Valley Drive Traffic Calming *(Assistant Director (Place Management))*

Type of decision

Non-Key Decision.

Purpose of report

To seek approval for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit in the West Park area, along with traffic calming measures in Valley Drive following a public consultation for the proposed schemes.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director (Place Management) reported that at the committee meeting on the 19th March 2021, approval was given to design and consult on a proposed safety scheme for the Valley Drive area.

An initial consultation for the installation of road humps was undertaken with a majority of residents responding negatively to the proposals, although many residents expressed concerns about speeding and indicated that they felt alternative measures were required across the wider West Park area. Following this initial consultation alternative proposals were developed and further consultation was undertaken.

A new scheme was now proposed implementing a 20mph speed limit on all roads leading off West Park and Egerton Road. In addition pinch points and electronic speed signs are proposed for Valley Drive. The 20mph speed limit would replace the existing 30mph limit, and would require the implementation of terminal signs at junctions where the speed limit changes, along with smaller repeater signs at regular intervals throughout the estate. Two pinch points were proposed on Valley Drive. The first feature would be located north of the junction with Carisbrooke Road and the second north of Hardwick Court. Two electronic speed signs were proposed to be sighted either side of the carriageway, approximately midway along Valley Drive.

Members welcomed the proposals with the Chair commenting that they had received positive feedback at a local residents meeting. A Member commented that some additional comments from those that had responded to the consultation could provide a more balanced reflection in future reports. The Assistant Director stated that this consultation had been undertaken largely online and was the first such traffic scheme to be

consulted upon in this way. Normally letters would only be circulated to those residents directly affected by the proposals but this method had allowed wider consultation with the whole of the area affected. Paper consultation documentation was available to those who did not wish to use the online version.

There was no dissent to the following decision.

Decision

That the implementation of the proposed 20mph speed limit across West Park, together with the pinch points and electronic signs on Valley Drive, as reported, be approved.

44. Wynyard Garden Village – Visioning Document Consultation *(Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

The report informed Neighbourhood Services Committee of the work carried out to review the vision for Wynyard Garden Village following a consultation exercise. The draft visioning document together with the final version, with amendments made after conclusion of the consultation were included as appendices.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the principle aspects of the detailed 'visioning document' for the Wynyard Garden Village which extended across land both in Stockton-On-Tees and Hartlepool boroughs.

In debate after the presentation Members commented on the following: -

- Access to the new areas of development and who would meet those costs. The Director stated that there should be additional national funding available from Homes England and / or National Highways. The Chair of the Finance and Policy Committee also added that there would be additional finance available through the Tees Valley Combined Authority.
- Once the Garden Village plan was adopted by the respective local authority's additional support would be available through Homes England.
- The development of the Amazon facility was considered a huge jobs boost for the area, though there were concerns around the impact on the highways particularly the A19/A689 junction. The Director stated

that schemes were being developed to improve the junction further and there would be additional access to the Amazon site provided by the company. The whole route along the A689 from the town centre through to the M1 was being examined in partnership between Durham County Council, Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council and Hartlepool to review capacity and bottlenecks as part of a Department for Transport funding bid.

- Members noted the additional primary school provision and questioned if a secondary school for the area was also required. The representative from Capita, who had been working on the preparation of the visioning document indicated that at this time there was not a sufficient shortfall in secondary school places in the existing schools to require an additional site.
- Members noted that the new developments in the garden village would include affordable housing. The Director stated that in order to have a sustainable community affordable housing would be a requirement and this was now being supported by the newest developments.
- A Member questioned if the former new hospital development was now gone. The Director stated that the new garden village plan is likely to include local health care facilities but would be subject to more detailed work as the project evolved.

Decision

That the Committee notes the content of the Garden Village visioning document, and requests that the Neighbourhood Services Committee receive a further report considering what formal steps the Authority might take to review the formal planning framework for the Wynyard Garden Village.

45. Planning Review (*Assistant Director (Place Management)*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of a proposed review into the Planning Services of Hartlepool Borough Council.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director (Place Management) reported that the Planning and Development team played a key role in the regeneration of the Borough ensuring that developments in Hartlepool were of high quality and brought forward in a sustainable manner. It was crucial that the team continue to have the resources to deliver a first class service in order to attract and retain development within the Borough. The Planning and Development

team were last reviewed in 2014 by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and Local Government Association (LGA).

As part of the commitment to delivering an exceptional customer focused service that brings forward developments in a sustainable way, it was proposed to undertake a departmental review to ensure the team was well equipped to provide exceptional service into the future. The review would be funded through external grant funding. Any recommendations for the review would be brought back before Neighbourhood Services Committee for consideration.

Members welcomed the report and the Assistant Director's comments that the review would be a 360° review involving developers and agents as well as the staff. Members also suggested that the public be invited to comment as many applications came forward from householders.

Members supported the need to provide a review of the public facing element of the service to ensure the highest levels of public service for the future. Members did, however, comment that they did not wish to see the review consider any element of outsourcing. The Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services commented that communication was a key element he wished to see improved. One example being in communicating reasons for refusal as these could be due to external statutory consultees and not Council officers. The naming of the Team and the service was also considered key to promoting a positive image.

Members also stated that the Team had delivered some considerable gains for the town and many of the larger scale developments that had been brought forward in recent years were due to the hard work of the team.

Decision

That the undertaking of a review of the Planning and Development Team as reported be noted with any future recommendations be submitted to the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

46. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The Chair thanked Members and officers for their support during his time as Chair of the Committee which he would be relinquishing as he intended not standing for re-election this year. The Chair wished those that were standing for election good luck at the polls.

The meeting concluded at 12.00 noon.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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