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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Highways and Transport Committee**
held on Wednesday, 2nd March, 2022 in the The Capesthorpe Room - Town
Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1EA

PRESENT

Councillor C Browne (Chair)
Councillor L Crane (Vice-Chair)

Councillors S Akers Smith, M Benson, L Braithwaite, B Burkhill, J Clowes
(Substitute), H Faddes, A Gage, L Gilbert, M Sewart and P Williams

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs S Baxter (Democratic Services Officer), Mr M Davenhill (Contract Asset
Manager), Mr J David (Interim Director of Highways & Infrastructure), Mr S
Davies (Operations Manager, Maintenance and Localities), Mr R Hibbert
(Head of Strategic Transport and Parking), Ms J Traverse (Executive Director-
Place), Ms J Wilcox (Head of Financial Management) and Mrs M Withington
(Principal Lawyer)

53 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Hunter and D
Stockton.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

55 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 January 2022 be
approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

56 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

Councillor R Bailey attended the meeting and spoke on item 5 - Referral of
Notice of Motion: Second Winter Gritting Consultation.

Town Councillor H Ellwood attended the meeting and spoke on item 6 -
Highway Winter Service Mid-Season Review.

Councillor M Warren attended the meeting and spoke on item 6 - Highway
Winter Service Mid-Season Review.

57 REFERRAL OF NOTICE OF MOTION: SECOND WINTER GRITTING CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report responding to the Notice to Motion raised at Council relating to the call for a second round of consultation on the amendments to the winter gritting network, entitled "Further Streamlined Winter Service Consultation.

Councillor J Clowes explained her reasons for bringing the motion to the attention of the Council. She considered some of the data on the website to be confusing and lacked clarity. Further to this she felt the information did not provide an analysis of the consultation results which had caused residents to struggle with understanding the scores allocated to certain roads within the borough's network and which she felt needed addressing. She welcomed the opportunity to raise the matter with Members of the Highways and Transport Committee, however she felt the report did not address all of the questions raised within the Notice of Motion.

RESOLVED

1. That it be noted the information requested in the Notice of Motion, where missing, had been added to the web page below:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads/road-maintenance/well-managed-highway-infrastructure.aspx.

2. That it be noted a link to the WMHI webpage had been added on the Council's public consultation webpage.

58 HIGHWAY WINTER SERVICE MID-SEASON REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report updating the Committee on the implementation of the revised policy for the Winter gritting route network in the borough.

Councillor M Sewart moved an amendment to the substantive motion which was to include a further recommendation that bullet point one, paragraph 6.22 of the report be included with the addition of the words 'in consultation with Ward Councillors'. Councillor C Browne seconded the amendment with the proviso that the five bullet points listed under paragraph 6.22 of the report, including the addition of the words 'in consultation with Ward Councillors' after each bullet point to also form part of the final recommendation.

Members made the following comments:-

- (i) Welcomed the recommendation to develop a network hierarchy;
- (ii) Any future review should take into account the fact that the current Winter had been mild and that any future policy

- decisions should not be based on an abnormal Winter season;
- (iii) The data was not indicative of all of the concerns residents were raising in terms of what was happening on the roads within their areas;
 - (iv) In terms of national guidelines whilst it was important to adhere to this as far as possible, it was considered there was room for a wide range of interpretation in respect of the guidelines;
 - (v) Rural communities had been impacted and this fact should not be overlooked;
 - (vi) Understanding of how the figures in table 1 of paragraph 6.12 of the report which set out how many treatments had been undertaken and on what days the treatments had been carried out. There was request to analyse how the figures compared to the same period over the last three years in order to understand how representative the figures were;
 - (vii) Member involvement would be key in terms of gathering and communicating evidence to a centrally agreed deposit.
 - (viii) Focus, should initially as part of any meaningful review be on the roads that did score highly but not highly enough to meet the criteria to be included within the Winter gritting programme.

Councillor S Akers Smith asked a question in respect of how much of the budget had been spent on treatment days. Members were advised that a written response to this question would be circulated after the meeting.

RESOLVED (Unanimous)

1. That implementation of the new Winter gritting routes continued to be carefully monitored by the Highways and Transport Committee over the remainder of the Winter season.

2. That a report be presented to a future Highways and Transport Committee which responded to the points raised by the Committee as outlined above and which provided detailed analysis of the impacts of the new routes with consideration being given if any changes would be required to the new policy.

3. That a review would re-score any roads on which there had been significant representations and consideration should be given whether they be included in the gritting programme if they met the criteria after re-scoring.

4. That a review would consider evidence relating to accidents on the highway network during icy conditions to assess any implications of the recent change.

5. That a review would consider whether there should be minor amendments to the scoring matrix in the light of the winter experience.

6. That a review would present the details of a potential local “top up” scheme and recommend whether this should be taken forward.

7. That recommendations 3 to 6 to be carried out in consultation with Ward Councillors.

59 **LOCAL TRANSPORT DELIVERY PLAN - TRANCHE 1**

Consideration was given to a report seeking the Committee’s approval for the first set of Local Transport Delivery Plans, which had been prepared as part of the Council’s transport strategy framework.

It was proposed by Councillor L Crane and seconded by Councillor S Akers Smith that the substantive motion be approved subject to any reference within the recommendations to the word ‘delivery’ being replaced with the word ‘development’. Prior to the motion being voted upon the following amendment was put forward by Councillor M Benson and seconded by Councillor L Gilbert:-

- (i) That recommendation 3.1.4 become 3.1.1 and the words ‘Note that the’ be removed.
- (ii) That recommendation 3.1.1 become recommendation 3.1.2 and would have the inclusion of the words ‘subject to satisfactory feedback’ at the beginning of the recommendation.
- (iii) That recommendation 3.1.2 become recommendation 3.1.3.
- (iv) That recommendation 3.1.3 become recommendation 3.1.4.

This amendment was debated, voted upon and lost.

Members debated the substantive motion which was approved subject to any reference within the recommendations to the word ‘delivery’ being replaced with the word ‘development’.

RESOLVED

1. That the Local Transport Development Plans as in Appendices A – E, which would become part of the Councils policy and programme planning framework for transport be approved.

2. That it be noted the individual projects in any Development Plan would be subject to programming of the annual highways and transport capital budgets. Projects would be progressed only after funding had been agreed and subject to all necessary scheme design and development works including consultation with stakeholders.

3. That it be noted each Development Plan could be reviewed periodically to take account of any significant changes to either national guidelines or relevant local policy context.

4. That it be noted that the Development Plans would be shared with Ward councillors and town/parish councils, who would be engaged in meetings and workshops to develop programmes to deliver relevant transport projects.

60 **NATIONAL BUS STRATEGY - ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP PLAN AND SCHEME(S)**

Consideration was given to a report on the Council's Enhanced Partnership (EP) Plan and Scheme.

Concerns were raised the report did not make it clear there would be Member involvement in the Enhanced Partnership Governance arrangements. An amendment to the substantive motion was put forward by Councillor M Sewart and seconded by Councillor J Clowes that an additional recommendation be included which confirmed Member involvement in the Enhanced Partnership Governance Structure. In response to the amendment, Mandy Withington, the Principal Lawyer advised that such an amendment would be unconstitutional.

A further amendment was then put forward by Councillor L Crane and seconded by Councillor C Browne which included an additional recommendation stating that the views of the Committee regarding the importance of Member involvement with the Enhanced Partnership Governance Structure be reported to Members of the BSIP Advisory Panel for their consideration.

RESOLVED (Unanimously)

1. That the **draft** Enhanced Partnership Plan (EP Plan) and Scheme (EP Scheme) documents be noted.

2. That the Director of Highways and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Bus Services Member Advisory Panel be authorised, to finalise the **draft** Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme documents.

3. That the finalised **draft** EP Plan and Scheme documents be approved and submitted to the Department for Transport before the end of April, in accordance with their deadline.

4. That it be noted the final version of a Cheshire East Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme would be reported to a future meeting of this Committee for approval.

5. That the comments of the Committee regarding the importance of Member involvement in the Enhanced Partnership Governance Structure be reported to Members of the BSIP Advisory Panel.

61 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT 2022-23 PROGRAMMES

It was noted that as the information from the Department for Transport (DfT) had been submitted within the last 24 hours, it was agreed that the item should be deferred to an additional meeting of the Highways and Transport Committee scheduled to be arranged for the end of April.

RESOLVED

That the item be deferred to an additional meeting of the Highways and Transport Committee.

62 REQUEST BY COUNCILLOR L GILBERT FOR AN ITEM TO BE INCLUDED ON THE WORK PROGRAMME IN RELATION TO IDLING VEHICLE ENGINES

Consideration was given to Councillor L Gilbert's request for an item relating to idling vehicle engines to be included as a future item on the work programme.

Initial comments from some Members raised concerns that the impact on the workload of the enforcement team potentially could be significant and that educating members of the public perhaps would be a more appropriate approach to adopt.

Members debated the request and it was agreed that the item should be included on the work programme for further discussion.

RESOLVED

That a report which included a feasibility study on the matter of idling vehicle engines be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

63 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.50 pm

Councillor C Browne (Chair)

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