

AT A MEETING of the ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT
SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,
Winchester on Tuesday, 8 July 2014.

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Graham Burgess

p Charles Choudhary

p Shaun Cully

p Philip Fawkes

p Brian Gurden

a Edward Heron

p Roger Huxstep

p Rupert Kyrle

p Peter Latham

a Steve Rippon-Swaine

p David Simpson

p Mark Staplehurst

52. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine and on behalf of the Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment Cllr Sean Woodward. Cllr George Ringrow was in attendance as the conservative substitute Member in place of Cllr Rippon-Swaine.

53. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

54. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2014 were

confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Under minute 45 (Economic Development – Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Growth Deals):

It was noted that the following Members would be taking part in the Working Group on this topic:

Cllr Edward Heron

Cllr Steve Rippon Swaine

Cllr Rupert Kyrle or Cllr Brian Gurden (depending on availability)

Meetings of the Working Group be arranged

55. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at this meeting.

56. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no announcements on this occasion.

57. **FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY: UPDATE**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Policy & Governance on the responses received to the Select Committee's recommendations on flood risk management (Take in report, Item 6 in Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- The Economy Transport & Environment (ETE) Department were due to hold an event in the autumn/winter for parish councils to update them on flood risk management and other winter resilience measures
 - The Emergency Planning section were working with parish councils on local flood action plans
 - That the County Council worked with the Hampshire Association of Local Councils to disseminate information to parish councils, and would work with other community groups or District Councils in areas where there were no parish councils

Committee Members be informed of the date of the parish council event

Following questions Members heard:

- That the requirements regarding Sustainable urban Drainage systems had not been implemented in April 2014 as initially planned, and the latest intelligence suggested it would not come into force until 2015. The Government were yet to confirm their preference for funding the on going maintenance of sustainable drainage. The County Council was preparing for this new duty, but would not be making detailed plans until further clarity was received regarding the consent process and the funding situation.

Members commented:

- That it was important to provide clear and accessible information for the public regarding who to contact about flooding, without them needing to have detailed knowledge of the different types of flooding and who was responsible for them. It was responded that it was intended to make it easier for the public to report issues online e.g. ditches that need clearing
- That it would be useful to include information on what households can do to protect themselves from flooding in the County Council's magazine 'Hampshire Now'

The Select Committee welcomed the support of the Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment and the Government's Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs for the direction of travel suggested by the committee's recommendations, and agreed the following follow up actions:

RECOMMENDED:

1) That a meeting of the Economy Transport & Environment Select Committee be convened as a stand alone flood risk scrutiny session, (in follow up to the session held in December 2013) to cover:

- Regional Flood and Coastal Committee representatives feedback on their attendance at meetings discussing flood risk grant allocation
- Sustainable urban Drainage – national guidance, latest position on funding, local preparations update
- Maintenance of ordinary watercourses – including use of enforcement powers and opportunities for community involvement including parish councils
- Lessons learned from the 2013/14 flood incident investigations

(timing of this session to be determined by when further information is available on Sustainable urban Drainage implementation)

2) View of DEFRA regarding environmental protection not impeding flood risk management activity to be disseminated.

3) Committee to be updated when the memorandum of understanding has been agreed

4) Community Resilience Planning item be put forward for the Member Briefing Programme

Future flood risk management event be added to work programme

ETE Dept to disseminate via existing forums for information sharing on flood risk

Keep MoU on work programme for update

Request to be forwarded to Briefing Programme organiser

58. **FLOOD INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS UPDATE**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment regarding the flood investigations undertaken following the flooding experienced in Hampshire in the winter of 2013/14 (Take in report, Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Members heard:

- That flood investigations could be carried out under section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in order to identify the risk management authorities with relevant functions, quantify the incident and make recommendations for actions (however follow up actions were not a requirement)
 - Four such formal investigations had been initiated in Hampshire
 - Around 150 less formal investigations had also been undertaken to identify who to approach with follow up actions in response to flooding incidents. Some had resulted in enforcement actions, some in actions by the local community to reduce the impact in future
 - Areas at risk of flooding were being identified, and work undertaken with communities on local flood plans
 - The procedure for ensuring maintenance of watercourses had been streamlined so that specific instructions were provided to landowners regarding the work required, and if it was not undertaken in the required timescale a legal notice would be issued, the work carried out and the landowner charged
 - So far it had not been necessary to undertake works and charge landowners; the system appeared to be more effective than in the past at encouraging landowners to respond and take action themselves

Following questions Members heard:

- That Cllr Mark Cooper, County Councillor for Romsey had written to the Director of Economy Transport & Environment requesting that the County Council urgently respond to the findings of the investigation into the flooding experienced in Romsey. The investigation had looked into whether a new development had contributed to the flooding. The outcomes of the investigation were due to be reported to the Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment Decision Day on 11 July 2014. There would be an action plan arising from the findings of the investigation
 - That the map recording flooding incidents was still being updated and was yet to include information on highways flooding incidents
 - That the map of flooding incidents was being

used to identify clusters of incidents, in order to join up responses to address broader flood catchment areas

- That there was a programme of drain cleansing to prevent drains becoming blocked. Drains were cleansed at varying frequency depending on need, some more than once a year, some less
- That in some cases flooding incidents had been complicated by sewerage system problems and the water companies were working to address those issues
- That section 19 investigations had not been undertaken on Hambledon and Winchester as the cause of the flooding in these locations was clear
- Site visit reports were available for each incident investigated, so specific details could be provided if requested

Members commented:

- That it remained difficult at times to get the different agencies involved to work together effectively at a localised level
- That it would be useful to publish information for the public regarding the flooding incidents experienced. It was acknowledged there was public interest in this, and a solution was being worked on to enable this information to be presented in map form on the web

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee scrutinise the lessons learned from the 2013/14 flood incident investigations at the future meeting due to be dedicated to flood risk management.

59. **HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE TASK & FINISH GROUP PLANS**

The Chairman presented a report on the proposals for two Task & Finish Groups regarding highway maintenance services (take in report, Item 8 in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the proposals for the task and finish group 'Highways Phase 1' (Appendix 1) are agreed

The following Members be appointed to the task and finish group for 'Highways Phase 1':

Cllr Sharyn Wheale
Cllr Graham Burgess
Cllr Roger Huxstep
Cllr David Simpson
Cllr Mark Staplehurst

Arrangements be made for Task & Finish Group meetings

That the proposals for the task and finish group 'Highways Phase 2' (Appendix 2) are agreed

The following Members be appointed to the task and finish group for 'Highways Phase 2':

Cllr Sharyn Wheale

Cllr Peter Latham

Cllr Geoff Hockley

Cllr Ray Bolton

Cllr Shaun Cully

Cllr Adrian Collett

Cllr Andy Moore

Arrangements be made for Task & Finish Group meetings

60. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

It was noted that the Committee was due to be updated on the Waste Contract in the autumn as requested, and to pre scrutinise plans for Household Waste Recycling Centres prior to a decision. The Select Committee may also wish to pre scrutinise the decision following the consultation on 'Review of Local Bus and Community Transport Services 2014'.

It was reported that the topic 'control of weeds on the highway' listed on page 8 would be covered within the working group on Highways Phase 1 (new ways of working to be trialled during the extension to the Amey contract).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's work programme be approved subject to any amendments made at this meeting.

Work Programme be updated

Chairman, 23 October 2014