

AT A MEETING of the ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT  
SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,  
Winchester on Friday, 30 October 2015.

**PRESENT**

Chairman:  
p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:  
p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

p Graham Burgess	p Roger Huxstep
p Charles Choudhary	p Rupert Kyrle
p Shaun Cully	p Peter Latham
p Philip Fawkes	p Steve Rippon-Swaine
a Brian Gurden	p David Simpson
p Edward Heron	p Mark Staplehurst

Also in attendance: Cllr Sean Woodward, Executive Member for Economy  
Transport & Environment

105. **BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

106. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that Cllr Brian Gurden had given apologies. The liberal democrat substitute member had been invited but did not attend.

107. **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 Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether

such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 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.

108. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

109. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at this meeting.

110. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reminded members that the Economy Transport and Environment Department would be holding an event for Parish Councils on Wednesday 11 November 2015 in Ashburton Hall, to which members of the Select Committee were invited.

The Chairman also highlighted that a briefing on Household Waste Recycling Centres had been scheduled for Wednesday 9 December 2015. This briefing session would set out the current position related to the Household Waste Recycling Centre in the context of the Transformation to 2017 programme and the wider Waste and Resource Management service efficiencies programme. It would provide information about the forthcoming new HWRC management contract that commences on 1 April 2016 and provide detail on the forthcoming second stage public consultation due to start in January 2016 on future changes to the service.

111. **ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS FOR MINERALS AND WASTE SAFEGUARDING AND OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Economy, Transport & Environment, regarding the preparation of two supplementary planning documents, providing further guidance to support the implementation of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (see Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (HMWP) was adopted in 2013, and the County Council

and it's partners have a responsibility to implement and monitor the Plan

- Due to public interest and concern regarding potential hydraulic fracturing ('fracking'), the County Council and it's partners decided that a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on oil and gas development would be beneficial to provide greater clarity on issues relating to this type of development
  - It was also agreed to develop further guidance on minerals and waste safeguarding, to ensure that district and borough Councils consult the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority effectively when non-minerals-or-waste developments are proposed which impact the mineral resources and/or minerals and waste infrastructure, and that safeguarding issues are taken into account by developers when non minerals or waste developments are proposed
    - The two SPDs provide additional guidance to facilitate the implementation of the HMWP policies and do not constitute new policy
    - The draft documents were consulted upon in the summer of 2015 and a number of responses received, and amendments were made to the document in response to the feedback received
    - It was planned to seek approval of the documents from Cabinet in December 2015, and then full County Council in early 2016
    - It was anticipated that a proposal for oil and gas development in Hampshire would be submitted within the next year, therefore it would be important to have the oil and gas SPD adopted prior to that, so that this guidance could be applied to any application arising

Following questions Members heard:

- That the document was still draft and it was known that there were formatting errors, and these would be amended prior to the document being finalised
  - That it was recognised there would be particular interest from communities in oil and gas development proposals, so in those cases developers would be encouraged to undertake pre-application engagement with local communities

Members commented:

- That consideration should be given to whether particular measures would be used if an application related to land owned by the County Council, to ensure transparency. It was noted that an application on County land would be treated the same as any other and the same rules and procedures would apply. It was suggested this point be made clear within the document
  - That the document was welcomed, and that it was good to be pro-active and prepare such guidance,

rather than be reactive in the face of an application

**RECOMMENDED:**

The Select Committee note and welcome the development of the two Supplementary Planning Documents, and support their adoption.

Recommendation notified to Executive Member

112. **ANIMAL CASUALTIES ON NEW FOREST ROADS**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment regarding the role the County Council plays in reducing accidents involving livestock and deer on roads in the New Forest (see Item 9 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- Due to Commoning, livestock can be pastured across the open forest, and can roam across roads in the New Forest
- The Animal Accident Reduction Group (AARG) was set up in 2007 to promote coordination between the organisations involved with the management of the New Forest, with the aim of reducing the number and severity of traffic accidents involving Commoners stock and deer
  - Numbers of animal accidents have been steadily reducing since 1985, with the most significant impact the introduction of a blanket 40mph speed limit across the New Forest in the 1990's
  - The routes identified as highest risk for animal accidents in the 1980's remained the same today
  - As highway authority, the County Council has responsibilities regarding the safety of the highways. A number of options had been considered to further reduce accidents. Fencing off parts of the forest was not being proposed, as this would impact on the open character of the forest. A blanket 30mph speed limit was not being pursued, as it was considered that the current 40mph limit allowed for a distinction when entering villages (which have a 30mph limit) which is beneficial
  - Options being considered included extending use of slogan signage that is changed seasonally, and longer term, use of average speed cameras on high risk routes

Members commented:

- That the verderers fund a speed enforcement van, however this cannot operate at night, when a number of accidents happen
- That it was the responsibility of the police to enforce speed limits. It was suggested that the Chairman could write to the Chief Constable to highlight the issue, in particular in relation to known high risk

routes such as the B3078 where a high number of speeds of over 60mph had been recorded  
RECOMMENDED:

1. That the Select Committee note the report, and support the current approach to management of animal accidents on the roads in the New Forest.
2. That the County Council continue to support the Animal Accident Reduction Group (through officer attendance at meetings and provision of advice).
3. That the Chairman of the Select Committee write to the Chief Constable of Hampshire constabulary, to request that consideration be given to how enforcement activity is undertaken in the New Forest on the routes identified as high risk for animal accidents.

Recommendations notified to Executive Member

Letter to Chief Constable

113. **HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES 2015 CHANGES IN OPENING HOURS**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment regarding the impact of changes in opening hours for Household Waste Recycling Centres brought in from April 2015 (see Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- 125 complaints had been received following the introduction of the new opening hours, mostly relating to increased congestion accessing sites (however when trade waste controls were brought in 1,000 complaints were received, so the number following this change was considered low)
- A customer survey had been undertaken in June on the impact of the changes, and 41% of people responding indicated the change had no impact on them
- Consideration had been given to the potential impact on fly tipping, however the evidence suggested a 2% drop in fly tipping incidents compared to the same period in 2014
- Feedback had been invited from the contractors running the site, and it was noted that there had been some impact on site management e.g. the haulage contractor being delaying in servicing the bins in the morning due to the queues to access the site at the beginning of the day

Following questions members heard:

- That particular sites, including Basingstoke and Farnborough, had experienced particular congestion difficulties, due to their location. Action had been taken by staff to try to alleviate these issues.

- A new contract for managing HWRC sites was due to commence in April 2016. The new contractor would be encouraged to raise public awareness of when sites are busy, so that people can be informed and plan their trip accordingly

Members commented:

- That consideration may need to be given to revisiting opening hours, and opening sites before 9:00am in order to alleviate morning congestion. A member commented that congestion impacts on air quality

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee note the report.

RECOMMENDED:

When further savings from the Household Waste Recycling Centre budget are considered, this evidence be taken into account, and consideration be given to options that minimise impact on congestion.

Recommendation notified to Executive Member

114. **TRANSFORMATION TO 2017 – FUTURE CONSULTATION PLANS**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment regarding the Department's plans to carry out further consultation on revenue savings proposals being considered to meet savings targets by April 2017 (see Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- It was planned to undertake further public consultation on savings proposals affecting Highways and Waste
  - A consultation was due to be launched on 2 November 2015 regarding the proposals for the highways budget. This would be open for six weeks, with the outcomes to be considered by the Select Committee and Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment at their scheduled meetings in January 2016
  - A consultation was due to be launched in late January 2016 on further Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) savings, the outcomes of which would be considered by the Select Committee and Executive Member for Economy Transport & Environment in April 2016

Following questions members heard:

- That consideration had been given to what are the priorities for a given service e.g. for highways – maintaining the core asset, then consider safety, then other services have to be treated as lower priority in order to provide the service within a lower budget
  - That the consultation would mainly be publicised online. An event for parish councils was due to take place on 11 November 2015 and the consultations would be brought to parishes attention then
    - The previous HWRC consultation was promoted to service users at HWRC sites, and it was anticipated the same approach would be taken with this consultation
      - The Spending Review consultation undertaken in the summer of 2015 had invited the public to prioritise areas for savings. This feedback had been taken into account in the development of savings proposals
        - That one of the proposals is to potentially switch street lights off between certain hours. Consideration would be given to data on traffic levels, and potential safety impacts

Members commented:

- That they were concerned that reductions to routine maintenance of highways would simply displace costs to reactive repairs when the lack of maintenance caused a safety issue e.g. grass not being cut and then affecting driver visibility
  - That consideration should be given to the opportunity to delegate grass cutting and/or weed killing to district/borough councils or parish lengthsman
    - That it would help to make clear to the public the potential saving each option would provide and the level of savings needed

RESOLVED:

That the Select Committee note the report.

RECOMMENDED:

That all members be notified by email when the consultations on Highway Maintenance and Household Waste Recycling Centres are launched.

Recommendation notified to Executive Member

115. **PARISH LENGTHSMEN SCHEME TASK AND FINISH GROUP: OUTCOMES**

The Committee considered a report from the Parish Lengthsman Task & Finish Group providing the conclusions and recommendations of the Task & Finish Group (see Item 10 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- Due to the pressure to make savings on the revenue budget for highways services, consideration was being given to the future of the lengthsman scheme as this does not involve statutory highways functions
- The funding offered by the countryside service was only for the 2016/17 financial year, so the pressure would remain on the revenue budget the following year
- That some parishes in the scheme form clusters, which provides efficiencies in how the scheme is managed including for invoicing and reporting. Following discussion of this point, members agreed to add an additional recommendation regarding requiring parishes to form clusters (see recommendation 6)

Members commented:

- That parishes are well placed to prioritise maintenance works locally, and therefore the lengthsman scheme was worth continuing

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the parish lengthsman scheme be retained.
2. That a contribution to the scheme from the Countryside Service be welcomed, and included within the budget for the scheme, to help maintain the scheme for the coming year.
3. That funding be maintained at £1000 per parish for 2016/17
4. That funding levels per parish be reviewed if additional entrants to the scheme put pressure on the budget available.
5. That consideration be given to reviewing the scheme in future in the context of the devolution discussions and any broader review of functions delegated downwards.
6. That for the 2016/17 financial year it be a requirement of the scheme that parishes form clusters.

Recommendations  
be passed to  
Executive Member

116. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman presented the Committee's forthcoming work programme (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

The Chairman proposed removing the topics of electric cars and Community Infrastructure Levy – noting that these could be added again in future if timely.

Cllr Heron requested a topic be added to the work

programme regarding the increasing trend that roads on new developments are not adopted by the highway authority, and the issues this presents.

Work Programme  
be updated

RESOLVED:

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

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Chairman, 19 January 2016