

AT A MEETING of the ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT
SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle,
Winchester on Thursday, 30 June 2016.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor Sharyn Wheale

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Geoff Hockley

Councillors:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| a Graham Burgess | p Peter Latham |
| p Charles Choudhary | p Martin Lyon |
| p Brian Gurden | p Steve Rippon-Swaine |
| p Edward Heron | p Frank Rust |
| p Roger Huxstep | p David Simpson |
| p Rupert Kyrle | p Mark Staplehurst |

Also in attendance: Cllr Rob Humby, Executive Member for Environment & Transport

142. **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.

143. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that Cllr Graham Burgess had given his apologies. The conservative substitute Member Cllr Ken Moon was unable to attend in his place.

144. **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.

145. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: On Minute 140 regarding emergency and urgent utility works, an email was circulated to Select Committee Members providing further information from Thames Water. On the basis of the information provided, it was agreed that it was not necessary to invite Thames Water to attend a meeting of the Select Committee at this time.

146. **DEPUTATIONS**

No deputations were received at this meeting.

147. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Household Waste Recycling Centres

The Chairman reported that the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) consultation had closed on 25 May 2016 with close to 12,000 responses received. Responses were being analysed, and an additional meeting of the Select Committee had been convened on Tuesday 19 July at 1:00pm in order to pre-scrutinise the proposals affecting HWRCs, prior to a decision of the Executive Member due to take place on Friday 22 July.

National Highways and Transport Survey

The Chairman highlighted that the National Highways and Transport Survey was being conducted by IPSOS Mori on behalf of more than 100 English local highway authorities. Hampshire County Council was one of 106 Local Authorities to sign up to this year's standardised survey. The results, which were expected in mid October, would enable local highway authorities to compare satisfaction levels, as well as share in best practice. A questionnaire would have been sent out to a minimum random sample of at least 3,300 of Hampshire's residents.

It was noted that although satisfaction with highways and transport was nationally on a slight downward trend, so far Hampshire County Council had continued to score well, and for the last two years had scored the

highest of all county councils in the South East, in terms of public satisfaction with 'highway maintenance'. The Chairman noted this was a tribute to the work of the Hampshire Highways team.

148. **ROAD CASUALTY REDUCTION**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Economy, Transport & Environment regarding road casualty reduction, following on from consideration at the last meeting of proposals for a change in policy regarding implementation of traffic management measures (see Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- A policy decision was taken by the Executive Member for Environment and Transport in May 2016 to prioritise traffic management measures in response to injury accidents.
- Graphs were provided in the appendices to the report regarding trends in casualty numbers on Hampshire Roads (excluding motorway and trunk roads which are not managed by the County Council)
- The trend for overall serious and fatal accidents was a slight increase from 2003 to 2014, and the trend for slight injury accidents was a decrease over the same period
- Britain has the second lowest rate of road casualties in the world, with road deaths falling by 45% between 2005 and 2014, and fewer people killed in 2013 than any time since records began in 1927
- Prevention activity targets high risk groups such as young drivers
- It is of concern that the number of killed and seriously injured is rising, which is why the policy approach adopted is to focus on addressing issues that have contributed to injury accidents

Following questions Members heard:

- Human error is the largest contributory factor in accidents on the roads, and it is difficult to address those factors
- Injury accidents are investigated, and the results used to focus activity. This includes traffic management measures where relevant e.g. improving sight lines, and prevention activity where relevant e.g. education for young people about the potential impact of dangerous driving
- The costs of accidents have been estimated nationally (including NHS costs, damage etc) as £1.8million for a fatality, £200,000 for a serious injury and £16,000 for a slight injury.
- The County Council do not liaise directly with

insurance companies regarding all accident data; there are a considerable number of different insurance companies. Resources are focused on responding to injury accidents which are investigated

- The County Council continues to support the Animal Accident Reduction Group which considers accidents involving animals in the New Forest area.

Members commented:

- That in some cases the causes of accidents may not be something that road engineering can alleviate e.g. the driver being under the influence of alcohol. In such cases, it is important to communicate this to the public, to explain why the County Council has not taken action as a result of an accident
 - Road Safety Committees exist, which work well on these issues with the police
 - That it would be helpful to know the proportion of accidents in which alcohol and drugs have been a contributory factor
 - That it was a concern that drivers sometimes break highways rules outside schools when dropping off and collecting children.
 - It would be helpful to compare accident data to perceptions of dangerous locations
 - It would be helpful to include car ownership against accident numbers, to see how many accidents are occurring compared to the numbers of cars on the road
 - How is the impact/value for money of the prevention work assessed? this would be helpful to consider if the budget allocated for this area of work is appropriate

Given the level of interest from Members in further information on this subject, the following was proposed by the Chairman and agreed.

RESOLVED:

That a Task & Finish Group of the Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee be initiated regarding Road Safety.

Arrangements be made for Task & Finish Group

149. **SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment regarding school crossing patrols (see Item 7 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- This topic had been requested by Cllr Jackie Porter who sits on the Children & Young People Select

Committee, and referred to this Select Committee

- Cllr Porter had been unable to attend the meeting, however had provided written comments in response to the report. Her comments were circulated to those present

- Hampshire County Council currently uses school crossing patrols at 260 sites, which makes this one of the largest such services in the country

- In some cases, voluntary redundancy had been accepted for school crossing patrol officers, where sites no longer met the criteria for requiring a school crossing patrol

- It was sometimes difficult to recruit to school crossing patrol vacancies. Where there are vacancies these are promoted locally via the school etc

- School Crossing Patrol officers have the power to stop traffic, and according to the law this power derives from, are required to be appointed by the County Council. It was considered that this legal position would make it difficult to use volunteers to fill these roles.

The following was proposed by the Chairman and agreed:

RESOLVED:

That School Crossing Patrols be considered further within the Task & Finish Group on Road Safety.

That Cllr Jackie Porter be invited to attend the meeting of the task & finish group when school crossing patrols are due to be discussed.

Cllr Porter to be informed of the outcome of this item

150. **HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE TRIALS UPDATE**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment regarding progress with trials of ways of working supporting highways maintenance (see Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members heard that:

- The trials had been recommended by the Select Committee in January 2015 following a Task and Finish group on Highways Maintenance

- Hart District Council had been trialling undertaking weed killing on the highway, using the contractor already employed by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. Feedback from Hart had been positive that this approach had benefited from local knowledge. It was proposed to offer district council's the option to undertake weed killing under new agency agreements, if they could match the price offered by the main highway contractor (new contract due to start in April 2017)

- District councils would also be offered the opportunity to undertake urban grass cutting, if they could do so for the same price as the main contractor. It was noted that rural grass cutting would remain the County Councils' responsibility, it was only urban grass cutting that could be devolved to district councils.

- A number of parish councils had been engaged in trialling writing letters to landowners regarding cutting back overgrown vegetation. The procedure for notifying residents had also been simplified. This approach was delivering benefits, with increased numbers of landowners cutting back vegetation in response to initial letters.

- It was planned to develop a trial for parishes to also write letters to landowners regarding drainage issues.

Following questions Members heard:

- That new agency agreements would be negotiated with district councils to come into force in April 2017. The new highway maintenance contract was out to tender, and cost estimates from suppliers were due in July. It would then be possible to negotiate with districts regarding whether they wish to take on responsibilities such as weed killing at a matched or better price

Members commented:

- That it was good to see the Select Committee recommendations were having a positive impact

- That parish councils should be encouraged to liaise with district councils regarding priorities for grass cutting

- Work on drainage issues should include the local flood action group

RECOMMENDED:

That the Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee support the proposals laid out in section 7.1 i) to iv) of the report.

That the topic remain on the work programme for a future update.

151. **WORK PROGRAMME**

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

RESOLVED:

That the Committee's work programme be approved

Work Programme
be updated

subject to any amendments made at this meeting.

Chairman
3 November 2016