

ITEM 4

Time commenced 6.00pm
Time finished 8.12pm

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 27 JULY 2009

Present: Councillor Poulter, in the Chair
Councillors Batey, Harwood, Ingall and Repton

15/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Rawson and Lowe.

16/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

17/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/09 Call-in

There were no items for call-in.

20/09 Councillor Call for Action

There were no items.

21/09 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

The Commission were informed that the Key Decision on Home to School Transport was taken by Council Cabinet on 7 July 2009 and that 3 members had called the decision in. A special meeting of the Commission was held on 22 July 2009 and the outcome was that the call-in was upheld and the decision referred back to Cabinet to reconsider the item at its meeting on 28 July 2009.

Resolved to note the response.

Items for Discussion

22/09 Derby Roads

The Commission received an update from John Hansed and Rob Allen on Derby Roads. It was reported that the key problems and issues for the partnership were poor performance on reactive and emergency works, including systems and processes, identifying and ordering works, programming of works and productivity of work. It was noted that there were new regulations within the Traffic Management Act that have taken time to adopt and adapt to. There were big pressures on budget provision for highways maintenance. John informed the Commission that there was now a focussed improvements plan with additional project management resources. This included the aim to be seeing and feeling significant improvements in partnership working and improvements in the delivery of services by March 2009.

Rob Allen stated that since the beginning of the year Derby Roads had a change in the contracts manager who had been in place since May and that there had been great improvements since. There had been a reorganisation at the Stores Road Office and the works team had been re-structured to include changes to the number of workers on reactive works. It was hoped that these changes would provide greater productivity as the works were now issued on a street by street basis too.

Members raised concerns that they had heard an update similar to this previously, yet the works seemed no closer to being completed. John told the Commission that the works had started this week from the Routine Maintenance Action Plan which recommended a course of action for dealing with the problems that had arisen in undertaking and financing routine repair works on the city's highways, including the reduction of backlog of repairs. Officers were confident that there would be better results within the next six months and they would be happy to come back to the Commission with an update in January 2010.

Resolved to note the report and receive and update in January 2010.

23/09 Kedleston Road Bus Lane

The Commission received a presentation on the outcome of the Kedleston Road Bus Lane consultation. It was reported that the survey was a self completion questionnaire that was handed out to customers travelling on the Allestree service. It was noted that this was done during peak hours and a combined set of times in order to get a broad sample of results.

Members raised concerns about the width of the bus lane, following the recent bus lane that had been added to Duffield Road. It was reported that the bus lane would be well above the minimum required and that there were plans for footpath widening schemes and negotiations over parking arrangements.

It was reported that the local ward members had been consulted from both the wards and there been no objections from Members.

It was noted that the reports including the results from the consultation would be reported to Cabinet in September and, if agreed, the bus lane would be delivered in the 09/10 work programme.

Resolved to note the report.

24/09 Cycle Derby Work Programme

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Community on Cycle Derby Work Programme. In 2005 and 2008, Derby City Council submitted successful bids to Cycling England for 'Cycling Demonstration Town' status and as a result the authority receives Department for Transport match funded grant allocations up to March 2011 under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The provision of the grant enables the City Council to resource an action plan to deliver the cycling elements of the Derby Joint Local Transport Plan 2006-2011, LTP2. Under Phase 1 of the project, the authority has focussed primarily on the encouragement of younger people into cycling, through measures such as improved cycle storage facilities at schools and cycle training and the enhancement of the cycle network.

It was reported that all future schemes would be consulted on with the relevant Neighbourhood Board as the programme was part of the overall Highways and Transport Works Programme.

Members raised concerns regarding the Newtons Walk footpath and the proposed changes. The Officer noted the concerns.

Resolved to note the recommendations of the Cycle Derby audit report.

25/09 Work Programme 2009-10

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the Work Programme 2009-10.

Members requested to receive a six month update on Derby Roads from officers and Carillion on 25 January 2010. It was agreed that during the early autumn the Commission will spend a day (or two half days) at the Stores Road base and shadowing a Derbyroads gang on a typical day, to include speaking with the Inspectors. If considered necessary by Members there could be discussion of any issues of concern identified at a scheduled autumn Commission meeting. The intention was that this should complement the finance and contract-related monitoring by the Audit and Accounts Committee.

It was agreed to receive a full briefing at the September meeting about general car parking policy and practice. This was also to specifically seek to address the major impacts of Derby County home matches at Chaddesden and Alvaston and the Royal Derby Hospital at Littleover and beyond.

Resolved to approve the 2009-10 annual work programme with the above variation regarding Derbyroads and the addition of car parking and refer the programme to the Scrutiny Management Commission for ratification.

26/09 Engaging Communities, Meeting Expectations: Highways and Transport and Neighbourhood Boards

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on Engaging Communities, Meeting Expectations: Highways and Transport and Neighbourhood Boards. The timeline showed actual and planned steps to take the review forward.

Members agreed that the Chair, Vice Chair and a Liberal Democrat nominee would work with the Highways and Transport Division, Neighbourhood Team and Community Safety Partnership to produce a draft Protocol making Neighbourhood Boards more central in decision making and enhancing the role of Neighbourhood Managers. The co-ordination officer had held an initial meeting with whole Neighbourhood Manager Team and would shortly meet with the Assistant Director. It was noted that account would also be taken of any issues in the interim evaluation of Neighbourhood Working by De Montfort University, as discussed at the Community Commission on 20 July.

Resolved to note the report.

27/09 Review of Buildings of Heritage and Importance i) Review Update ii) Stage 2 – Briefing Paper

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on a Review of Buildings of Heritage and Importance. At the June meeting Members indicated a wish to review 'Buildings of Heritage and Importance' because:

- it was a new addition to the Commission's portfolio, so offered a fresh area of interest
- it coincided with the launch of a new English Heritage guide 'Making the Most of Your Local Heritage: A Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Committees'

On 6 July the Chair held a meeting with Richard Williams, the relevant Assistant Director and his colleagues to explore the value-adding potential for a review and how it might be conducted. Due to temporary capacity issues it was agreed that any topic review could only be supported from the start of 2010. A two stage process was offered that might meet the Commission's needs without extensive review, whilst also keeping the option open for further exploration in 2010.

Members were provided with information contained in a briefing note on stage 1. Stage 2, an issues paper would be prepared by the relevant officers and be brought to the Commission in the autumn. This would explain the local scene and be aligned with the format of the English Heritage Guide.

Resolved to receive the information in the report.

28/09 Performance Monitoring

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on Performance Monitoring which responded to a request made at the June meeting for an explanation about the two Local Area Agreement targets that fall within the Commission's portfolio, which were both showing yellow.

Resolved to note the report.

29/09 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

30/09 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

31/09 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items identified.

MINUTES END