

Time commenced 6.00pm
Time finished 9.00pm

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 28 JANUARY 2010

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

In attendance: Councillor Care

85/09 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Batey.

86/09 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

The Chair informed the Commission that the visit to the Bus Station would take place at 9.30am on 10 February 2010. The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officer will contact Members with the finalised details.

87/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

88/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 December 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to Councillor Rawson being added to the attendance list.

89/09 Call-in

There were no items for call-in.

90/09 Councillor Call for Action

There were no items.

91/09 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

Minute 138/09 – Engaging Communities Meeting Expectations Highways and Transport and Neighbourhood Boards

The Commission noted the response of the Council Cabinet; further consideration will be given by Cabinet to these issues in April.

Items for Discussion

92/09 Revenue Budget Proposals 2010/11 – 2012/13

The Commission received a report of the Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the revenue budget proposals that fall within the remit of the Planning and Transportation Commission for 2010/11 – 2012/13. The Director of Regeneration and Community Services stated that Members had identified eight areas of concern at their meeting in July and would take each in turn.

1) Flood Defence

The Director of Regeneration and Community stated that this would be a significant factor in the next few years. A surface water management plan needs to be drawn up and this will help plan to act upon areas identified as at risk of flooding. He stated that £80,000 had been allocated for 2010/11 and £40,000 in 2011/12. The management plan will also help to assess the impact of planning applications.

A. Resolved to endorse and recommend to Council Cabinet this proposal.

2) Highways Maintenance

The Assistant Director of Highways and Transport informed the Commission that an additional £400,000 had been allocated to complete the remedial works to the road network. However, the cold weather has resulted in further deterioration of the city's roads. Officers are assessing whether any more funding can be made available to cope with the increased backlog. The assessment of the road network is carried out on a six monthly cycle and this will identify any additional works.

Councillor Repton stated that he had many requests for side roads to be gritted and that requests for additional grit boxes had not always successful. He suggested that it may be useful for the Commission to have reports of the failed applications for grit boxes. He asked if there had been additional claims to the Council related to slips and falls in the icy weather. The Director of Regeneration and Community stated that it would be easier to provide additional grit boxes than to grit the entire city. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport Councillor Care stated that there is a process that inspectors go through when they assess whether an area should have a grit box. The Assistant Director of Highways and Transport stated that she did not know how many claims had been received but would be able to let Councillor Repton know. Councillor Rawson stated that it may be a useful exercise to look at how the grit bins are allocated.

The Chair asked how much additional funding would be required to cover the shortfall of repair works. The Assistant Director of Highways and Transport stated that it may take another £500,000 to cover the extra work. The Chair said that if the number of gangs who are carrying out repairs has increased then officers should publicise this.

The Chair expressed concern about the reduction in funding from the footway maintenance programme. Councillor Care stated that a mixture of revenue and capital funding will create a £5m per financial year maintenance fund. Departments

will have to bid for capital funding and footpath maintenance can be drawn out of this. It is hoped that this investment will reduce the amount of reactive work that is needed.

The Assistant Director of Highways and Transport stated that there is also a £944,000 pressure related to street lighting. This is because of increased energy costs incurred because of new housing estates and the additional cost of their maintenance.

Resolved:

- B. To endorse and recommend to Council Cabinet this proposal;**
- C. To request that the process for awarding grit bins be brought before the Commission for further scrutiny; and**
- D. To support the proposal to increase the highways and footways maintenance fund to £5m.**

3) Bus Services and Integrated Passenger Transport Team

The Director of Regeneration and Community informed the Commission that there would be £113,000 of savings from the reduction in Home to School Transport. There would also be an additional £130,000 of savings from a proposed reduction of £90,000 from Derby Community Transport and £40,000 from Council supported local bus services. However, before any reduction in bus services was carried out officers would be carrying out a full review of elderly people's transport across the city. He added that the only immediate funding to be cancelled will be the support to the No.9 service which will save £14,000. Additionally support to the Skylink service would be withdrawn as this service is expected to be run commercially by the end of three years of introduction.

Councillor Rawson asked what budget provision had been made for the ring road hospital bus service which had been supported by a motion at Full Council. The Director of Community and Regeneration stated that none had been made at the moment and officers are looking at the options available. He expected the hospital's travel plan to also generate a number of ideas for a service. The Chair asked for evidence of the passenger numbers on this service to be circulated to the Commission. Councillor Repton suggested that to improve bus provision to the hospital could be for direct lines to run to the hospital and then change into another service once they had reached the hospital to enable them to continue onto another route.

Resolved:

- E. To endorse and recommend to Council Cabinet this proposal;**
- F. To endorse the motion passed at full Council in support of a hospital bus service and for any funding proposals to be presented to the Commission when they become available;**

G. To endorse the deferment of the possible cessation of funding to the No. 17, 17a, 19 and 35 bus services until the completion of the elderly persons transport review;

H. To a) express concerns about the removal of funding to the No.9 service but subject to evidence of falling passenger numbers to endorse removal of the scheme and b) the Chair be authorised to raise this issue at the SMC.

4) Road Safety

The Director of Regeneration and Community stated that originally there had been a proposed reduction of £150,000 to the service which had since been reduced to £90,000. This will be achieved by reducing one and a half posts from the team and increasing the amount of funding from the safety partnership. Funding allocated by neighbourhood boards had also alleviated some of the budgetary pressures on this service. The one and a half posts have been vacant for some time now and would be discontinued.

I. Resolved to endorse and recommend to Council Cabinet this proposal;

5) Capitalising Highways and Transport schemes to LTP

The Director of Regeneration and Community informed the Commission that in 2009/10 a temporary fund was created for one to three years to fund projects through LTP. This would make this fund permanent.

J. Resolved to endorse and recommend to Council Cabinet this proposal;

6) Network management income delayed by 12 months

The Director of Regeneration and Community informed Members that he had hoped that a new permanent scheme would be in place but unfortunately there has been a delay until the following year. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Transport stated that the main people affected would need to be consulted before this is moved forward.

K. Resolved to endorse and recommend to Council Cabinet this proposal;

7) Parking income

The Director of Regeneration and Community stated that there has been a reduction in parking income because of the impact of Westfield Centre and the loss of a number of car parking spaces through Connecting Derby. An extra £600,000 has been added to the budget from reserves to meet these reductions, however, this fund will not last forever. Councillor Rawson asked which had the greatest impact on the Council's income from car parking. The Director of Regeneration and Community stated that 20 percent could be attributed to the Westfield Centre and around 10 percent to Connecting Derby.

Councillor Harwood asked what progress was being made on the enforcement action targeted at the unauthorised car parks. The Director of Regeneration and Community stated that one car park had now ceased to be used for that purpose and negotiations continue with the others.

L. Resolved to endorse and recommend to Council Cabinet this proposal;

8) Concessionary Fares

The Head of Regeneration and Community Finance Martyn Marples informed the Commission that the Department for Transport had today confirmed an additional £2.6m to support the scheme. The Commission welcomed this news.

The Chair asked how the Council is charged for concessionary fares. The Assistant Director for Highways and Transport stated that the Council has negotiated fixed prices with the bus operators for each journey. Each time a journey is taken by a passenger falling under the scheme the journey is logged and the Council is charged. Derbyshire County Council administers the scheme and the City Council is charged for that service.

M. Resolved to endorse and recommend to Council Cabinet this proposal.

93/09 Proposed Capital Budgets 2010/11 – 2012/13

a) Local Transport Plan Capital Programme

The Commission received a report of the Director of Regeneration and Community on the Capital Programme for 2010/11 – 2012/13 for projects linked to the Local Transport Plan. He informed the Commission that this Capital Programme will include schemes financed both from service-specific allocations and discretionary corporate funding.

Resolved to recommend Council Cabinet to endorse the proposed Regeneration and Community Services Capital Programme for 2010/11 to 2012/13, subject to changes arising from consultation on the Local Transport Plan.

b) Non-Local Transport Plan Capital Programme

The Commission received a report of the Director of Regeneration and Community on the Capital Programme for 2010/11 – 2012/13 for projects not linked to the Local Transport Plan. The Assistant Director for Highways and Transport Christine Durrant informed the Commission that the programme would include:

- Revenue contributions for essential maintenance and improvement works to surface car parks within the city centre;
- A series of improvement works for Littleover Brook that will create attenuation features and improve the watercourse in order to reduce the potential for flooding;
- Further soundproofing improvement works at Friargate Studios for which grant funding as well as corporate funding has been secured; and
- A CCTV camera renewal programme within the Allenton area funded from revenue contributions.

Resolved to recommend to Council Cabinet the proposed Regeneration and Community Services Capital Programme for 2010/11 to 2012/13 for non transport schemes.

94/09 2010/11 Proposed Highways and Transport Work Programme

The Commission received a draft report of the Director of Regeneration and Community on the Highways and Transport Work Programme for 2010/11. The programme was drawn up in consultation with councillors, neighbourhood boards, transport consultation forums and other key stakeholders. The programme covered both revenue and capital funded projects but specifically set out in more detail the capital works.

The Chair suggested that officers should write to the neighbourhood boards when they have not received what they expected and the reasoning behind the decision. The Chair also stated that all councillors should be made aware of this report and he would draw attention to this report in an email to all councillors once the report is published. He asked that works specific to certain neighbourhood boards' priorities should have a reference number which will link the priorities in to the actions in the table for ease of reference.

Resolved to endorse the report to Council Cabinet subject to:

- A. Officers informing neighbourhood boards when the funding allocated to them has not met their expectations and the reasons behind that decision;**
- B. Officers adding reference numbers to the report linking the individual neighbourhood priorities to the resultant actions; and**
- C. The Chair to contact all councillors by email to draw attention to this report when it is published.**

95/09 LAA stretch targets – report and action plan

The Commission received an update report of the Director of Regeneration and Community on the LAA stretch targets and the department's action plan to improve their performance. It was reported that officers were now dealing with National Indicator 178 – Buses Running on Time in a more strategic manner. At the end of the third quarter for the year the percentage of buses running on time was 88 percent against a target of 87 percent. This performance looks set to continue in the final quarter.

However, despite significant effort the Council looks set to fall short of meeting its target for National Indicator 47 – The Number of Killed and Seriously Injured Casualties. The Council is committed to a 40 percent reduction by 2010. The number of people killed or seriously injured on Derby's road network has levelled off, and while there is political support from the highest level and senior management the Council will not meet this target.

Resolved to a) note NI 47 as an area for concern and request officers to provide a report to evidence their efforts to reduce this performance indicator to a future meeting of the Commission and b) note the update on NI 178.

96/09 Street Lighting Efficiencies

The Commission considered a report that went to Council Cabinet on 15 December 2009 requesting support for a new central management system which would be able to control the street lighting levels across the city remotely. The proposal sought to achieve energy consumption efficiency, cost and carbon footprint reductions.

Councillor Rawson raised concern that the new street lighting had improved safety and reduced anti-social behaviour so any negative impact caused by a reduction in lighting would be a cause for concern.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation informed the Commission that the reasoning behind the proposal was based on three factors. Firstly the Council has signed up to the 10-10 energy reduction scheme and this proposal will help the authority meet that target. Secondly there is the financial saving this will achieve. Energy costs have risen significantly in recent years. And lastly the cost of energy is set to rise steeply in future and this is a way to balance this out. Councillor Care added that if there were problems with anti-social behaviour in a particular area then it would be possible to increase lighting levels in that area to suit the situation. This new technology would enable officers to control lighting levels down to individual lampposts.

The Commission urged caution with the new scheme and requested detailed proposals to be brought before it when they become available and welcomed the opportunity to visit a working example of the proposal.

97/09 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items referred to the Commission by the Council Cabinet.

98/09 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items identified.

99/09 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items identified.

MINUTES END