

Regeneration & Transport Select Committee

A meeting of Regeneration & Transport Select Committee was held on Monday, 19th May, 2008.

Present: Cllr Maurice Perry (Chairman), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Fred Salt.

Officers: D Ladd, P Mennear, F Shayler (LD); B Johns (CESC); B Buckley, N Ellison, S Dodds, R McGuckin, J McMahon (DNS).

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Councillor Smith and Walmsley.

RTS 4/08 **Declarations of Interest**

None

RTS 5/08 **Minutes of the meetings held on 11th February 2008, 19th February 2008 and 3rd March 2008 to be signed by the Chairman as a correct record**

The minutes of the meetings were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RTS 6/08 **Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2008**

The draft minutes of 28th April were agreed as a correct record.

RTS 7/08 **Highway Network Management:-**

Members were provided with a presentation from Brian Buckley, Group Leader - Highway Network Management. The presentation provided an overview of the New Road and Streetworks Act (1991); the Traffic Management Act (2004) and the Authority's regulation and coordination of streetworks.

New codes of practice relating to streetworks were also discussed, with issues including the specification for the reinstatement of openings in the Highways; Co-ordination of Street Works and 'Appendix E' of the 'Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Street Works and Works for Road Purposes and Related Matters'; inspections of streetworks and the recording of underground apparatus.

Electronic notices were received via utility companies detailing and giving appropriate notices of when they would be undertaking work on a road, each road would have a unique reference number. Information would have to be provided on how many days they would be on site, including how many active/non active days together with a host of other information to ensure that the Authority could monitor the process. The utility companies could apply for extensions to works if deemed necessary, however, fines could be issued where companies had overrun. Inspections of works were held on an ad hoc basis generated via the computer system. Requests for inspections were also received from the public. A charge was made for the inspections and defects that were found.

Information was also provided on the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC). Regular meetings of HAUC were held at Chester-le-Street to ensure that work was co-ordinated where possible and to ensure as little disruption to the public as possible when undertaking street works. Coordination between highway authorities and utilities companies at a local level was also discussed.

Members received information on the regulation of streetworks including Section 74; Section 58 and Section 58a of the New Roads and Streetworks Act (1991) and the inspection and performance monitoring powers of the authority.

The Team were investigating ways of improving computer systems to ensure they were as comprehensive as possible and would be looking at best practice with other Authorities. A meeting was due to be held with Darlington Borough Council to discuss their systems. A report would be provided following this meeting.

CONCLUDED that the information received be noted and an update be provided on the meeting with Darlington Borough Council.

**RTS
8/08**

Review of Sustainable School Travel Strategy - Action Plan - To Follow

Members discussed the progress made against the Action Plan for the Review of Sustainable School Travel Strategy.

A letter was due to be sent out week commencing 19th May to all non compliant schools without a school travel plan encouraging them to participate.

A Celebration event at the Town Hall was being organised for those schools with a School Travel Plan. It was anticipated that this would be held prior to the end of the School term. Arrangements would be confirmed once the announcement had been made regarding the DCSF awards.

Members discussed gathering information from schools/children regarding how they travelled to School. There was a related question in the Annual School Census but it had a low response rate. Members requested that Schools be congratulated on their School Travel Plans and/or work towards them and be asked to acknowledge the road safety team gathering information for statistical purposes.

Nigel Gibb (Car Park Manager) was identified as the responsible officer for the recommendation "the Sustainable School Travel Strategy Action Plan be amended to more accurately reflect the current number of visits to schools made by the enforcement service, enabling current performance to be further developed".

Discussion was held on the proposed bridges linking Ingleby Barwick to Yarm and Eaglescliffe, it was stated that Links 4 and 3 would be progressed in the following year.

Members felt that some information regarding Healthy Schools may need to be fed into the Children and Young People Select Committee's review of Obesity. Neil Ellison would provide information to the Scrutiny Officer.

It was requested that information regarding schools initiatives during National Walk to School week be circulated to Members.

Members requested a further update on the action plan during September/October.

CONCLUDED that the Action Plan and comments be noted and that a further update be provided.

**RTS
9/08**

Work Programme

Members had been informed that the results from the MORI Poll would be received during November 2008 and it was suggested that the results of this may need to tie in with the Committees final recommendations for their review of Highway Network Management. It was therefore agreed that the final report may need to be presented to Cabinet in January 2009. It was anticipated that this would not delay the Review of Pavements and this would commence as soon as the Committees evidence had been received and report drafted during October 2008.

As part of the current review a questionnaire would be devised to be sent to Councillors, any suggestions for possible questions to be sent to the Scrutiny Officer.

CONCLUDED that the Work Programme be noted.