

Regeneration & Transport Select Committee

A meeting of Regeneration & Transport Select Committee was held on Monday, 3rd November, 2008.

Present: Cllr Maurice Perry(Chairman), Cllr Dick Cains(Vice-Chairman), Cllr John Fletcher, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Fred Salt, Cllr Michael Smith

Officers: Steve Keetley, Brian Buckley, Mike Robinson, Bill Trewick(DNS), Roy MacGregor, Sarah Connolly, Michelle Jones, Kirsty Wannop(LD)

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Steve Walmsley

RTS 24/08 Declarations of Interest

None

RTS 25/08 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th August 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th August were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

RTS 26/08 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd September 2008

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2008.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2008 be forwarded to Council for consideration.

RTS 27/08 Review of Pavement Parking - Consideration of the draft Scope and Project Plan

Consideration was given to the draft Scope and Project Plan. Members discussed the draft Scope and Project Plan and added further information they required to complete the review. Members requested information on the following:-

- Definition and statutory guidelines on pavement parking
- Mediation in regards to neighbour disputes over parking
- Verge damage as well as pavement

Cllr Noble praised the officers involved in the Hardwick regeneration scheme for the high standards of work completed. Members echoed this praise for work carried out in their wards.

The Chairman asked Members to put questions together to raise at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and draft Scope and Project Plan be agreed.

**RTS
28/08** **Review of Highway Network Management
- Inspection and maintenance regime**

The Committee received a report from the Group Leader of Highway Network Management regarding inspections and maintenance regime of highways. Members were informed that the network was broken down into footways, carriageways and cycle ways and each were inspected depending on its description. The Committee were informed that SBC achieved or exceeded the National Code of Practice's recommended frequency of inspection for carriageways and footways but did not have a specific regime for inspection of cycle trails (Category C Cycleways).

The inspection procedure was noted and Members were informed of how the level of urgency was determined for any defects. Members were informed that the inspector's remit is twofold. Firstly, with respect to safety of the highway. The inspector will identify and organise repairs to any defects which are likely to be considered a hazard. Priority for repair is based upon risk assessment. i.e. likelihood of accident (location/ volume of traffic) and impact (severity of defect). This sets a priority for repair which may be emergency/urgent (immediate or 2hour response) or routine (28days). The second part is with respect to serviceability. This requires the inspector to give a rating on overall condition (rated 1-5). This rating, along with other survey data, is used to form a highway maintenance programme.

Highways insurance claims were discussed. Members of the Committee were informed that there is a set protocol to follow when the Council receives a claim with respect to accidents on the highway. This entails providing a full, impartial report which insurers can use to determine whether or not the Council has fulfilled its statutory duty under the Highways Act 1980. The Committee were informed that currently 93% of claims made are repudiated by Stockton Borough Council and 7% of those were settled. Members were informed that there is a need to develop the ICT systems to enable highway inspections/repairs to be recorded electronically to improve business systems. Members requested a briefing note on the claims procedure and a précis of the presentation to be circulated for information.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and officers would produce a briefing note setting out the points discussed.