

Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 21st October, 2019.

Present: Cllr Chris Barlow(Chairman), Cllr Louise Baldock(Vice-Chair), Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Luke Frost, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Alan Watson

Officers: Jonathan Kibble, Andy Corcoran, John Angus, Gary Woods, Marianne Sleeman (MD)

Also in attendance: Gordon Smith (Long Newton Parish Council)

Apologies: Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr William Woodhead (MBE)

PLA 9/19 **Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted.

PLA 10/19 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

PLA 11/19 **Minutes from the meeting held on 15th July 2019**

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on the 15th July 2019.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

PLA 12/19 **Scrutiny Review of Area Transport Strategy**

Members received information regarding the ongoing Scrutiny Review of Area Transport Strategy from Economic Growth and Development Services Officers, which included the response to the questions asked by the Committee:

1. How much is allocated from the Council's Local Transport plan funding (has changed over time); is this consistent across the four ATS groups?
 - Members were given an explanation of the ATS (Area Transport Strategy) process and how funding was awarded showing funding levels since 2007/08 and how the funding was spread across the 4 areas.
2. Is ATS a cost-effective process for involving the community in the decision making process and is it achieving its aim? Officer time / resource required?
 - Members were shown an analysis of how meeting costs and Officer hours had significantly decreased since the new process was in place. Staff costs associated with a typical ATS speed management scheme and a highway maintenance scheme undertaken via Strategic Maintenance were also provided.

3. Do other Local Authorities involve the community in the selection of highway and transport schemes, and if so, how?

- It was confirmed that only Middlesbrough Council operate a vaguely similar scheme to that of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council – Officers receive issues and scheme suggestions from Councillors and the general public; all are logged and then scored using a matrix to determine the benefits. All other Tees Valley authorities rely on officer developed schemes.

- The North East Transport Advisory Group were contacted for comment from wider North East authorities but no responses were received. However, Local Authority Officers felt that it was unlikely that many other Councils operate similar schemes to the one SBC run.

4. How many and what type of projects are proposed; who are they being proposed by; what has been spent in recent years as a percentage of the overall budget, and on which geographical areas; any themes in terms of what is not funded.

- Members were informed of the amount and what types of ATS projects each Area Partnership had spent over the last 5 years – these could be broken down into categories covering speeding, parking and sustainable travel. A specific breakdown of what Area had received funding was given to Members.

- Supplementing information on previous ATS spend, the Committee were also provided with the agreed 2017 priorities for each Area – this demonstrated that, whilst the four Area Partnerships cover a mix of urban and rural patches, many general issues affect them all (e.g. school parking, inconsiderate parking, congestion, public transport improvement).

5. How/what schemes would be delivered if the funding was used for core LTP work; what would not?

- Examples were given to Members of what schemes were considered in the 2019/20 Local Transport Plan Programme which included; supporting economic growth, network management, road safety and accessibility.

- Members were informed that over the next 10 years the amount of money needed to maintain assets (i.e. roads, bridges, street lighting) was more than the Local Authority would, at current funding levels, receive from the government.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- A discussion took place around community-driven suggestions and how many schemes would be deemed 'environmental'. There had been no community schemes within the last 2 years, the only schemes came from Ward and Parish Councils.

- A lot of incidents were road safety incidents but not necessarily accidents, and Members acknowledged the Local Authority had a legal duty of care in respect of road safety and reducing accidents.

- Members were informed by the ATS Chair of Western Area Partnership that Western had raised an increasing number of issues since 2017-2018, yet

there had been zero spend in that Area in the last two years.

- Discussion took place regarding feedback from the ATS survey sent out via the Council's Engagement Team – the survey only received 7 responses in total. The ATS Chair of Western confirmed in the main he agreed with the general comments and responses but added there was not enough enthusiasm in the community/ parishes and forums to put things forward.
- A conversation took place regarding if the correct medium was being used to contact people, particularly when considering the engagement of younger people.
- The ATS cycle was explained to Members: a proposal meeting would be held in June, and after surveys had been carried out, priorities would be agreed. If the suggestion lead to a scheme progressing then relevant Ward Members would be consulted.

AGREED that:

1. The information be noted.
2. Potential future options for the ATS will be circulated to Members for them to consider ahead of the next Committee meeting when draft recommendations will be formulated.

PLA 13/19 Work Programme 2019-2020

Consideration was given to the Place Select Committee Work Programme for 2019–2020.

AGREED that the Place Select Committee Work Programme be noted.

PLA 14/19 Chairs Update

The Chair had nothing further to update.