

## Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 17th May, 2021.

**Present:** Cllrs Chris Barlow (Chair), Louise Baldock (Vice-Chair), Pauline Beall, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Maurice Perry, Hilary Vickers, Bill Woodhead MBE, Ken Dixon, Helen Atkinson.

**Officers:** Simon Milner, Ian Raine (CS&T); Rebecca Saunders-Thompson (MD).

**Also in attendance:** None.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Luke Frost, Alan Watson.

### **PLA 54/20**      **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **PLA 55/20**      **Minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2021**

Consideration was given to the minutes from the meeting held on 19 April 2021.

AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **PLA 56/20**      **Scrutiny Review of Highways Asset Management (inc. Potholes & Flooding)**

Members received a background presentation from link officers.

The presentation covered the following topics:

- Statutory Duties
- 2020/21 Major Asset Inventory
- Adopted Highway
- Street Lights
- Council Owned Structures
- Traffic Signal Junctions/Pedestrian Crossings
- Illuminated Signs/Bollards
- Public Rights of Way
- Highway Gullies
- Asset Valuation
- Accumulated Depreciation
- Maintain 'Steady State' Condition v Actual Budget
- Stakeholder Communication and Feedback
- Hot Topics
- Key Challenges Moving Forward
- Overall Aims of the Review
- Key Lines of Enquiry

The key issues were highlighted as follows:

- Members asked about the process of reviewing the conditions of pavements. Members were informed that included in the Highway Safety Inspection Manual was a risk assessment which served as a guide when making decisions on maintaining the condition of pavements and ensuring the

safety of residents. This was not a 'one size fits all' approach, but decisions were made on a case by case basis.

- Members raised issues of road repairs and resurfacing reported by residents across wards.
- Restrictions in the budget prevented full resurfacing of a list of roads across the borough. The review would therefore consider the possibility of 'invest to save' options moving forward.
- Members suggested that the public should be informed continually of key works happening via social media channels etc to relieve traffic pressures. The review would explore ways that communication with residents could be increased.
- Members requested that an additional key line of enquiry be included to evaluate the process of adoption of highway assets by the council in new residential development areas. Members were informed that teams did visit new developments to assess standards and adoption of assets did not take place until after 12 months. It was agreed that this issue would be explored as part of the review and this would be included as an additional key line of enquiry.
- Members asked if targeted government funding for issues, such as potholes, could be examined to determine how far this funding helped to reduce the shortfall in the overall budget. It was agreed that this would be covered in the review.
- It was agreed that the causes of potholes and research into new materials to repair highways would be addressed through the key lines of enquiries. It was also agreed that problems on cycle paths and public footpaths and issues with surface water flooding would be considered.
- It was agreed that problems deriving from tarmac being laid on concrete roads and cobbled streets would be included in the 'common problems' section of the review.

AGREED that:

- 1) The draft scope and project plan of the review be approved, subject to the addition of a key line of enquiry on the adoption of highway assets in new residential developments.

**PLA 57/20**      **Work Programme 2021-22**

Consideration was given to the Work Programme.

The next Committee meeting would be held on Monday 21 June 2021.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

**PLA 58/20**      **Chair's Update**

The Chair reminded the Committee that the final report of the Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision would be presented to Cabinet on Thursday 20 May 2021.

Members noted that this was the first in-person Committee meeting for over 12 months and the meeting was held in one of the new meeting rooms. In-person

meetings were conducted according to current restrictions and guidelines and apologies from one Member, who felt uncomfortable with attending, was noted.

AGREED that the Chair's Update be noted.