

Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 19th July 2021.

Present: Cllrs Chris Barlow (Chairman), Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Luke Frost, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE.

Officers: John Angus, Ian Raine (CS), John Devine, Abbie Wild, Judy Trainer (DS).

Apologies: Cllr Hugo Stratton

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 April 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to Cllr Luke Frost being included in those present at the meeting.

3 **Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations: Progress Update - Scrutiny Review of Area Transport Strategy**

Consideration was given to the progress update and implementation of the recommendations in respect of the Select Committee's previous review of the Area Transport Strategy.

A demonstration of the online intranet portal for Members was also given.

The following comments were raised by the Committee:

- Members commented that the portal worked well and those that had accessed it found it user friendly
- The portal did not include a facility to view details of old Area Transport Strategy schemes, only those raised through the Ward Transport Budget
- Officers to check whether the portal could be accessed by Members utilising their own IT equipment
- Members would welcome a hands-on training session on using the system

AGREED That the Progress Update be noted and the assessments of progress be confirmed.

4 **Scrutiny Review of Highways Asset Management (inc. Potholes & Flooding)**

The Select Committee received a presentation with regard to the following Key Lines of Enquiry from the review scope:

- How do SBC communicate and consult with residents about highways infrastructure asset issues? How is this information utilised? What is this telling us? How is this information used?

- How does SBC's highway infrastructure asset management practices compare with other Local Authorities?
- How has and how will climate change impact the condition of the Borough's highways infrastructure assets?
- To consider the processes undertaken on new developments, particularly regarding adoption of new highway infrastructure assets, as publicly maintainable and the potential future maintenance implications of these assets

The presentation covered:

- Highway Asset Communication – Pre-Scheme
- Highway Asset Communication – Post-Scheme
- Roadworks – Co-ordination and Communication
- Stakeholder satisfaction
- How do asset management practices compare?
- Climate Change – what has happened? What is predicted? Effects on weather? What can we do to mitigate impacts? Research and development of new materials to withstand changes in climate
- New developments and asset adoption
- Commuted Lump Sum

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- The small number of queries in relation to schemes suggested that planning and communications were highly effective
- The IPSOS MORI survey enabled analysis to ward level and benchmarking with other areas
- Research and development of materials to withstand changes in climate was imperative
- The use of special or bespoke materials in favour of standard materials reduced future maintenance liabilities; in general, the Council took over maintenance of new developments/ assets 18 months to 2 years after completion. Members queried whether these timescales should be extended to reduce Council liability in the future
- The pre- construction technical approval stage was critical to reducing future liability
- Post work questions should be sent out immediately after works are complete
- Gully clearing is usually scheduled annually but can be varied depending on need
- Officers were not aware of any trials for zero noise surfaces
- Roads were constructed to last for approximately 40 years; failure of road integrity would be evident fairly quickly
- The cost of alternative materials in response to climate change was more expensive at the moment but these costs were likely to reduce as they were used more widely due to economies of scale
- The cost of the MORI survey to individual Councils was in the region of £10,000 but met the obligation for benchmarking to be carried out. The next

benchmarking report would be released end of October/ beginning of November

AGREED That the information be noted and further information be presented to the next meeting regarding:

- Programme for gully cleaning
- Post Scheme Questionnaire analysis
- National Benchmarking analysis
- Legislative framework for taking over the liability for new developments/ assets

5 Work Programme 2021/22 and Chair's Update

Members asked the Scrutiny Officer to check when a further update from the previous review of Fire Safety of High-Rise Residential Buildings would be likely to be presented to the Select Committee.

AGREED That the Work Programme be noted.