

## NORTH DEVON HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC ORDERS COMMITTEE

12 April 2016

Present:-

Devon County Council:-

Councillors J Yabsley (Chairman), F Biederman, C Chugg, A Davis, R Edgell, M Edmunds and J Mathews

North Devon District Council

Councillors J Chesters, M Manuel and G Lane,

Devon Association of Local Councils

Councillors D Chalmers

Apologies:-

Councillors B Greenslade

### 1 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2015 be signed as a correct record.

### 2 **items requiring urgent attention**

There was no item raised as a matter of urgency.

### 3 **Devon Highways Update**

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Highways, Capital Development & Waste, Nigel Card, South West Highways, also attended and spoke at the invitation of the Committee updating Members on Devon Highways issues. The presentation and discussions covered:

(a) The Incentive Fund: this was Government 'Top Up' funding to the needs based highway maintenance capital allocation designed to encourage highway authorities to adopt good practice with an emphasis on collaboration with suppliers and other authorities. There were three bands of funding over 6 years from 2015/16 (with maximum funding in Band 3). The County Council was currently on course for Band 2 in 2016/17 and striving for Band 3 with its planned changes working with other local authorities and other efficiency savings and service improvements.

(b) Drainage Maintenance Strategy: relating to measures to mitigate drainage issues in respect of the highway and the role and responsibilities of adjacent landowners, the programmed works for rural and urban gullies for example and budgetary constraints and challenges and the work of the County Council with its contractor to develop valid data sources and information to better target limited resources. Members commented on continuing liaison with Parish Councils, the new role and work of the lengths men and their programmed work which is passed to Parishes, and landowners' responsibilities.

(c) Footway Maintenance Programme: the programme to maintain a condition which was safe and commensurate with use with analysis of survey condition and budget allocations.

(d) Community Road Warden Update: relating to the number of approved Road Warden Agreements, those pending, numbers trained to 'Chapter 8' level and booked for or awaiting

training. A county-wide Project Officer had been appointed (on a 1 year contract) to promote and develop the scheme. A trial pothole repair pilot using new materials for repairs was also being carried out under the Warden Scheme involving a small number of Parishes, the results of which would inform future developments and plans. The County Council was also planning to make available resources (approximately £10,000 County-wide) for Parish Councils for safety equipment and materials under the Scheme.

(e) Community Payback Scheme: on the extent of the work in communities across Devon and the positive feedback received from Towns and Parishes and the benefits for the Service Users under the Scheme under the supervision of probation staff working with neighbourhood officers and the overall value for money of the Scheme. Future plans included additional training for the probation service supervisors to facilitate 'Chapter 8' work on the highway. Examples of the variety of work carried out across the County were also presented. A local County Council Member commended the success of the scheme in his area (Fremington) and the benefits for local communities and Service Users. Members were encouraged to liaise with their local Neighbourhood Highways Officer about any further work projects which could be carried out under the Scheme.

#### **4 Proposals for the Delivery of an Annual local Waiting Restrictions Programme**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Highways, Capital Development Waste (HCW/16/24) setting out proposals for the delivery of an annual local Waiting Restrictions Programme.

A managed process had now been developed whereby existing requests from Local Members and local communities had been collated and a prioritisation tool developed.

The Committee noted that members could submit further outstanding proposals for review under the scheme in addition to the current priority list.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Yabsley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Davis and

#### **RESOLVED**

(a) that work to date on the annual waiting restrictions programme and the prioritisation process applied be noted;

(b) that waiting restriction schemes be progressed through advertising and sealing of subsequent Orders in priority order as presented in Appendix 1 to the Report of the Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste (HCW/16/24), subject to any further requests from Members of this Committee and to funding being agreed;

(c) that the detail of individual schemes be developed with the relevant local County Councillor prior to advertising.

#### **5 Safety Assessment - A361 West Buckland Low Cost Improvements**

(Councillor Buckley (West Buckland Parish Council) attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment (PTE/16/20) on road safety at the West Buckland Junction on the A361 North Devon Link road. Whilst, noting that there was no record of serious incidents, there were potential lower cost measures that could be considered in response to local safety concerns. These included new advanced signage and consideration to extending double white lining and merge arrows and similar measures on the westbound approach. These would be considered in conjunction with road maintenance works.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Yabsley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mathews and

**RESOLVED**

(a) that Officers be requested to submit, to the Chairman and local County Council member, detailed costings for the suggested safety measures and a timescale for implementation taking note of future detailed design work for this junction as part of the proposals for junctions on the A361; and

(b) that a report be submitted to the next meeting.

**6      Signage for the North Devon Biosphere**

The Economic Development Manager (North Devon District Council) and UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Co-ordinator attended and spoke at the invitation of the Committee highlighting the international recognition for Biosphere and its importance in relation to local tourism and economic activity and accordingly the need for additional road signage at appropriate points in the District.

The Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste reported on previous Cabinet consideration of this matter (11 April 2012), current County Council policy and statutory guidance and that, in the light of this, it was not appropriate for additional signage in this instance. He also reported on the scope for reference to the Biosphere within existing Parish and Town entry signs and also within the District Council area signs, subject to identification of funding.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Yabsley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mathews and

**RESOLVED** that the Biosphere Reserve Co-ordinator be asked to develop proposals with reference to the Biosphere within existing Town and Parish entry signs and on District Council area signs where appropriate taking advice from the Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste and implement subject to identification of funding.

**7      Huish Lane, Instow**

In accordance with Standing Order 23(2), Councillor Biederman had asked that consideration be given to congestion in Huish Lane.

Councillor Biederman reported on congestion on Huish Lane and surrounding minor roads in relation to HGVs in particular using a local waste and whether these vehicles were in contravention of planning conditions for the waste site and consideration to additional signing.

The Head of Highways, Capital Development and Waste reported that he would consult with the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment in respect of any planning conditions relating to HGV movements associated with the waste tip and review whether alternative routes and new signage would be appropriate for HGV's, for report back to the local County Councillor.

**8      Barnstaple Traffic Issues**

(a) Long Bridge, Barnstaple

The Economic Development Manager (North Devon District Council) spoke at the invitation of the Committee outlining proposals for a new cycle/pedestrian bridge over the Taw as part of the Local Plan and Infrastructure Growth deal bid processes, as an alternative to the Long Bridge in view of the capacity and structural issues.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Yabsley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mathews and

**RESOLVED** that the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment submit a report to the next meeting on the proposals being developed (as an alternative to the Long Bridge) and funding for a pedestrian/cycle bridge and associated facilities.

(b) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Head of Planning (North Devon District Council) attended and spoke at the invitation of the Committee and outlined the issues relating to the CIL and Section 106 processes. The draft CIL schedule would be submitted shortly as part of the Local Plan process. The CIL related to funding for the benefit of the wider community whereas Section 106 contributions related to infrastructure improvements associated with specific development proposals. The Head confirmed that there was continued dialogue with the County Council in respect of its services, (including highways and congestion/capacity matters) and undertook to provide a briefing paper on the CIL process and Section 106 funding for members of the Committee.

The local County Council member (Fremington) also referred to the timescale for the Cedars Roundabout improvement proposals associated with local residential developments and Section 106 funding.

(c) Congestion: Peak Times

Councillor Biederman reported on congestion at peak times during school/college terms causing delays and diminishing air quality and proposals on how this could be alleviated with staggered school start and finish times, noting that schools were responsible for setting their own school days.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Yabsley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Biederman and

**RESOLVED** that the officers be requested to provide further practical steps to alleviate traffic congestions during peak times to include reference to local school opening times and finishing times in the Barnstaple area.

**9** **Petitions/Parking Policy Reviews**

There was no petition from a member of the public or the Council relating to the North Devon District.

**10** **Reference to Cabinet: 11 November 2015**

The Committee noted that the Cabinet at its meeting on 11 November 2015 had resolved *'that the Head of Highways, Capital Development & Waste be asked to explore what action may be taken to expedite such works and adopt a more consistent approach and report back to the HATOC'*.

**11** **Dates of Future Meetings**

The Committee noted dates of future meetings of the Committee were available in the County Council Calendar of Meetings at:

<http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

**\*DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.05 pm