

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CABINET

Tuesday 18th September 2018

Present: Councillor Shabir Pandor (Chair)
Councillor David Sheard
Councillor Masood Ahmed
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Musarrat Khan
Councillor Naheed Mather
Councillor Peter McBride
Councillor Cathy Scott

In attendance: Councillor Alison Munro

Apologies: Councillor Graham Turner

65 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Turner.

66 Minutes of previous meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2018 be approved as a correct record.

67 Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

68 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

69 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

70 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

71 Member Question Time

No questions were asked.

72 The Revised Highway Asset Management Policy, Strategy, Hierarchy and Safety Inspections Policy

Cabinet received a report which sought (i) approval to a revised policy and strategy for highway maintenance and (ii) endorsement of the approach towards determining a highway management hierarchy and safety inspection policy.

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The report advised that a 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice' came into effect in 2016 to replace previous guidance, which would be withdrawn in October 2018, allowing a two year transition period. It set out how the Council would best manage the highway network by taking into account the consideration of stakeholder needs, local priorities, asset condition, and best use of available resources. The report explained that the Code set out 36 key recommendations for Highways Authorities and that, in view of the fundamental changes required, documents had been reviewed and updated to satisfy the recommendations of the Code. A summary of all recommendations was set out at Appendix 3 of the considered report, the proposed revised Policy and Strategy was attached at Appendix 1 and the approach to determining a highway management hierarchy and highway safety inspection regime was at Appendix 2.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the revised Policy and Strategy for highway maintenance, as attached at Appendix 1 to the considered report, be approved.
- 2) That the approach to determining a highway management hierarchy and safety inspection regime, as set out in Highway Management Hierarchy and Highway Safety Inspection Policy, as attached at Appendix 2 to the considered report, be approved.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Economy and Infrastructure to keep the policy under review and update as required, in consultation with relevant Cabinet Members, in the event that a change in policy or approach is required, and that any substantial changes be submitted to Cabinet.

73 Adoption of a West Yorkshire plus York Common Skid Resistance Policy
Cabinet received a report which sought approval for the adoption of a West Yorkshire, plus York, Common Skid Resistance Policy. The report advised that there was a requirement for Local Authorities to formalise their processes for (i) monitoring skid resistance (ii) identifying roads where lack of grip is a potential issue (iii) prioritising sites for required improvement and (iv) ensuring that improvements incorporated within a forward programme of works. Cabinet were advised that the Kirklees Skid Resistance Strategy for these processes comprised both the West Yorkshire, plus York, Common Skid Resistance Policy, and a Kirklees Procedure Document. The Policy was attached at Appendix 1 of the considered report.

Cabinet noted that implementation of a common policy would ensure consistency on cross boundary networks, such as the West Yorkshire key Route Network, whilst also allowing each Authority autonomy to manage their networks appropriately for local conditions in accordance with their skid resistance procedure.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the West Yorkshire plus York Common Skid Resistance Policy be approved as part of the strategy to manage kid resistance on Kirklees roads.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Economy and Infrastructure to keep the policy under review and update as required, in

consultation with relevant Cabinet Members, in the event that a change in policy or approach is required, and that any substantial changes be submitted to Cabinet.

74 The Revised Winter Maintenance Policy

Cabinet gave consideration to a report which sought approval to adopt a revised winter maintenance policy. Cabinet were advised that the policy had been revised to reflect the newly updated 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure' code of practice.

The revised policy, which was attached as an appendix to the considered report, related to early intervention and the management of the winter maintenance service on a minor to moderate scale. The report advised that, in the event of severe conditions requiring the activation of the Council's emergency planning procedures, this policy would be overridden.

Cabinet noted that the policy promoted a proactive community approach to compliment the Council's interventions for the safety of residents. The report advised that, subject to approval, operations and communication plans would be put into place in readiness for the forthcoming winter season.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the revised Winter Maintenance Policy, as attached at Appendix 1 to the considered report, be approved.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Economy and Infrastructure to keep the policy under review and update as required, in consultation with relevant Cabinet Members, in the event that a change in policy or approach is required, and that any substantial changes be submitted to Cabinet.
- 3) That authority be delegated to the Service Director to deliver the winter maintenance service and operational arrangements, as outlined within the policy and operational plan.

75 Huddersfield Town Centre Improvement Works

Cabinet received a report which sought the approval to commission improvement works to Huddersfield Town Centre, and release funding for the delivery of schemes and maintenance. The report provided information regarding proposals for public realm works within three identified locations of New Street, Cross Church Street/Kings Street and Queensgate/Queen Street areas. Paragraph 2 of the considered report set out the improvement proposals within each of these locations. It was noted that the identified schemes would be constructed to the standards as defined within the draft Huddersfield Town Centre Design Framework, ensuring that standards are more generally improved. The three identified locations has been chosen based upon need, funding opportunities and the ability to capitalise upon known development opportunities.

Cabinet noted that, in order to generate early activity on key areas of the town, an initial sum of £250k was sought to ensure that essential works could commence in priority areas as soon as possible.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That approval be given to commission the development of a scheme to improve the public realm in New Street, and the release of funding of up to £1.2m from the town centre capital allocation to develop and deliver a first phase of improvements.
- 2) That any scheme developed be in accordance with the principles as set out in the emerging Huddersfield Town Centre Design Framework.
- 3) That approval be given to the release of funding of up to £3.5m to develop, design and deliver schemes around Cross Church Street, Queens Street and Queensgate areas, subject to officers pursuing parallel bids to the Combined Authority to reclaim at a later date and that, should this not be feasible, Members be presented with an alternative funding proposal.
- 4) That approval be given to the release of £250,000 of capital from the town centre allocation in order to deliver essential elements of maintenance in the town centre.

76 Kirkburton Parish Council Neighbourhood Area Application for Lepton

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 36(1) Cabinet received a representation from Councillor Munro).

Cabinet received a report which set out the comments received following a six week publicity period on the application by Kirkburton Parish Council for a Neighbourhood Planning Area for Lepton and sought approval of the application. The representations received were listed at paragraph 2.2.5 of the considered report. The application was attached at Appendix 1.

Cabinet welcomed the application, recognising that the plan gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their locality and shape the development and growth of their neighbourhood. Cabinet requested that they be provided with progress updates on the development of the plan. It was noted that the Council would continue to support the progress of the plan through to the statutory stages.

RESOLVED - That approval be given to the Kirkburton Parish Council Neighbourhood Action Plan, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the considered report, and that Cabinet be provided with progress reports on the development of the Plan.

77 Licensing Policy Review Update

Cabinet received a report which explained the process for a review of the Licensing Policy in relation to taxi licensing, which would be in conjunction with the City of York Council, and the West Yorkshire Authorities. Cabinet were advised that the purpose of the review was to achieve common standards across the region and increase measures of public protection. The report explained that the changes would ensure that there were consistent minimum expectations in relation to the skills of taxi drivers, and vehicle specifications, in order to ensure that the Authorities were meeting safeguarding duties and ensuring that passenger safety was not

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being compromised. A summary of the changes were set out at Appendix A to the considered report.

Cabinet were advised that the policies were currently being drafted and would be submitted to a meeting of Licensing and Safety Committee to seek approval for consultation to be undertaken.

Cabinet welcomed the proposals as set out within the report and encouraged taxi drivers and operators to engage with the consultation process.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That approval be given to continuation of the development of the policy in collaboration with West Yorkshire authorities and that the relevant Cabinet Member and Chair of Licensing and Safety Committee be briefed on progress and the timeline for implementation.
- 2) That the timetable for the policy review be noted.
- 3) That a report be submitted to the Licensing and Safety Committee during October 2018 to seek approval for the consultation process to be undertaken.

78

A New Events Programme

Cabinet received a report which sought approval for the use of funding, following the decision of Budget Council to allocate £300k towards ward based event activities. It advised that, following consultation, it was proposed that £200k of the funding be allocated towards a textile themed district wide festival and that £100k be allocated to enable the district to participate in regional or national events and festivals.

The report explained that the £200k funding would support the delivery of a six week festival inspired by the theme of textiles to be held during June/July, which would enable the participation of schools, colleges and the University. In terms of the £100k allocation, it advised that the funding would support the Council's ambitions to be involved in regional and national events by providing the financial contribution that would be required, and the costs of preparatory and community outreach work. It was noted that Cabinet would be asked to consider which regional event it wished to participate in and that once the outcome of a bid to host games in the Rugby League World Cup was known, it would be asked to make a decision as to which events it wished to participate in from 2019 to 2021.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That approval be given to the proposal to allocate £200k to the delivery of a district wide textiles themed festival.
- 2) That £100k be allocated to ensure that Kirklees is able to participate in regional and/or national events.