

Minutes of: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 22 March 2016

Present: Councillor I Gartside(in the Chair);
Councillors K S Briggs; D Cassidy; J Daly; M Hankey; T Holt; M James; E O'Brien; N Parnell; C Preston and T Tariq

Public in attendance: 6 members of the public were present at the meeting.

Also in attendance: Councillor Connolly – Leader of the Council

Apologies for absence:

OSC.837 MINUTES SILENCE

Members stood in silent respect for the victims of the terrorist attacks in Brussels on 22 March 2016.

OSC.838 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Connolly declared a personal interest in respect of any matters relating to staffing as his partner is employed by the Local Authority Trading Company, Persona.

Councillors Daly and James declared personal interests in respect of Minute OSC.841, Anti Social Behaviour – Progress Update and Revised Statement of Policy and Procedure, as practising Solicitors.

Councillor Briggs declared a personal interest in respect of Minute OSC.841, Anti Social Behaviour – Progress Update and Revised Statement of Policy and Procedure, as a serving Magistrate.

OSC.839 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair, Councillor Gartside, invited questions from members of the public present at the meeting and the following issues were raised:

- Nicolas Jones expressed concerns in relation to the dangers of parking bays being sited inside cycle lanes. David Fowler, Assistant Director of Localities, explained that further dialogue on this issue was ongoing with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the cycling community.

- Councillor Pickstone highlighted that TfGM guidance stated that cycle lanes should not be within parking bays. With regard to the consultation process Councillor Pickstone stated that the questions were narrow and did address the issue of congestion on Bury New Road. The Leader of the Council explained that the issue of cycle lanes was raised at the Cabinet meeting and was subject to further discussion. The Leader highlighted that Bury New Road was not the designated cycle route into Manchester and stated that the consultation questionnaire included many open questions with the opportunity to raise issues of potential congestion.
- In response to a question from Oliver Kersch concerning the effects of the construction works, the Assistant Director of Localities explained that the Road would not be closed and that consultations would be undertaken with residents and businesses.
- Councillor Black highlighted the fact that improving traffic flow was a key aim of the scheme.
- In response to a written question from Mr S Taylor, the Leader outlined issues relating to access to the Aldi supermarket and explained that the Council had requested that TfGM undertake an assessment on the impact of the proposed scheme on air quality. An undertaking was given to provide a full written response to Mr Taylor.

OSC.840 CALL IN OF CABINET DECISION – PRESTWICH HIGH STREET REGENERATION SCHEME

The Scrutiny Committee considered a called-in decision of the Cabinet meeting held on 2 March 2016 in accordance with the Council Constitution.

The Cabinet had made the following decision in relation to the Prestwich High Street Regeneration Scheme:

1. That officers be instructed to undertake detailed designs and obtain tenders in respect of delivering Proposal One, as detailed in the report submitted, subject to the following amendments and within the approved budget:
 - i. Clifton Road to remain open in both directions. The situation will be monitored for a period of 12 calendar months from completion of the scheme as to its effect on traffic flows, congestion and safety.
 - ii. The on street (adopted) parking bays to be reduced in length and additional street trees to be included to improve the aesthetic appearance. Parking bays to be subject to restrictions of 60 minutes with no return with 1 hour.
 - iii. Officers to work with Transport for Greater Manchester to ensure traffic light sequencing is maximised to reduce congestion.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive and the interim Executive Director of Resources and Regulation, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to consider all tenders received and to approve

the awarding of the contract to undertake the approved scheme within the approved budget.

3. That officers be instructed to seek opportunities to secure additional match funding and sponsorship specifically in respect to street furniture, signage and planting

A Call-In Notice had been submitted by Councillor Gartside, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Daly, setting out the reasons for the Call-In of the decision. A summary of the reasons is set out below:

- Negative impact on traffic flow
- No previous consultation with the Scrutiny Committee
- Similar scheme in neighbouring area resulted in detrimental effect on traffic
- Parking bays dangerously sited inside cycle lanes
- Dissatisfaction expressed by the public, cyclists and other stakeholder groups
- Failure to take account of the concerns expressed in the consultation.

The Leader of the Council responded to the issues raised in the Notice of Call-in as follows:

Traffic Flow – The Leader reported that the flow of traffic through the village centre is disrupted by often uncontrolled and erratic vehicular manoeuvres and that the scheme design aims to reduce the number of uncontrolled and unexpected manoeuvres. Furthermore as the scheme progresses to detailed design the Council will continue to work with TfGM to ensure that, where possible, measures such as traffic light sequencing are put in place that will improve traffic flows.

Consultation with Scrutiny Committee - The Leader reported that 28 days notice had been given, through the published Forward Plan, regarding the impending decision on the scheme. During this period no request had been made for the report to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Neighbouring Schemes – It was reported that Officers had looked at a wide range of schemes within the region. The Leader highlighted that the current scheme originated from the Prestwich Masterplan, which had involved extensive research.

Cycle Lanes - The Leader reported that the design process includes ongoing discussions with the GM Cycling network, TfGM and local cyclists.

It was highlighted that through the consultation the need for dedicated cycle lanes was not particularly well supported with only 40% of respondents indicating they were important. Of those who responded a significant number voiced concerns over the location of cycle lanes and concerns over car dooring.

It was explained that the creation of dedicated cycle lanes to the standards requested, which are completely separate from other vehicles and pedestrians, would itself create other issues such as:

- It would significantly reduce the footpath widths for pedestrians
- It would add significant cost to the scheme.
- Limit the ability to create bus layby's and safe areas for bus passengers to wait for buses/alight.

The Leader explained that in reaching a recommendation Cabinet also took into account:

- The level of support for cycle lanes compared to wider footways
- That the A56 is not a dedicated cycle routes and the close proximity of other dedicated routes.
- Cost of implementation

Consultation Process – The Leader stated that all of the 594 completed questionnaires and 504 comments received were taken into account and directly resulted in a number of changes to the proposed scheme being recommended and approved by Cabinet. The following examples were highlighted:

- Recommendation not to make Clifton road one way
- Amendment to the location of the bus layby (Northbound) to reduce potential conflicts.
- On street parking bays to be reduced in length
- Additional Street trees to be included
- On-going discussions with cycling groups
- Works to stop over the Christmas period.

Councillor Gartside invited questions and comments from the Members of the Committee and the following issues were raised :-

- In response to a question from Councillor Daly, the Leader explained that the works to Bury New Road were part of a regeneration scheme that would be a catalyst for future investment in Prestwich.
- With regard to the issue of air quality, the Leader explained that a steady flow of moving traffic was better than vehicles stopping and starting.
- In response to a question from the Chair Councillor Gartside concerning the consultation, the Leader explained that there had been a number of public meetings and drop in sessions and referred to the fact that the responses had informed the final scheme.

Delegated decision:

That, having considered the points raised in the Notice of Call-in, this Committee does not offer any comments to the Cabinet in respect of Minute CA.747 Prestwich High Street Regeneration Scheme.

OSC.841 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – PROGRESS UPDATE AND REVISED STATEMENT OF POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Councillor Tariq, Lead Member for Community Safety, submitted a report outlining the work undertaken to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the Borough following implementation of the Ant-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014.

The report included the findings of an independent evaluation of the JET; a multi-agency team established to test integrated working principles and improve

information sharing, problem solving and responses to victims and perpetrators of ASB.

During discussion of this item the Committee largely welcomed the progress made and were particularly keen for the Police to continue to develop local PACT meetings to engage local residents in work to tackle ASB. Members also commented on the value of township forums as a mechanism to brief wider councillors and the public on work to tackle ASB.

It was agreed:

That the following recommendations , as set out in the Cabinet report, be supported:

- (a) Progress in relation to the implementation of the new tools and powers, including the role of the Joint Engagement Team, is noted. This includes the Cost Benefit Analysis undertaken by New Economy.
- (b) Work continues to embed and develop these tools and powers in the Borough. This to include the further development of a robust partnership performance framework for anti-social behaviour.
- (c) Further consideration is given to the feasibility of Six Town Housing and other social landlords becoming direct agents of the Council for the purposes of issuing Community Protection Notices, in accordance with provisions within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and the Anti Social Behaviour(Designated Persons) Order, 2015. The Community Safety Manager works with other departments of the Council to explore their potential use of Community Protection Notices.
- (d) The Community Safety Manager works with partners through the Joint Engagement Team (JET) to ensure effective planning for the conversion of Designated Public Protection Orders into Public Space Protection Orders within the next two years (to ensure statutory compliance).
- (e) To develop the Joint Engagement Team to ensure it enhances and supports the future locality working model being developed for Bury.
- (f) To agree the revised ASB statement of policy and procedure (Appendix A).

OSC.842 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN OVERVIEW PROJECT GROUP – PROGRESS UPDATE

Councillor Southworth, Chair of the Children’s Safeguarding Overview Project Group, submitted a report setting out a summary of the work of the Group during the last year.

It was agreed:

1. That the work of the Overview Project Group be carried over into the new Municipal Year 2016/17.
2. That, in order to retain the expertise and knowledge developed throughout the review, where possible the existing membership be retained.
3. That regular updates be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work of the Group.

COUNCILLOR I B GARTSIDE
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 9.25 pm)