

MEETING OF THE CABINET HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

held 11 November, 2010

PRESENT: Councillors Ian Auckland (Chair), David Baker, Penny Baker and Shaffaq Mohammed.

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1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 October 2010 were approved as a correct record.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

There were no public questions or petitions submitted to the Committee.

5. **ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY/REFERRED TO CABINET HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE**

There were no items referred to the Committee from Scrutiny.

6. **PETITIONS**

New Petitions

The Committee noted the receipt of petitions (a) containing 12 signatures requesting the removal of double yellow lines in the Crimcar Lane area (Proposed experimental Traffic Regulation Order) and that this would be submitted to a future meeting of the South West Community Assembly, (b) containing 33 signatures regarding car parking problems on Buchanan Road and that this would be submitted to a future meeting of the North East Community Assembly and (c) containing 161 signatures requesting a crossing for Hatfield School and that this would be submitted to a future meeting of the North East Community Assembly.

Outstanding Petitions List

The Committee received and noted a report of the Executive Director, Place setting out the position on outstanding petitions that were being investigated.

7. **DELEGATION OF TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS FUNCTIONS TO COMMUNITY ASSEMBLIES**

The Director of Development Services submitted a report in response to the request of the Committee at its June meeting that a report be brought back on the delegation of certain highways functions to Community Assemblies.

John Bann, Head of Transport and Highways, commented that the

report and the possibility of additional delegated executive powers had been discussed with Community Assembly Chairs and Managers. Although they welcomed the additional delegation, there had been views expressed by certain Chairs that only the most significant/controversial schemes within the area should be considered by the Community Assembly.

Members commented that their appeared to be a contradiction in the recommendations outlined on the front sheet with the recommendations in the report. It was clarified that the wording in the recommendations in the report was correct.

Members commented that they believed further discussions were required with Community Assembly Chairs. It was the wish of the administration to delegate further executive powers in relation to highway matters to Community Assemblies but Chair's would need to understand their responsibilities in this case and manage their agendas accordingly. There was also a need for further discussions with Cabinet Members in relation to the wording of the report and recommendations to ensure clarity of what powers would be delegated to this Committee and to Community Assemblies.

RESOLVED: That (a) consideration of the report be deferred for (i) further discussions with Community Assembly Chair's in relation to the delegation of the powers proposed and the responsibilities this would entail and (ii) additional discussions with Cabinet Members as to the proposed changes to the delegations; and

(b) a further report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

(Note. The votes on the above decision were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

For the resolution (3)	-	Councillors David Baker, Penny Baker and Shaffaq Mohammed
Against the resolution (0)	-	Nil
Abstentions (1)	-	Councillor Ian Auckland).

8. EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decision(s) were taken by the Cabinet

8.1 AGENDA ITEM 10: TRAFFIC NETWORK BLOCKAGES

8.1.1 DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

(a) requests that a Network Blockages Summit Meeting be called by the Council;

(b) requests that Council staff work with transport operators and other

interested parties to identify pinch points and develop division plans, contingency arrangements and other infrastructure changes to reduce the impact of breakdowns and collisions;

(c) requests that any changes proposed as a result of recommendation 7.2 of the report that cannot be funded from the existing Transport and Highways Revenue budget be considered as part of the capital programme funded by the Local Transport Plan starting in April 2011; and

(d) approves that future infrastructure designs should include consideration of, and mitigation against, details which could lead to blockages of the highway by large vehicles.

8.1.2 **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

8.1.2.1 Blockages of the highway network when large vehicles breakdown or are involved in accidents inconvenience travellers and adversely affect the local economy.

8.1.2.2 As part of its network management duty the Council can make improvements to the management of the network, changes to existing infrastructure and alterations to the design of new infrastructure to reduce those negative effects.

8.1.3 **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

8.1.3.1 The number of occasions on which major disruption is caused by breakdowns or collisions are few, but the impact can be significant. If no action is taken it would be possible to tolerate the effects because the impact on the local economy is also comparatively limited. However, most of the measures suggested in the report do not require major resources to achieve a worthwhile improvement in the way that the Council discharges its duties under the Traffic Management Act.

8.1.3.2 It would be possible for the Council to arrange for a heavy recovery vehicle to be available on standby close to the City Centre, so that large vehicles could be moved with only a small delay. However, the cost of such provision would be very high. The measures suggested in the report would cost considerably less, and should be evaluated before such a proposal is considered.

8.1.4 **ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED**

None.

8.1.5 **REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION**

Not applicable.

8.1.6 **RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Simon Green, Executive Director, Place

Councillor Ian Auckland
Chair,
Cabinet Highways Committee
9 December 2010

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