

AT A MEETING of the Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee
of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the castle, Winchester on
Thursday, 29th July, 2021

Chairman:

* Councillor Stephen Philpott

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| * Councillor Derek Mellor
* Councillor Nick Adams-King
Councillor Debbie Curnow-Ford
* Councillor Barry Dunning
* Councillor Tim Groves
Councillor Gary Hughes
Councillor Rupert Kyrle
Councillor Hugh Lumby
* Councillor Elaine Still | * Councillor Kim Taylor
* Councillor Martin Tod
* Councillor Rhidian Vaughan MBE
* Councillor Bill Withers Lt Col (Retd)
Councillor Graham Burgess
* Councillor David Drew |
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*Present

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment and the Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Debbie Curnow-Ford and Cllr Lumby. Cllr David Drew attended as a deputy.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A minor correction was made to a spelling into paragraph 28 ('fare' rather than 'fair') and the minutes of the last meeting were then agreed.

4. DEPUTATIONS

A deputation was received from Tim Pickering regarding Item 6 on the agenda. Mr Pickering thanked HCC and officers for progress on Active Travel, but felt that there was still more that could be done and highlighted the importance of consultations and listening to the public and ensuring that consultations were accessible to all.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked the previous Chairman, Cllr Russell Oppenheimer for his leadership of the Select Committee. Tributes and a moment of reflection was also held for Cllr Roland Dibbs, who had sat on the Committee.

Thanks were paid to officers for their work on the recent flash floods across the County and well wishes were also sent to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

6. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND TRANCHE 2 PROGRAMME

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised a report for the Executive Member for Highways Operations (item 6 in the minute book) on Active Travel.

Regarding Brighton Way, Members queried whether the cycle path could go up to the school, which officers agreed to investigate. The School Streets initiative pilot was to take place at three schools and would be reported back in due course.

The Select Committee scrutinised the plans for Winchester and officers confirmed that North Walls was intertwined with Hyde Street. Reducing to one lane hadn't impacted the traffic across the city and therefore wasn't a priority for improvement at the current time, but it would be monitored going forward.

Councillor Nick Adams-King felt that future plans for Romsey would be welcomed despite it not being a priority at the current time. Councillor Martin Tod highlighted paragraph 83 in the Active Travel report and also requested that the proposal to look into further active travel measures should funding become available was taken into account going forward. Councillor Humby agreed to take the feedback from the Select Committee to the Executive Member for Highways Operations, thanking the Committee for their feedback and emphasising the importance of balancing priorities and needs.

RESOLVED

The Select Committee supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member for Highways Operations in paragraphs 2-4 of the report.

7. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ETE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21 END OF YEAR & QUARTER 1 2021/22

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised a report for the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment on the ETE Capital Programme.

The Committee were disappointed to see a 24% reduction in government funding for highway repairs and noted the proposals around flooding in section 19 of the report.

Councillor Humby thanked officers for their hard work, especially with the current challenges.

RESOLVED

The Select Committee supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment in paragraphs 3-6 of the report.

8. PRE-SCRUTINY OF THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised a report for the Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability regarding a proposed environment strategy.

The proposed strategy provided a high-level overview, which was welcomed by the Committee and it was confirmed that work would start in the autumn with engagement with stakeholders.

Ongoing work would continue with partners, particularly around flooding and water stewardship and it was acknowledged that this work extended beyond the strategy.

Councillor Jan Warwick, Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability shared that there was clear direction following the 2050 Commission and legislation was also coming through from central government.

RESOLVED

The Select Committee supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the report.

9. PRE-SCRUTINY OF HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS - SERVICE UPDATE

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised a report to the Executive Member for Highways Operations with proposals for measures being taken to ensure minimum standards of service delivery.

Members were pleased to learn that Hampshire was leading in the area of recycled aggregates being used and continued to look at innovative solutions

going forward.

When looking at highway incidents, it was confirmed that a risk-based approach was taken with each logged defect to prioritise incidents.

Whilst there had been underinvestment in the highway network, Members were reassured that the County Council continued to lobby government for more funding.

RESOLVED

The Select Committee supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member for Highways Operations in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the attached report.

10. VERGE MANAGEMENT

The Select Committee received a presentation from the Head of Highways (Commissioning) on verge management.

Members were given an overview of the verge network and learned about the previous and new maintenance regime along with a summary of trials and pilots that had taken place and challenges faced by the County.

During questions it was confirmed that grass grids used on verges could be plastic or concrete and only hedges that came under highways were managed.

11. WORK PROGRAMME

The Select Committee considered the work programme and discussed potential new items as well as those already proposed.

It was agreed that the following items go to a future Member Briefing event:

- Road Safety, to include speed reduction, how speeds are determined and criteria for crossings and whether any improvements could be made to current processes
- Street trees and arboriculture, to include the ash dieback

Following discussion, the work programme was agreed by the Select Committee.

Chairman,