

CARLISLE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Carlisle Highways and Transport Working Group held on Tuesday, 15 June 2021 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT:

Mr R Watson (Chair)

Mr J Bell
Mr RW Betton
Mr N Christian

Mr J Mallinson (Vice-Chair)
Mrs V Tarbitt
Mr C Weber

Also in Attendance:-

Mr P Allan	-	Development Management Officer
Mr D Coyle	-	Manager of Flood & Development Management
Mr K Crawley	-	Traffic Management Team Leader Carlisle
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms A Hutson	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager - Carlisle
Mr K Poole	-	City Engineer (Carlisle City Council)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr S Higgs.

2 MINUTES

Members had received a number of proposed amendments to the minutes from Mr R Betton in advance of the meeting. The Vice-Chair and members of the Working Group felt the requested changes were not amendments but additional information that would not materially change the document, highlighting that minutes were not a verbatim record of a meeting.

Following discussion, with the exception of Mr Betton, it was agreed that the initial minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 6 April 2021 be confirmed as circulated.

3 2021/22 FLOOD AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Members received a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which presented an overview of flood and development management activities in the Carlisle area.

The local Member for Botcherby highlighted previous flooding issues on Warwick Road which he felt had not been addressed. He raised his concerns regarding possible future flooding in the area and the potential safety risks for residents, asking for a guarantee from officers that this would not occur again. The Manager of Flood and Development Management acknowledged the issues regarding flooding in the area and, whilst could not guarantee this would not happen again, informed members that work was being undertaken to ensure flooding was reduced and would be regularly monitored.

During the course of discussion members highlighted that the issue raised by the local Member was not contained in the Working Group report and suggested that this matter be considered outside the meeting with all appropriate parties involved. It was, therefore, agreed that the Manager of Flood and Development Management would convene a meeting which would include himself, the local Member for Botcherby, Chair and Vice-Chair of Carlisle Local Committee, together with representatives from the Environment Agency and United Utilities to discuss the matter further.

The local Member for Longtown asked for an update on work being undertaken at previously flooded properties in Kirklington and Mill Hill, near Gretna. The Development Management Officer explained that progress was being made with those issues and would provide a brief summary following the meeting.

RECOMMENDED, that the report be noted.

4 SAFER SCHOOLS - SCHOOL STREETS INITIATIVE

The Working Group considered a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which introduced the School Streets Initiative which was aimed at reducing traffic levels outside of schools during the arrival and departure times.

The Working Group was informed that the Initiative was an idea pioneered by the Sustrans Charity which aimed to tackle the congestion, poor air quality and road safety concerns that many schools experienced during drop-off and pick-up times. It was explained that the extent of a 'School Street' was typically defined by signs and supported by cones, which had to be placed and removed each day, therefore, schools would be asked to arrange the placing of the temporary signs and cones.

Members were informed that not all areas were suitable for this Initiative and following correspondence with a number of other authorities who had implemented the Scheme it had been concluded that those schools with the minimum of roads serving it, together with local support and enthusiasm for the Scheme were the key to their success. It was explained that an investigation to determine suitable

schools where a pilot scheme was likely to be successful had suggested that two schools in the Carlisle area could initially be considered; those being Belle Vue Primary School and Inglewood Junior School in Harraby.

The Working Group was informed that following initial discussions with representatives from Belle Vue Primary School they had decided not to take the initiative forward but noted that St Bede's RC Primary School had shown an interest. The Traffic Management Team Leader explained that discussions would, therefore, take place with Inglewood Junior School and St Bede's RC Primary School and a report would be made to the meeting of Carlisle Local Committee in September.

During the course of discussion the Carlisle City Council representative, whilst welcoming the initiative, explained that part of their Civil Enforcement Officers role was to encourage drivers to turn off their vehicle engine whilst idling and asked the Traffic Management Team Leader to liaise with them to avoid any confusion.

The Chair of the Local Committee asked the Traffic Management Team Leader to provide him with an update following discussions with the schools.

RECOMMENDED, that the report be noted.

5 2021/22 HIGHWAYS BUDGET/PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

The Working Group received a report from the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which presented the Highways Revenue, Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital budget finance reports, combined with the highways programme progress information.

Members noted that the allocated budgets for 2021/22 were Highways Revenue £1,438,010, Devolved Highways Capital £2,465,000 and Non-Devolved Highways Capital £1,809,000.

The local Member for Botcherby asked if, following completion of one-third of the Victoria Road/Warwick Road scheme, the remaining section would be completed in the current financial year.

The Local Highways Network Manager confirmed that the scheme was currently being assessed for inclusion in the Programme. It was agreed the local Member would be kept updated on the situation.

RECOMMENDED, that the following be noted:-

- (1) the programme progress information (as shown in Appendices 4 and 5 of the report);
- (2) the various Highways Revenue budget allocations and headings (detailed in Appendix 1 of the report);

- (3) the various Highways Capital budget allocations and headings (referred to in Appendix 2 of the report);
- (4) there are no comments in the Appendices to bring to the attention of Local members. Any significant comments, changes and/or amendments will be highlighted here in subsequent and future reports to the Working Group.

6 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan was noted.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Working Group would take place on Thursday 7 October 2021 at 10.00 am at Cumbria House, Botchergate, Carlisle.

The meeting ended at 10.55 am