

CARLISLE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Carlisle Highways and Transport Working Group held on Wednesday, 8 February 2023 at 10.00 am at Conference Room A/B, Cumbria House, Carlisle. CA1 1RD

PRESENT:

Mr R Watson (Chair)

Mr RW Betton
Mr N Christian
Mr S Higgs

Mr J Mallinson (Vice-Chair)
Mr M Mitchelson
Mr C Weber

Also in Attendance:-

Mr P Barnard	-	Lead Officer - Flood & Development Management
Ms A Dodds	-	Traffic Management Team Leader
Mrs L Harker	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms A Hutson	-	Local Area Highways Network Manager - Carlisle
Mr M Waning	-	PMO Programme Manager – Local Government Reorganisation

31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr J Bell.

32 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 7 December 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

33 FLOOD AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Members considered a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed an overview of Flood and Development Management activities in the Carlisle area.

The Chair of Carlisle Local Committee highlighted the imminent end of Cumbria County Council and asked how this would affect future finances. Members' attention was drawn to the ongoing works at Beaumont, noting that part of the

funding for flood protection at the location had been provided by the Local Committee and raised concerns as to whether this would be carried forward into the new Authority. The Lead Officer – Flood and Development Management agreed to investigate this matter and provide an update to the Working Group.

The local Member for Botcherby raised concerns regarding future maintenance in the new Authority and it was agreed the Lead Officer – Flood and Development Management would look into this matter. During the course of discussion concerns were also raised by the local Member regarding the problems caused at high water due to the amount of debris in rivers. The Lead Officer – Flood and Development Management agreed to raise this matter with the Environment Agency.

RECOMMENDED, that the report be noted.

34 LIVE LABS - CUMBRIA'S PLASTIC ROADS

The Working Group received a Briefing Note which detailed the opportunity which had been identified by the Authority via the Live Labs funding to investigate the benefits of using plastic waste as an additive in the production of the bituminous pavement materials that it used in its highway maintenance works across all parts of the county's highways network.

Members were informed that the selected sites would be inspected and reported on annually and that to-date all sites were performing as inspected with no issues to report.

The Working Group was advised that inclusion in the Programme had made the Authority aware of other initiatives which could contribute towards decarbonisation goals. It was explained that this had also opened up innovation and decarbonisation partnerships which had the potential to extend beyond that of Live Labs. Members were advised the Project had led onto new opportunities with providers with technology completely outside of plastic roads, such as an electric vehicle charging bid in partnership with Shell.

The Working Group was informed that the Project had included a small amount of footways and further information would be circulated to members.

A discussion took place regarding the life-span of the material and officers confirmed that research had concluded that it was unlikely the plastic would wash off in the future.

Members asked if the Project affected costs and was informed this was initially cost-neutral with the possibility of a small cost increase in future if it was not included in the new Framework.

Following a number of questions regarding process, life-span, environmental effects etc it was agreed that details of the DfT website which contained a significant amount of details regarding the Project would be circulated to members.

The Chair, on behalf of the Working Group, thanked the Officer for the detailed update.

RECOMMENDED, that the update be noted.

35 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON KINGSTOWN ROAD

Members received a verbal update regarding a proposed pedestrian crossing on Kingstown Road.

The Working Group was informed that feedback from a feasibility study was still outstanding. Members were advised that initial thoughts by officers were that a new signalised crossing on the A7 Kingstown Road in the vicinity of the Gosling Bridge would work within capacity but it would increase queuing assuming the crossing was called every cycle. However, it was felt that the queuing would be manageable, given the context that queuing from the adjacent signals (and in particular Windsor Way) could extend past the point of the crossing. It was explained that the queuing from the crossing could be managed by linking the timings to the Windsor Way signals.

During the course of discussion a suggestion was made to incorporate a crossing into the existing Windsor Way junction. The Traffic Management Team Leader explained that officers did not think this was possible but agreed to take this into consideration following receipt of the feasibility study.

The Working Group asked that any new crossing be extensively advertised to encourage its use.

RECOMMENDED, that the update be noted.

36 2022/23 HIGHWAYS BUDGET/PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

The Working Group received a report by the Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which detailed the Highways Revenue, Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital budget allocations for 2022/23.

Members were informed that the Highways budget allocations for 2022/23 would be used to maintain the highway network in the most cost-effective way and noted the 2022/23 Highways Revenue Budget was forecasting an overspend of £3,841, the 2022/23 Highways Devolved Capital budget was forecasting on budget and the 2022/23 Highways Non-Devolved Capital budget was forecasting an overspend of £3,198.

The Chair of the Local Committee drew attention to the hardened verges budget highlighting a forecasted £18k spend out of a £40k budget. The Local Area Highways Network Manager explained that the £18k was the revised budget after topslicing and the £40k was before topslicing.

A discussion took place regarding budgets being carried forward to the new Authority in April 2023. The Local Area Highways Network Manager advised that budgets would not be carried forward into the Cumberland Authority and it was anticipated that all schemes on the prioritised list would be delivered by the end of the current financial year.

The Chair, on behalf of the Working Group, congratulated officers for the delivery of budget.

RECOMMENDED, that the following be noted:-

- (1) the various Highways Revenue budget allocations and headings (as shown in Appendix 1 of the report);
- (2) the various Highways Capital budget allocations and headings (as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report);
- (3) the Highways Devolved Capital Programme information (as set out in Appendix 3 of the report);
- (4) there are no comments in the appendices to bring to the attention of local members.

37 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that this was the last meeting of the Working Group in the life of Cumbria County Council.

The Working Group thanked all officers for their support and wished them well for the future.

The meeting ended at 10.45 am