

CAMBRIDGE CITY JOINT AREA COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 26th January 2016

Time: 4.30pm –5.35pm

Present: County Councillors Cearns, Kavanagh, Manning, Scutt, Taylor and Walsh;
City Councillors Blencowe, Price (alternating for Cllr A Smith), Ratcliffe,
Robertson, C Smart and Tunnacliffe

Apologies: City Councillor A Smith

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Scutt declared an interest in agenda item 4 (minute 29) as an alumna of Lucy Cavendish College, Lady Margaret Road.

27. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14th JULY 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28. PETITIONS

None

29. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS OBJECTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH ALBION ROW, CAMBRIDGE

The Committee received a report on objections received to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) associated with Albion Row. Members noted that objections to the TRO centred on the perceived loss of parking, but there would be no overall loss of residents' parking spaces. Concerns had been expressed about a disabled resident who needed to park close to their home, but a reply would be sent by email giving more information.

In the course of discussion, Members

- sought further information about the disabled parking issue. Officers advised that holders of blue badges were permitted to park in certain areas as part of the disabled parking scheme, but there would be a reduction in parking outside the residence of this particular disabled person, who did not have a personal disabled parking bay
- commented that the equality and diversity implication of the impact of the proposal on this resident should have been cited in the report and asked officers to seek a way forward on the resident's concerns
- noted that two of the ward Councillors had expressed support for the scheme
- suggested that it might be appropriate to include the Monday to Saturday timing of the residents' parking scheme when considering the parking policy review [agenda item 9, minute 31 refers]

- enquired whether the position of the proposed crossing would make it impossible to achieve Lucy Cavendish College's wish for a zebra crossing towards the Madingley Road end of Lady Margaret Road. Officers advised that any proposal for another crossing would have to be assessed separately.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Approve and make the order as advertised;
- b) Inform the objectors accordingly.

30. CITY LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT MEMBER PANEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee received a report seeking a minor change to the way in which substitutes (County) and alternates (City) were nominated to the Local Highway Improvement (LHI) Member Assessment Panel. When the Cambridge City panel had been established in July 2015, named substitute and alternate members had been identified, but the situation had arisen recently of neither member nor substitute/alternate being available for a proposed meeting, which had led to considerable scheduling difficulties. To avoid this, it was proposed that members of the Cambridge City panel nominate their own substitute or alternate, as was the practice of LHI panels elsewhere in the county. Members noted that the substitute or alternate would be taken from the membership of the Joint Committee.

One Member reported that there had been concern about the nature of the LHI panel meetings, and a Freedom of Information request had been lodged about this. Clarity about the nature of the meetings was required; it was not clear from the County Council website whether they were held in public; if they were public meetings, people should be welcome to attend. Officers confirmed that the meetings of the Member Assessment Panel were open to the public to attend.

It was resolved by a majority to

- a) agree that substantive Local Highway Improvement Panel Members be authorised to nominate a substitute or alternate member, should they not be available to attend.

31. PARKING POLICY REVIEW

The Committee received a report updating it on the proposed countywide parking review and presenting proposals for changes to on-street parking charges in Cambridge. Members noted that there was a revenue shortfall in comparison to the costs of the current scheme, and that there were large numbers of permits, and particularly of visitors' permits, in relation to the parking spaces available.

In discussion, Members welcomed the report as raising an important topic, but criticised it as failing to address various important issues, such as how input would be sought from local Cambridge people; some residents' associations were keen to give their views, and input should also be sought from other stakeholders, including current permit holders and all four Area Committees.

Members said that the parking review needed to take a broader look at the City's parking problems, not forgetting the context of consultations on City Deal schemes such as those in Milton Road and Histon Road. The extent of Cambridge's parking

difficulties, with for example no geographical break between the parking pressures affecting the city centre and those around Addenbrooke's Hospital, meant that consideration should be given to introducing a city-wide parking scheme, such as that in some other cities, including Oxford. A city-wide scheme might also have economies of scale in administration cost. There needed to be a process of research, review and consultation before arriving at a set of proposals.

Members pointed out some current difficulties with parking, citing the consequences for local residents of there being unrestricted parking in residents' bays on Sundays, and the lack of arrangements for visiting tradespeople, such as a traders' pass permitting parking in residents' bays in the daytime. It was also suggested that greater use should be made of IT solutions rather than paper-based permits, and that the aims of the policy ought to include ensuring ecological travel and making streets safe for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. Members also expressed appreciation for the difficult situation in which officers found themselves, given the need to find substantial savings in expenditure, but urged that saving money should not be the sole aim of the parking policy review.

The Chairman suggested that far more work needed to be done to give a sound basis on which to make a recommendation to the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee. A member working group should be formed to assist with developing proposals in more detail, with a view to a revised scheme starting in April 2017, rather than part-way through the financial year. After further discussion of how to proceed, it was proposed by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Blencowe that a member working group be established, with three City Members and three County Members. This proposal found broad support, as did the suggestion that a further report be brought to the Committee's next meeting to inform discussion of a wider scheme, the report to be developed with input from officers, working group and stakeholders. The Chairman thanked officers for their work so far.

It was resolved unanimously

- a) to defer decisions on the Committee's preferred option for on-street parking charges and on the introduction of the proposed non-refundable deposit
- b) to establish a member working group to examine options for on-street parking in Cambridge , with input from invited stakeholders
- c) that the working group be composed of three members each from Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council
- d) that the members of the working group be County Councillors Kavanagh, Scutt and Taylor, and City Councillors Blencowe, C Smart and Smith
- e) that the individual members of the working group identify a substitute or alternate from amongst the membership of the Joint Committee should they be unable to attend a meeting
- f) that the next meeting of the Joint Committee receive a report setting out the working group's findings to date.

Chairman