

**HIGHWAYS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY AND SERVICE
COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

To: Council

Date: 10 May 2016

From: Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment

Purpose: To consider the Annual Report 2015/16 for the Highways and Community Infrastructure Policy and Service Committee.

Recommendation: Council is recommended to note the Highways and Community Infrastructure Policy and Service Committee Annual Report 2015/16.

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|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Highways and Community Infrastructure Policy and Service Committee was established following the May 2014 annual meeting when the Council resolved to convert from a Cabinet form of governance to a Committee System.
- 1.2 The committee comprises the following Members:

Cllrs Barbara Ashwood, Ralph Butcher, David Connor, Barry Chapman, Steve Criswell, Gordon Gillick, Roger Hickford, William Hunt, Peter Reeve, Michael Rouse, Jocelyne Scutt, Amanda Taylor and John Williams.
- 1.3 The Chairman is Councillor Roger Hickford, the Vice-Chairman is Councillor Peter Reeve and the Spokesmen/women are Councillors Steve Criswell, Barry Chapman, Peter Reeve, Jocelyne Scutt and Amanda Taylor.
- 1.4 Over the last twelve months the Committee has met eleven times. Section 2 of the report highlights a number of significant issues considered by the committee during this period.

2 HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE WORKLOAD

Business Planning

- 2.1 Throughout the year, Committee considered proposals for the Council's Business Plan which were finally adopted by Full Council in February.

Streetlights

- 2.2 H&CI Committee considered business planning proposals for the County Council to switch off streetlights from 12am-6am. A variety of consultations were held with partner organisations, culminating in a public consultation, running from October-December. In January, H&CI Committee noted feedback from the local Councils, Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership, Police Service and Public Consultation exercises, and agreed to reduce the hours of street light switch off by two hours to 2am - 6am.

Waste Contract Review

- 2.3 The Committee is considering the Council's waste contract and how savings can be made as part of the Business Plan.

Cambridge and Northstowe Household Recycling Centre Provision:

- 2.4 In July, H&CI Committee met to discuss Cambridge and Northstowe Household Recycling Centre (HRC) Provision: it was resolved to combine all strategic waste S106 contributions in the Cambridge and Northstowe area secured prior to 6 April 2015 and provide one new HRC facility in the Cambridge and Northstowe area instead of the current four smaller facilities contained within the existing waste planning policy.

Eastern Highways Framework 2:

- 2.5 The EHF2 is designed to deliver highways schemes for the 11 members of the Eastern Highways Alliance, seeking to build on the successful delivery of projects across the region through the current Framework, which expires in June 2016. The existing Framework was procured by Hertfordshire County Council in 2012 and has used 4 contractors to deliver highways schemes of up to a value of £10m throughout the region. In February, H&CI Committee resolved to approve the award of Lot 1 (for scheme of up to £1.5m) to seven providers, and approve the award of Lot 2 (for schemes of over £1.5m) to six providers.

Highways Services Contract:

- 2.6 In April, H&CI Committee resolved to approve the formal start of procurement for the Highways Services Contract in the form of a long-term strategic partner. Committee members were involved thereafter through the attendance by the Chairman and Vice Chairman at the project board. The Competitive Dialogue period for the contract procurement started on the 20 January and runs through to 1 July; a final tender document will be issued on 4 July; tender returns will be on 1 August and H&CI Committee will agree the award of contract on 13 Sept. The new contract will commence on 1 April 2017.

Amendments to Enforcement & Age-Restricted Goods policies:

- 2.7 In April, H&CI Committee approved amendments to the Council's existing Enforcement Policy and Age-Restricted goods policy. The amendments were a response to the publication of a Regulators Code, which placed greater emphasis on transparency; a graduated approach to enforcement; and prioritising the protection of vulnerable members of our community.

Cambridge Library Enterprise Centre (recall following GPC)

- 2.8 Following a decision by H&CI in the previous financial year to create a Central Library Enterprise Centre in partnership with Regus Kora, further work was undertaken on the potential impacts of the proposal and following significant public and Member concerns about the proposals, the original decision was rescinded at a Committee meeting on 26th June and it was decided to set up a Member Review Group to look at Income Generation opportunities for Libraries.

Member Review Income Generation Group for Libraries

- 2.9 Draft terms of reference were brought to Committee in September, and the Member Review Group first met on 17th September. An update on the work of the group was given to Committee in December and a concluding report presented in March: Committee agreed the recommendations of the report. The three areas selected for further work are: seeking sponsorship for libraries county-wide; reviewing the Café @ Central; and re-designing the 3rd floor of Central Library

New Accommodation for Archives:

- 2.10 In October, H&CI Committee was informed of the options and updated costs to convert a property in Ely to accommodate historical records and associated public access. Committee recommended continuing the scheme for Archives only, rather

than incorporating wider Council services into the scheme, in order to contain the costs within the original allocation.

The Local Highway Improvement Scheme (LHIS)

- 2.11 The Local Highway Improvement Scheme (LHIS) was introduced in 2012/13. The scheme provides a mechanism for local communities to partner with the County Council to deliver their priorities for minor improvements to their roads and paths, with over 200 schemes being implemented in this time. In July, H&CI Committee resolved to improve the process, with improvements including a LHIS webpage resource for applicants, and the introduction of a technical assessment to inform the member panel scoring process. A list of prioritised schemes for each District area was presented to Committee in March, and approved.

Member Working Group for Highways Maintenance

- 2.12 In October, H&CI Committee agreed to set up a Member Working group for Highways Maintenance, with the support of relevant officers, to take a detailed look at the County's approach to highway maintenance and in particular community involvement in that, with the aim of driving down costs, identifying and building community resilience.

Transport Delivery Plan

- 2.13 In January, H&CI Committee resolved to approved the Transport Delivery Plan for the next three financial years. The document provides the forward programme for all capital highway maintenance and improvement schemes for the relevant period and is a key component of the implementation of the Authority's Asset Management Strategy and Policy.

Traffic Regulation Orders for City Deal schemes

- 2.14 In March, H&CI Committee endorsed to propose to Council that the responsibility for making decisions regarding Traffic Regulation Orders for City Deal infrastructure schemes is confirmed as being delegated to the Greater Cambridge City Deal Executive Board. This was resolved with the caveat that that there be a report back to the Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee on further safeguards that will be put in place to ensure that consultation with residents will be undertaken in reference to the Traffic Regulation Orders in the City Deal Plan

Community Resilience Strategy

- 2.15 In March, the County Council also received a report on the County Council's Community Resilience strategy: *Stronger Together – our strategy for building resilient communities*. This paper proposed a fundamental shift in the way that service provision and local communities interact; essentially, repositioning the Council as part of the wider community, with a real focus on building the capacity of local people so that we can meet local needs together. This strategy will inform the Business Planning process for 2016/17 onwards.

| Source Documents | Location |
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| Agenda and Minutes of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Policy and Service Committee | http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=77 |

