

AT A MEETING of the Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee  
of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on  
Thursday 10th March, 2022

Chairman:

\* Councillor Stephen Philpott

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| * Councillor Derek Mellor        | * Councillor Hugh Lumby                 |
| * Councillor Nick Adams-King     | Councillor Elaine Still                 |
| * Councillor Debbie Curnow-Ford  | * Councillor Martin Tod                 |
| * Councillor Barry Dunning       | * Councillor Rhydian Vaughan MBE        |
| * Councillor Tim Groves          | * Councillor Bill Withers Lt Col (Retd) |
| * Councillor Gary Hughes         | * Councillor Graham Burgess             |
| * Councillor Louise Parker-Jones |   |
| * Councillor Rupert Kyrle        |   |

\*Present

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman:

Councillor Rob Humby, Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment and Deputy Leader

Councillor Russell Oppenheimer - Executive Member for Highways Operations

Councillor Jan Warwick – Executive Member for Climate Change and Sustainability

**46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Elaine Still. Councillor Graham Burgess attended as a deputy.

**47. 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.

**48. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

**49. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations for the meeting.

50. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no formal Chairman's Announcements.

51. **HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS - HIGHWAY NETWORK RECOVERY STRATEGY**

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised report for the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment on the Hampshire Highways Recovery Strategy (item 6 in the minute book).

The officer summarised the report, highlighting the decline of the highways network over recent years due to a reducing budget and the subsequent increase in reactive maintenance rather than proactive. Construction and inflation cost levels were the highest they had been for many years, which further added to the challenges in maintaining the highways across the County.

During questions, Members learned that traffic signals were very expensive to replace and only so many could be done each year and had to be prioritised.

Carbon mitigation was an important factor going forward and the County was proactive in experimenting with carbon reduction initiatives. With increased surface water flooding it was noted that it was important for adequate drainage to be in place before the highways structure was improved for the benefits to be long term and not deteriorate.

Members agreed that it was an important paper and that officers were doing very well at responding to pressures and challenges.

RESOLVED

The Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment in section 2 of the main report.

52. **PARKING - SERVICE CONSOLIDATION EFFICIENCIES**

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised a decision for the Executive Member for Highways Operations on Traffic Management and Civil Parking Enforcement district agency agreements (item 7 in the minute book).

The officer summarised the proposals within the report and confirmed the aims of securing the most effective service assisting with funding going forward.

The Select Committee questioned the lack of financial evidence within the report that supported ending the arrangements and it was confirmed that whilst finances had been reviewed as part of the process, the report focused on and provided a more strategic view. It didn't impact off-street enforcement, only on-street parking.

On questioning potential impacts on staff, it was confirmed that existing officers would be TUPE'd across and then a recruitment exercise done if there was any capacity remaining to ensure the service was not affected.

When asked what would happen should the proposals not work as anticipated, officers were confident that ending the arrangements was the best route forward and it was unlikely it would need to be reviewed. Should the proposals not be as successful as anticipated then the new arrangements would be carefully analysed.

The cost of administering and enforcing penalty charge notices (PCN's) would be cheaper if brought in-house and the plans were about cost efficiencies rather than generating income. Officers gave examples of where the in-house service was lower cost than the average for the agencies, but Members felt that the reasoning was not detailed within the report in order for the proposals to be scrutinised properly.

It was noted that some of the requests for information from the Committee related to the implementation of the recommendations rather than the strategic overview and therefore could be added to the Work Programme for further analysis should the recommendations be approved.

**RESOLVED**

The Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee DID NOT support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member for Highways Operations in sections 2 and 3 of the main report, due to lack of financial information relating to the proposed efficiencies, lack of detail regarding key performance indicators (KPI's) and lack of information regarding contract management.

### **53. SCHOOL STREETS**

The Select Committee pre-scrutinised a report to Cabinet from the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment on the School Streets Pilot (Item 8 in the minute book).

The officer summarised the report, highlighting conclusions from the initial monitoring and assessment of the trial to date. One of the three pilot schools had withdrawn due to lack of volunteers, and the two remaining sites had needed to use staff at the school to supplement the volunteers that assisted to make up the correct number.

Monitoring done on surrounding roads had shown that there hadn't been an adverse impact with displaced parking or traffic but it was acknowledged that the scheme would not be suitable for all schools and locations.

The Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment enforced the importance of the schools and parents being fully committed to the schemes in order for them to work and for there to be sufficient volunteers.

**RESOLVED**

The Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee supported the recommendations being proposed to Cabinet in section 2 of the main report.

#### 54. **INFORMATION ITEM - HWRC UPDATE**

The Select Committee received a presentation update on Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) (item 9 in the minute book).

Members were updated on a pedestrian access trial that had taken place, the cross-border usage and registration scheme and also the booking system now in place at HWRC's.

During questions, the following points were clarified:

- Portsmouth City Council continued to use a booking system but Southampton City Council had trialling it stopping. Officers were waiting for the trial to end so the data could be analysed.
- The same-day booking system had been trialled at some sites and it was anticipated it would be fully rolled out by the end of the summer.
- Whilst slots had been reserved for the use of bicycles and pedestrians to access the sites, the uptake on these had been minimal.
- Proposals were being developed whereby some materials and products could be taken to a hub for upcycling, but the shops would still be available on site and the site would be recompensed for any diverted waste

Officers were thanked for their work and for the presentation.

#### 55. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman confirmed that the May Select Committee meeting currently had a very light agenda and it was therefore likely that this meeting would be deferred until July.

It was confirmed that an update on "Solar Together" would come to a future meeting via Chairman's announcements.

Members also discussed having an item on electric vehicles, but as this project sat across several departments it was agreed it may be more suitable for a Member Briefing or for the Policy & Resources Select Committee.

**RESOLVED**

The Work Programme was noted by the Select Committee

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Chairman,