

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Public Services held at 9.30 am on
Tuesday, 15 December 2015

Present:

Members: Councillor R Lancaster (Cabinet Member)

Other Members: Councillors R Bailey, J Lepoidevin and H Noonan

Employees:

P Boulton, Place Directorate
T Cowley, Place Directorate
N Cowper, Place Directorate
D Joy, Resources Directorate
L Knight, Resources Directorate
N Thomas, Place Directorate
A Walster, Place Directorate
A Wright, Resources Directorate

Apologies: Councillor M Lapsa (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Public Business

50. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

51. Minutes

The minutes of the Cabinet Member for Public Services meeting held on 3rd November, 2015 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

52. Petition- Repair and Resurfacing of the Road and Pavements at Handsworth Crescent

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place concerning a petition, bearing 75 signatures, 50 paper signatures and 25 e-signatures, requesting the repair and resurfacing of the road and pavements at Handsworth Crescent in light of their poor condition. The petition was submitted by Councillor Lepoidevin, a Woodlands Ward Councillor who attended the meeting along with Jennifer Mathie, the petition organiser and they spoke on behalf of the petitioners.

The report indicated that the last programmed safety inspection took place on 6th August, 2015. A number of small localised road defects were identified and repaired. A further inspection was carried out in October when an assessment was made of the construction and overall condition of the road and pavements. The road was cracking/crazing in a number of locations while the pavements were generally in an average condition throughout. The preferred option for Handsworth Crescent would be to recycle and resurface the existing road surface and remove the cast in situ concrete channels. In addition the existing dropped kerbs would be upgraded and replaced. The pavements would be held as a site on the Council's

forward maintenance programme list with their condition being subject to on-going monitoring. The approximate costs of the repair and resurfacing of the road was £47,000.

Jennifer Mathie drew attention to the very poor condition of the road which had never been re-surfaced since it was constructed in the 1950s and to the strong feelings amongst local residents. She raised concerns that the narrow road was very difficult to negotiate in light of parked cars and all the potholes. Clarification was provided on the defect levels for repairing potholes. Councillor Lancaster drew attention to the policy for repairs being prioritised on a worst first basis and to the current financial climate of reducing budgets and increasing costs of repairs.

RESOLVED that:

(1) Approval be given that the road at Handsworth Crescent be put forward for inclusion in the 2016/17 re-tread maintenance programme of work, budget permitting and subject to Cabinet approval at their meeting in March 2016. It was noted that with likely further budget pressure for 2016/17 and confirmed increases in treatment costs that any guarantee of work in a given year will be dependent on these issues.

(2) Approval be given that the pavements at Handsworth Crescent be held as a site on Coventry Council's forward maintenance programme list and that the condition of the pavements be subject to on-going monitoring and be prioritised and scored against all other similar sites city wide and when a priority score is reached that the pavements be included in any future maintenance treatment programmes, budget permitting.

53. Petition - Refuse Collections in Hillfray Drive and Ashington Grove

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place concerning a petition, bearing 34 signatures, requesting weekly bin collections in Hillfray Drive and Ashington Grove plus an alternative collection when collections were missed. The petition was submitted by Councillors Bailey and Noonan, both Cheylesmore Ward Councillors, who attended the meeting and spoke on behalf of the petitioners. The petition organiser had indicated via e-mail that she no longer wanted to pursue the petition.

The report indicated that from December, 2014 to the present date there had been 22 reports made to the Council relating to the non-collection of bins from residents of these two streets. Hillfray Drive was accessed off Ashington Grove and the parking of cars in different areas of the street opposite and within the entrance to Hillfray Drive could prevent the refuse collection vehicle from safely entering and/or leaving the street and therefore the collections of bins could be disrupted. When this happened it was Council procedure to revisit the street at a later time on the same day or on the following collection day. The Cabinet Member noted that actions had already been taken to identify the owners of the vehicles causing the obstruction and subsequently the disruption to collections had reduced.

The report set out the following options for addressing any further concerns:

- Develop further communication methods for highlighting the issues with local residents and those living, working and parking in the area
- Work with residents to identify and address issues with individuals parking in the problem areas including working with the police where appropriate
- Discuss the issues with the collection crews in relation to access and safety to develop a consistent approach across all services
- Consider the placement of double yellow lines in a limited and specific way to prevent vehicles parking in the problem areas.

Councillor Noonan referred to the problems faced by residents when accessing the entrance to the garages in view of parked vans. She supported the introduction of double yellow lines and Councillor Lancaster clarified that consultation would be undertaken with residents over this issue. Discussion centred on the current review of waiting restrictions in the Whitley area and the intention to advertise in the next round of Traffic Regulation Orders. The Cabinet Member was informed that communication had commenced with residents regarding the parking issues.

RESOLVED that approval be given to the suggested actions highlighted above to monitor and address the issues raised.

54. **Objection to Traffic Regulation Order - Penruddock Drive and Bouchier Close**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place concerning two objections which had been received to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) relating to proposed new waiting restrictions at Penruddock Drive and Bouchier Close. One of the objectors, Sue Marston attended the meeting and outlined her concerns. Rhianydd Jones and Tony Ronneback, residents of Penruddock Drive also attended and detailed their concerns. The second objector Rob Zielski had indicated via e-mail that he did not wish to attend. Councillor Bailey, a Cheylesmore Ward Councillor, spoke on behalf of Councillors Lapsa and Skinner. Details of the two objections and responses were set out at an appendix to the report.

The report indicated that residents of the two roads had raised concerns regarding the number of people who were using Tile Hill Station and parking their cars all day. The parked cars were making the roads inaccessible for emergency vehicles and other vehicles needing to access the roads. Following consultation with local residents, a TRO was advertised on 15th October. The proposal was to introduce a controlled parking zone which prevented parking for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon on Monday to Friday. This restriction would also apply to residents and their visitors but had less impact than double yellow lines. The report detailed the positive results of the consultation on this proposal.

Sue Marston informed that residents were not aware that they would be affected by the restrictions and suggested parking restrictions on just one side of Penruddock Drive. She highlighted the need for more parking at the train station. Rhianydd Jones expressed support for the proposal but requested that this be an interim solution and that officers work towards introducing a residents parking scheme. She highlighted the potential for the displacement of the parking problems. Tony Ronneback expressed his support for the controlled parking zone

and informed of discussions with Centro regarding suggestions for additional parking at the station.

Attention was drawn to two e-mails that had been received from Jenny Bashford and Lindsey Slater, residents of Penruddock Drive who had outlined the implications of the TRO for local residents.

Residents referred to previous contact with the City Council when they had been informed that a residents parking scheme would be introduced in the two streets. Councillor Lancaster informed that she would approve the introduction of a residents parking scheme which would allow residents to park during the restricted two hours. It was noted that in light of this change it might be necessary to re-advertise the TRO. Councillor Bailey informed of the success of the Cheylesmore residents parking scheme.

RESOLVED that, having considered the two objections, the e-mail comments and the issues raised at the meeting:

(1) Approval be given for the making of the City of Coventry (Penruddock Drive and Bouchier Close) (Waiting Restrictions) Order 2015 as advertised.

(2) Approval be given to introduce a residents parking scheme in Penruddock Drive and Bourchier Close.

55. City Centre Maintenance Operation Update

Further to Minutes 40 and 42/14, the Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place which provided an update on the insourcing of the City Centre maintenance operation to the Council's Streetpride Service from 1st April, 2015.

The report highlighted that substantial costs savings and operational benefits would be realised by insourcing the maintenance operation and informed of the communications and the TUPE transfer arrangements for all the Landscape Group employees who were transferring to the Council.

From 1st April the City Centre maintenance operation transferred to the Council's Streetpride Service with the exception of highway repair and maintenance elements which were now undertaken directly by the Council's Highways Department. The report detailed all the works undertaken by the service. In accordance with Council policy all the transferred employees assimilated to a minimum of the living wage rate which represented a pay increase for most of the staff, who were also offered the opportunity to access the Council's pension scheme.

Since the transfer the Street pride team had continued to deliver high standards of cleansing and grounds maintenance works and had recently won the Heart of England in Bloom Gold in the large city category and were overall category winners. There were also significant improvements in the team's ability to be able to respond to adhoc and emergency work requests. The team were also actively involved with supporting the public realm improvement works.

The Cabinet Member was informed that it was anticipated that the 20% saving target of £200,000 attached to the insourcing of the contract would be achieved. Reference was also made to proposed review of the city centre operation following the completion of the current Streetpride and Greenspace service review.

Councillor Lancaster placed on record her thanks to all employees involved in the successful transfer process and for all their work to support the service.

RESOLVED that:

(1) The actions taken by officers to support employees and affect the smooth successful transfer and implementation of the City Centre operation be noted.

(2) The continued achievement of high standards of maintenance and the continued efforts to improve standards of maintenance within the City Centre be noted.

(3) The full delivery of the service within the budgetary targets and anticipated achievement of the 2015/16 (£200,000) operational budgetary savings be noted.

(4) The proposal to review the City Centre Operation once the Streetpride and Greenspace restructure has been fully implemented be agreed.

(5) The Executive Director of Place be requested to bring back a further report to a future Cabinet Member meeting providing an update on the City Centre Review transfer process and seeks approval for future maintenance standards.

56. Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place concerning the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) which had been developed over the last two years. A copy of the strategy was set out at an appendix to the report.

The report indicated that this was a key strategy required by the Council in its role of Lead Local Flood Authority and set out how the Council would manage and deal with flooding whenever it occurred in the city. Extensive consultation had taken place with strategic partners including the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water. Publication of the strategy was a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The strategy complimented the City Centre Action Plan and the Local Plan. It was supported by a further key document, the Surface Water Management Plan, which was currently the subject of consultation.

The strategy focussed on the following seven key objectives:

- Collaborative working
- Understanding local flood risk
- Opportunities for natural and historic environmental enhancements
- Supporting communities

- Engaging with riparian owners
- Managing local flood risk through sustainable development policies and practices
- An economic and sustainable approach to managing flood risk.

It was acknowledged that a final typographical check of the document was required prior to publication.

RESOLVED that:

(1) The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be approved for publication.

(2) The Strategy be accepted as the Council's key policy to deal with flood risk.

57. Outstanding Issues

The Cabinet Member noted a report of the Executive Director of Resources which contained a list of outstanding issues and summarised the current position in respect of each item.

58. Any other items of Public Business

There were no additional items of public business

(Meeting closed at 10.30 am)