

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

**Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development
Committee**

Meeting held 11 September 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Cate McDonald (Chair), Ian Auckland (Deputy Chair), Alison Brelsford, Jayne Dunn, Ibrar Hussain, George Lindars-Hammond, Tim Rippon, Keith Hill (Substitute Member), Pat Midgley (Substitute Member) and Geoff Smith (Substitute Member)

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received and substitutes attended the meeting as follows:-

Apology

Substitute

Councillor Trevor Bagshaw
Councillor Terry Fox
Councillor Steve Jones
Councillor Joe Otten

No Substitute nominated
Councillor Geoff Smith
Councillor Pat Midgley
Councillor Keith Hill

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of meeting of the Committee held on 10th July 2013, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom:-

- (a) in response to a query from Councillor Ian Auckland, the Chair stated that there had been regular contact between Council and Amey officers and Councillor Jack Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene, and Northern Powergrid following the concerns raised regarding the standard and timescales in respect of repairs to street lights, and that she believed that arrangements had been made for signs to be fixed to street lights, indicating that any works connected to power failures were the responsibility of Northern Powergrid, and not the Council or Amey;
- (b) in response to a query from Councillor Ibrar Hussain, relating to the timescales in respect of works undertaken by Northern Powergrid in terms of repairs to street lights, the Chair stated that, as agreed at the meeting, a

further update on the Streets Ahead Project would be provided at a future Committee meeting, with a review being undertaken during this period on Northern Powergrid's performance, and if it was found there had been no improvements, that Company's Chief Executive, or representative, would be invited to a meeting of this Committee to explain the Company's performance; and

- (c) the Chair stated that, as requested at the meeting, a Task and Finish Group had been established, details of which would be reported later on in the meeting.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

- 5.1 There were no questions raised or petitions submitted by members of the public.

6. INQUIRY ON CYCLING IN SHEFFIELD

- 6.1 The Policy and Improvement Officer submitted a report containing an update on, and proposals with regard to, the Inquiry on Cycling in Sheffield. The report indicated that, following the decision of the Committee at its last meeting, a Task and Finish Group had been established to guide the work in between full meetings of the Committee, with some initial work already having been undertaken, and the report contained, as appendices, draft Terms of Reference for the Inquiry, questions for the Call of Evidence and an indicative list of stakeholders to be consulted as part of the Inquiry.

6.2 Overview of Presentations

The Committee received the following presentations:-

6.2.1 Transport Planning

- (a) John Bann, Head of Transport, Traffic and Parking Services, reported on:-

- The City's Cycling Action Plan 2006/11
- Local Transport Plan 3
- Sheffield's Transport Vision
- The facts and statistics regarding cycling in Sheffield, including pedal cycle casualties and how the City compared nationally
- Offer to cyclists in terms of what was available in the City
- Improvements to the City's cycling infrastructure, together with details of planned projects
- The short and long-term benefits of the Tour De France in 2014.

- (b) Members of the Committee raised questions and the following responses were provided:-

- The Task and Finish Group had agreed that part of the Inquiry would include an open Call for Evidence from anyone or any organisation with an interest in

cycling in Sheffield.

- Copies of the Cycle Action Plan 2006/11, together with details of the outcomes against targets, in the Plan, would be circulated to all Members of the Committee.
- Whilst Brook Hill Roundabout had been identified as particularly difficult for cyclists to navigate, it was generally lengths of road where accident rates were higher than the norm, as opposed to specific hot spot areas. Ecclesall Road had been identified as one of these stretches of road, due mainly to the high level of traffic movement, as well as more cyclists using this stretch of road.
- As part of the Bikeability Scheme, Pedal Ready, using Government funding, provided training for children in schools across the City. The training was generally targeted at Y6 pupils, in preparation for when they attended secondary school.

(c) The following comments were also made:-

- In the light of the statistics regarding the number of cycle journeys made in Bristol, officers need to look at why such figures are so high, as well as looking at what other cities across Europe were doing in terms of best practice, in order to inform the work of the Inquiry.
- As part of the output targets in the Cycling Action Plan, all highway schemes over £50,000 should be subject to a cycle audit.
- Council Planning Officers received very little or no training on implementation of cycling schemes.
- There were many very good cycle routes in the City, but some had become degraded and consideration needed to be given to maintaining or upgrading such routes, where possible.
- The Council should look at the possibility of providing facilities for bike parking in residential areas, particularly as part of new residential developments.

6.2.2 Place Public Health Team

- (a) Dawn Lockley, Health Improvement Principal, Place Public Health Team, gave a presentation on the health benefits of cycling, referring to the importance and health benefits of being physically active. In part, she referred specifically to the health, and wider benefits of cycling, to health and wellbeing, as well as the risks and statistics regarding cycling accidents in Sheffield.
- (b) Members of the Committee raised questions and the following responses were provided by Dawn Lockley and Sheila Paul, Consultant in Public Health:-

- A new Physical Activity Referral Programme had been funded and this included providing target groups with access to forms of physical activity to help build physical activity, including cycling, into daily lives. Other opportunities included enabling cycling through the Streets Ahead Project. It was highlighted that the Council now had health and wellbeing responsibilities and that also, in the past, the Primary Care Trust (PCT)/NHS had funded a number of cycling-related initiatives, including disability bikes, as well as helping to fund facilities for cycle parking outside some GP practices. The current Sheffield Move Campaign, part of the Olympics legacy work, linked to the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine, was also highlighted as a call for action to get the population moving through physical activity, including cycling.
- It was highlighted that there was evidence from some areas to support the belief that cycle accident levels reduced when there were more cyclists on the roads as drivers got used to seeing them and therefore, became more aware of them.
- The data in terms of cycle and vehicle collisions was only as good as what was reported by either the cyclist, driver or third party. It was suggested that the data held by the Police in terms of cycle and vehicle collisions was not of high quality and, in response to a query regarding hospital recording of cycle accidents via Accident and Emergency, it was noted that a current study underway at the University of Sheffield had proved that there had been more cycle accidents than had actually been recorded.
- There was evidence to show that the new street lighting, installed as part of the Streets Ahead Project, made it much safer for cyclists.

6.2.3 Design and Planning

- (a) Maria Duffy, Interim Head of Planning, reported on the design and planning aspects of cycling in the City, stating that cycling was a fundamental part of the Council reaching its vision in respect of a sustainable City, in terms of improving air quality, promoting health benefits, reducing congestion and improving the economy. She referred to the Sheffield Local Plan (formerly the Sheffield Development Framework), which was the statutory development plan for the whole of the Sheffield area, and which two parts included the Core Strategy and the Unitary Development Plan (UDP), which would shortly be replaced by the City Policies and Sites document and Proposals Map. The UDP provided support for the development of cycling in Sheffield and many of the transport policies in the UDP had now been superseded by the Core Strategy. Ms Duffy referred briefly to the remaining 'saved' policies which were relevant to cycling, and which had been reviewed as part of the development of the Local Plan City Policies and Sites document.
- (b) Members of the Committee raised questions and the following responses were provided:-

- Whilst it may not be practical or reasonable to request landlords of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) to provide facilities for cyclists, such as parking and storage, the Committee could look at this, as part of the work on the Inquiry, in terms of working with the Universities, regarding the properties they rent, as well as looking at the design of new HMOs. If such conditions were placed in connection with the construction of any new HMOs and if such conditions were not adhered to, the Council could take relevant enforcement action.
- It was accepted that cyclists could get frustrated by anomalies and inconsistencies, together with the lack of continuation, in terms of cycle routes in the City, but such problems generally occurred as the Council did not own all the land to allow for such routes to continue unobstructed.

(c) The following comments were also made:-

- There were some very good examples of cycle links in the City and the Committee needed to look, as part of the Inquiry, at how existing cycle routes could be linked up as best as possible. The Council needed to work with Amey to look at whether works could be undertaken to link up cycle routes as part of the Streets Ahead Project.
- There were several cycle routes through the City Centre to outlying areas, where cyclists would not have to travel on a road.
- In other cities in Europe, such as Amsterdam, there was very clear signage as to where cyclists could or could not cycle, and this needed to be given consideration as part of the Inquiry.

6.3 **Draft Terms of Reference, Questions for the Call of Evidence and Indicative Stakeholders List**

6.3.1 Members gave consideration to the draft Terms of Reference, Questions for the Call of Evidence and the indicative List of Stakeholders, and made the following comments:-

- Need to look at the social and economic backgrounds of cyclists in the City.
- As well as looking at the barriers that stopped people cycling, existing cyclists would be asked what barriers prevented them from cycling more.
- Consideration needed to be given, in the light of the relatively short timescale with regard to the consultation, to the meeting cycles of the groups and organisations on the indicative List of Stakeholders.
- A link could be sent to the groups and individuals, enabling them to submit their views electronically.

- The list of stakeholders should include Sheffield College, University Technical College, Amey, City Council's Highway Maintenance and 50+ Sheffield.
- Mick Nott, Cycle Sheffield, offered to provide Members of the Committee a cycling tour of Sheffield.

6.4 RESOLVED: That this Committee:-

- (a) notes the information now reported as part of the overview presentations, the contents of the report of the Policy and Improvement Officer and the comments now made; and
- (b) agrees:-
 - (i) the draft Terms of Reference for the Inquiry on Cycling in Sheffield, the questions for the Call for Evidence and the indicative List of Stakeholders, as attached to the report now submitted, subject to the amendments and suggestions now raised; and
 - (ii) to delegate authority to the Chair of the Committee to decide which individuals and organisation should be invited to the meeting to be held on 11th December 2013, to provide oral evidence as part of the Inquiry.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 7.1 It was noted that future meetings of the Committee would be held on (a) Friday, 4th October 2013, at 1.15 pm, in the Town Hall (Call-in of the Cabinet decision regarding Cobnar Cottage, Graves Park) and (b) Wednesday, 9th October 2013, at 4.30 pm, in the Town Hall (Scheduled Meeting).