

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 9TH JANUARY, 2007

Present – Councillors J. Byrne (Chairman), Peel (Vice-Chairman), Dennis, Hayes, Hollick, Hornby, Lever, R. Silvester and J. Walsh.

Also in attendance

Mr. P. Molyneux	-	Assistant Director of Environmental Services
Mr. J. Evans	-	Head of Highway Management
Mr. T. Bullock	-	Group Engineer
Mr. A.J. Watts	-	Engineering Section Strategic Transport Manager
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Councillor J. Byrne in the Chair.

23. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 12th December, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

24. BOLTON TOWN CENTRE TRANSPORT STRATEGY HIGHWAY PROPOSALS – NORTH EAST SECTOR OF THE TOWN CENTRE

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which advised Members of proposed changes to the highway infrastructure in the North East Sector of Bolton Town Centre. The report also proposed the adoption of a Highways Policy Note for the area.

By way of background information, the report explained that on 26th April, 2005 the Executive Member for Environmental Services had adopted the Bolton Town Centre Transport Strategy as part of the wider Bolton Town Centre Action Framework. Since then the strategy had been used as a basis to:-

- Identify projects to be included in the Highways Capital Programme; and
- Provide information for local Search and Planning Control Purposes.

Members were informed that the Strategy had now been published, work had been completed on the Car Parking Strategy and work had also started on planning and programming the necessary Highway Infrastructure works. The Town Centre had been divided into sectors for this purpose and these were shown on plan number 931058/003. The report explained that a Highways

Policy Note would be developed for each area and brought forward for approval.

The report went on to indicate that the Council had been invited to submit and bid for funding from the Quality Bus Corridor Top Slice Programme in September, 2006 and was notified of the success of the bid in November, 2006. The initial design was then able to be commenced. Unfortunately, it was not possible to commence on site until the summer of 2007. This would mean that construction of the scheme would have to continue during the Christmas/New Year period of 2007/08.

Members were also informed of proposals to complete the St. Peters Way on-slip road before any traffic management changes were introduced to the North East Sector. This would allow the existing signals at St. Peters Way/Topp Way Junction to be rephased to reduce the impact of the interim proposals for the North East Area.

Appended to the report was a copy of the document which proposed the Bolton Town Centre Transport Strategy Highway Proposals for the North East Sector of the Town Centre.

The current problems associated with accessing Silverwell Street from Bradshaw Gate were mentioned and the one way access along Princess Street. It was indicated that these issues would be looked at in detail in the near future.

In their deliberations Members referred to the following matters:-

- whether the long term proposal for a left turn only from Crown Street on to Bow Street could be made a short term proposal;
- problems associated with the right turn out of Topp Way on to St Peter's Way which involved a move from two lanes to three;
- the reasons for making St George's Road one way in the future; and
- the future use of St Peter's Way and the capacity of Bradford Street.

It was agreed that the Executive Member for Environmental Services be recommended to:-

- (i) Approve the proposals for the North East Sector as described in Highway Policy Note A21 101 (06), for further**

consultance with GMPTE and the bus operators; and

- (ii) Note the proposals for further changes in the future to implement the full Bolton Town Centre Transport Strategy Bus Gyratory and associated Highway Proposals.**

25. MOSS BANK WAY/TEMPLE ROAD – CHANGES TO JUNCTION LAYOUT

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which informed Members of proposed changes to the junction layout at Moss Bank Way/Temple Road.

The report indicated that revisions to the junction of the A58 Moss Bank Way/Temple Way were in connection with the development of housing on land off Temple Road.

Members were advised that further survey work and consultation was undertaken and it was now proposed to improve the awareness of drivers of the junction through new road markings and signing in such a way as to prevent the occurrence of future accidents.

The report also stated that the current developer had agreed to fund the scheme via a Section 278 Agreement and it was hoped that implementation would take place in 2007/08.

The drawing attached to the report, 313013/09, illustrated the proposed Junction Layout.

Members expressed some concern that traffic emanating from the Astley Bridge area in the vicinity of this junction would not accede to the 30 mph speed limit.

It was agreed that -

- (i) The Executive Member for Environmental Services be recommended to approve the proposed improvements to road markings and signing at the Moss Bank Way/Temple Road Junction as shown on drawing number 313013/09, for implementation under the terms of a Section 278 Agreement and the situation be monitored thereon; and**
- (ii) The possibility of installing illuminous speed limit warning signs in this area be explored.**

(The Meeting started at 5.00 p.m. and finished at 6.16 p.m.)