

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 10TH JANUARY, 2011

Present – Councillors Darvesh (Vice-Chairman), P. Allen (as deputy for Councillor A. Walsh), Cottam, Critchley, Mrs Fairclough, Peel, J. Rothwell (as deputy for Councillor D. Wilkinson), Sherrington (as deputy for Councillor Zaman).

The following members of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer PDG were in attendance for item 34 (Strategic Resource Options 2011/12):

Councillors A. Connell (as deputy for Councillor Bashir –Ismail), Chadwick, Critchley, Mrs Fairclough, Peel, J. Rothwell.

Also in Attendance

Mr M. Cox	-	Director of Environmental Services
Mr. M. Veigas	-	Assistant Director, Community Services
Mr. S. Young	-	Assistant Director, Highways and Business Support
Mr J. Kelly	-	Head of Highways and Engineering Development Services
Mr I. Taylor	-	Head of Parking Services
Ms S. Jackson	-	Operations and Performance Manager, Parking Services
Mr J. Davies	-	Senior Engineering Manager, Transportation and Road Safety
Ms J. Pollard	-	Policy Accountant
Mrs S Bailey	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bashir – Ismail, Morgan, Pickup, A. Walsh, D. Wilkinson and Zaman (Chairman).

Councillor Darvesh (Vice–Chairman) in the Chair

33. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Group held on 13th December, 2010 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

34. STRATEGIC BUDGET REPORT – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – 2011/12 TO 2015/16

A joint report of the Directors of Environmental Services and Corporate Resources was submitted which set out details of the proposed Environmental

Services Strategic Budget 2011/2012 to 2015/2016.

The report represented the final stage of the Corporate Business Planning Process for 2011/12 and outlined the revenue budget for the Environmental Services Department. In addition, the report included the Capital Programme bid for the period 2011/12 to 2015/16 and information relating to the Department's staffing establishment.

The report explained that the Executive Member had considered reports on 26th and 27th July, 2010 and 22nd and 23rd November, 2010 regarding the savings and efficiency options relating to the Environmental Services Department. The report had identified demand led growth requirements and options available to meet corporate financial guidance.

The report advised that since that report was presented, the Authority had received its financial settlement. Further corporate guidance would be issued.

The proposed Revenue Budget for Environmental Services Department, prior to the implementation of strategic redirection options, amounted to £31,088,000. Table one of the report provided an objective analysis of the budget with the information analysed by Standard Spending Accounts, Trading Accounts, Markets and unapportionable overheads.

The report went on to outline the Strategic Resource Bid for 2011/12. Appendix C to the report provided an analysis of proposed redirections which amounted to £2,305,000, as follows:-

STRATEGIC BUDGET REDIRECTIONS

Division	Description of Option	FTE Change	£'000
Efficiency Options			
Waste and Fleet Management	Joint Transport and Authority Working	0	90
		0	90
Policy and Performance	Management of Cash Limited Budgets	0	50
		0	50
Community Services	Social Needs Transport Review	0	25
		0	25
Total	Total Efficiency Options	0	165

Increase in Fees and Charges			
Community Services	Income Optimisation	0	75
		0	75
Total Increase in Fees and Charges		0	75
Service Redirections			
Highways and Engineering	Full Service Review	-68	1,370
		-68	1,370
Neighbourhood Services	Full Service Review	-80	605
		-80	605
Waste and Fleet Management	Suspension of Green Waste	-9	90
		-9	90
Total Service Redirections		-157	2,065
Total Strategic Redirections		-157	2,305

The proposed strategic budget for the Environmental Services Department, incorporating the redirection target, amounted to £28,783,000. Details of the efficiency savings, increases in fees and charges and services redirections were also provided.

Appendix A to the report outlined a detailed variance of analysis of changes between the original budget for 2010/11 and the proposed budget for 2011/12.

Appendix B to the report provided a summary subjective analysis of the budget.

Appendix D to the report detailed the Department's Capital Programme Bid which amounted to £6,361,000 in the 2011/2012 Financial Year.

Appendix E to the report provided information relating to the current staffing establishment of the Department.

The report concluded that a net budget of £29,665,000 for the Environmental Services Department was proposed before the adoption of strategic redirections and £28,231,000 following the implementation of strategic options totalling £1,434,000.

A further report would be shared with members if additional options needed to be found.

It was agreed that the Executive Members for Environmental Services and Cleaner, Greener, Safer be recommended to agree the proposed Revenue Budget of £31,088,000 prior to the adoption of strategic options and to approve the strategic redirection options outlined in Appendix C to the report totalling £2,305,000 which would result in the Strategic Budget amounting to £28,783,000.

35. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided an update on Civil Parking Enforcement activity over the past twelve months.

The report reminded members that enforcement was a vital component in the Council's overall Transport Strategy and played an important role in terms of implementing the Council's parking policies to ensure the highways were free from congestion, traffic levels were managed and that parking spaces were fairly distributed.

The report described the current enforcement principles, policies and procedures including details of the appeals/complaints and adjudication processes.

The report also highlighted the following:

- cancellation of penalty charge notices and reasons why;
- other data concerning freedom of information requests, customer calls, income recovery, incoming mail and cases reviewed and the outcomes;
- legal issues;
- public relations; and
- Dispensations and suspensions of parking bays.

The report also reminded members that Head Cameras had been been deployed on the Bolton Contract since October, 2009 and outlined the positive impact this had made on the service overall.

The report also described the use of the CCTV Vehicle which had been deployed on designated routes around the Town. It was currently being used to enforce bus stop clearways, school keep clears, single and double yellow lines, taxi ranks and loading restrictions. This had proved to be an effective form of

enforcement as a PCN could be issued by post and since its introduction, there had been a notable increase in the number of vehicles being issued with notices for contraventions of parking regulations.

With regard to bus lane enforcement, the report advised that this would commence during 2011 and the Council was currently in the process of installing the necessary enforcement software.

The report also provided details of developments in:

- coach parking provision;
- resident parking;
- school keep clears;
- footway parking;
- tender of the Enforcement and Bailiff Tender; and
- a review of the staffing establishment of Parking Services.

The report further advised that the Traffic Management Act 2004 placed a requirement on local authorities to produce an annual report regarding enforcement activities and other financial, statistical and other data including parking or civil parking enforcement targets. It was proposed that some of the details included in this report be used for this purpose.

Following consideration of the report, members discussed various issues. It was felt that the use of the Smart car around the Trinity Street train station would be helpful as this area had regular disregard for the traffic regulations in place, particularly parking on double yellow lines.

It was agreed that the annual report be noted.

36. REVIEW A6 BLACKROD BYPASS/STATION ROAD JUNCTION

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which:

- (a) outlined the ongoing safety issues and contravention of Traffic Regulation Orders at the junction of the A6 Blackrod Bypass and Station Road; and
- (b) put forward various options for the consideration and comment of members to improve the junction.

In this regard, the report set out the background to the current layout of the A6 Blackrod Bypass/Station Road junction which had been amended in 2005 to improve its safety. Measures had included an early start right turn for traffic turning from the bypass in a north easterly direction into Station Road and a Traffic Regulation Order which banned the South West bound right turn from the bypass into Station Road was also introduced.

The report went to advise that despite the measures, the road collision history for the junction showed that there had been 13 incidents resulting in 29 casualties. Of the 13 incidents, 8 had involved vehicles turning right contrary to the Order. It was unclear why this was happening as the sign advising of no right turn had been implemented to a higher degree than guidance prescribed.

Consequently, the report went on to outline options for possible alterations to the junction, as detailed in Table 1 to the report. In summary, these were as follows:

Option A – existing junction layout with enhanced road markings and signage;

Option B – Closure of Station Road at junction;

Options C and D – alterations to traffic signal phasing.

Drawings of each option together with the associated costs were outlined in the report. It was noted that there was no funding identified for any alterations to the junction and if any were proposed, they would have to be entered into the Local Road Safety/Minor Works Capital Programme.

The views of members were sought on the options.

Members discussed the options at length and noted the constraints on funding. It was felt that further discussions should take place with Blackrod and Horwich Town Councils and consultation with the Area Forum to seek views. A report on the findings should be submitted to a future meeting of this PDG.

It was agreed that further consultations on the options for the junction of the A6 Blackrod/Station Road be undertaken with Blackrod and Horwich Town Councils and the Area Forum, and that a report on the findings be submitted to a future meeting of this Group.

(The meeting started at 10.30am and finished at 11.30am)

