

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Environmental Services on:-

**MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2012**

following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

Councillor Zaman	Executive Member for Environmental Services
Councillor Mrs Fairclough	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor D. Wilkinson	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Mr S. Young	Assistant Director of Environmental Services, Highways and Business Development
Mr. M. Veigas	Assistant Director of Environmental Services, Community Services
Mr. J. Kelly	Head of Service Highways Department
Mr. B. Catterall	Senior Engineering Manager, Asset Management
Mr. P. Bolton	Security Services Manager
Mr. D. Shepherd	Senior Group Accountant
Mrs. S. Bailey	Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **58. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Director of Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous

meetings of the Executive Member.

**The Executive Member NOTED the report.**

## **59. GREATER MANCHESTER ROAD ACTIVITY PERMIT SCHEME**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which updated the Executive Member on the progress of the implementation of the joint Permit Scheme for Greater Manchester (GMRAPS) and outlined the staffing arrangements that would be required in order to facilitate the operation of the new scheme within Bolton.

The Executive Member was reminded that in September, 2009, Greater Manchester Network Management Group had agreed to pursue a Joint Permit Scheme. Work had commenced on the project in December 2009 and involved all 10 Highway Authorities of Greater Manchester. The aims were to:

- create a Unique Joint Scheme;
- design a Single Register for all Greater Manchester; and
- build a New Collaborative Service Centre hosted within Transport for Greater Manchester.

At present, permits came under Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and undertakers, namely Utility companies, had statutory rights to dig up streets under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1999. Introduction of the permits would bring fundamental changes. These included:

- the need for all to apply for a Permit; and
- the requirement for Utilities to pay a Fee, which would be capped.

The report outlined how the permits would be granted, how fees would be charged, expected income and how the income would be distributed between the authorities.

The report went on to outline the staffing requirements for Greater Manchester to operate the Utility Permit Scheme. Table 3 of the report gave an illustration of the estimated staffing levels required to deliver the 24 key tasks and meet the required standards within the prescribed timescales across the 10 GM authorities.

With regard to delivery of the new duties within Bolton, the report proposed a redesign of the current Street Works area within Highways and Engineering Delivery services. This would involve the creation of a multi-functional Permit/Street Works/Activities/Utility Coring/Highway Licence Coordination Team. Full details of the proposed staffing structure for the Team were provided in Table 5 of the report.

The function of the new Permit/Street Works Team would be to consider and coordinate all Public Utilities activities, Street Works, Highway Licences and Utility Core Sampling on the highway network, processing those applications within the specified timescales. Over the longer term, the operating model for GMRAPS would continue to be reviewed and adjustments made accordingly with the agreement of all 10 GM authorities.

With regard to timescales, it was anticipated that the GMRAPS would be fully implemented by July, 2012 although system trials and the necessary staff training would need to be undertaken during the 3 months prior together with the appointment of the necessary staff. It was hoped that Bolton would be one of the first of the GM authorities to implement the Permit Scheme.

**The Executive Member APPROVED, subject to the approval of the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity –**

**The staffing proposals contained within the report now submitted.**

## **60. BOLTON TOWN CENTRE TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which put forward the updated Town Centre Transport Strategy for the five year period from 2012 to 2017 for consideration and approval.

The report outlined the progress made to date in delivering the Strategy and put forward a number of additional principles for inclusion in the updated Strategy:

- extension of the Public Realm improvements to meet further development needs;
- development of further use of Intelligent Transport Systems;
- continuing to improve Town Centre signage; and
- publishing an updated version of the Transport Strategy on the internet.

It was recommended that the Executive Member approve the original principles contained within the report together with the addition of the new principles to guide the Strategy forward.

**The Executive Member NOTED the progress made in delivering the Bolton Town Centre Transport Strategy and APPROVED –**

- (i) The original principles of the Town Centre Transport Strategy remaining unchanged and that the Council extends it further by the addition of the extra principles outlined in the report now submitted; and**
- (ii) The update of the Town Centre Master Plan to recognise known changes to Town Centre development proposals; and**
- (iii) The development of Transport Sector Plans for Regeneration Areas including the introduction of protected highway alignments.**

**61 CRESCENT ROAD/RAMWELLS CLOSE, BOLTON – PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS (TRAFFIC ORDER 303702) - OBJECTIONS**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which commented on objections received in response to an advertised Traffic Regulation Order to introduce waiting restrictions on Crescent Road and Ramswell Close.

The report outlined the reasons for the objections and gave a response to them.

**The Executive Member APPROVED –**

**The Traffic Regulation to introduce waiting restrictions on Crescent Road/Ramwells Close, as originally advertised and in accordance with the map appended to the report.**

**62. ST GEORGES AVENUE/THE PEWFIST,  
WESTHOUGHTON – PROPOSED TRAFFIC ORDERS  
(TRAFFIC ORDER 303707) – OBJECTIONS**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which commented on objections and expressions of support received in response to an advertised Traffic Regulation Order to introduce waiting restrictions on St Georges Avenue/The Pewfist, Westhoughton.

The report outlined the reasons for the objections received and provided details of the expressions of support.

In light of the objections received, the report recommended that the originally advertised waiting restriction proposals be confirmed, with deletions on both sides of St Georges Avenue to the east of The Pewfist, as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

The Executive Member, after consideration of the options presented and opinions of Ward Members, agreed to amend the proposal to those included on drawing 303706/6, with the exception of the extent of the reduction of the restriction on the east side of St George's Avenue, opposite the school entrance. This would be curtailed from the south to the northern boundary of No 141 only.

**The Executive Member APPROVED –**

- (i) **Implementation of waiting restrictions on St Georges Avenue/The Pewfist, in accordance with drawing 303706/6, with the exception of the extent of the reduction of the restriction on the east side of St George's Avenue, opposite the school entrance, this being curtailed from the south to the northern boundary of No. 141 St George's Avenue only.**
- (ii) **That the Director of Chief Executive's Department be authorised to make the amended order.**

**63. HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME ONE - OFF FUNDING 2012**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which outlined proposals for the allocation of an additional one off sum of £1m from the Executive to address the deterioration of the roads following the severe winter weather.

The report advised the Executive Member that the impact of this year's severe winter weather on the Council's road network, the Executive had authorised a one - off allocation to be made available to the Environmental Services Department to minimise the impact on road users and the community.

An indicative programme of works was attached to the report at Appendix A which had been developed from the latest available asset intelligence supported by engineering judgement. It focused on the Council's strategic classified network and busy arterial roads including bus and gritting routes.

It was proposed that the funding should be allocated as follows:

- £436k – partial reconstruction/resurfacing
- £364k – surface dressing/micro asphalt processes
- £200k – pothole/minor repairs

**The Executive Member APPROVED –**

**The additional £1m highway maintenance programme to address deterioration as a result of the severe winter weather, as outlined in Appendix A to the report.**

**64 TUPE TRANSFER AT FIRWOOD, TONGE MOOR, SHARPLES CP, SPINDLE POINT AND ST JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which sought approval for the transfer of staff under TUPE arrangements in respect of:

- the cleaning contracts at Tonge Moor, Sharples CP and Spindle Point schools – alternative providers ad been appointed;
- the cleaning and school meals service at Firwood School which would transfer to St Catherine's Academy with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2012; and
- St Joseph's School Meals Services was going in-house with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2012.

Approval was sought to transfer the 23 members of cleaning and catering staff affected to the new companies under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity at her meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.

**The Executive Member APPROVED –**

**The TUPE transfer of staff to the employment of alternative service providers, as detailed in the report now submitted.**

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

**The background papers and reports in relation to the following item were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act**

**1972 and that it be deemed that, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.**

**65. PROPOSED CARETAKER /PORTER STAFF  
ESTABLISHMENT RE-STRUCTURE**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which outlined proposals to restructure the Caretaker/Porter Establishment within the Community Services Division of the Environmental Services Department to achieve a more effective and efficient use of staffing resources in line with Corporate Property Services savings and efficiencies.

The report provided details of the existing staffing structure together with the proposed new operational arrangements and staffing establishment. Relevant job descriptions were appended to the report.

An Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken in respect of the proposals, a copy of which was appended to the report. The Executive Member took account of this when making his decision.

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity at her meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2012.

**The Executive Member APPROVED, subject to the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity –**

**The proposals contained within the report for consultation purposes with the relevant trades unions and staff.**