

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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

MONDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY, 2011

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

Councillor Zaman	Executive Member for Environmental Services
Councillor Critchley	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor D. Wilkinson	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. M. Veigas	Assistant Director
Mr. J. Kelly	Head of Highways and Engineering
Mr. K. Roberts	Head of Service and Community Services
Mr B. Catterall	Senior Engineering Manager
Ms. J. Pollard	Policy Accountant
Mrs. S. Bailey	Principal Democratic Services Officer

64. 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.

65. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2010/11 – QUARTER THREE

A joint report of the Directors of Environmental Services and Corporate Resources was submitted which provided information with regard to the financial position of the Environmental Services Department as at the end of Quarter Three of the 2010/11 Financial Year.

Revenue expenditure was projected to exceed the budget by £562,000.

With regard to reserves, the Department had budgeted to use reserves of £64,000.

The main variances in the Revenue Budget were largely due to Bolmoor and Highways.

Capital expenditure totalled £8.647 million against a programme of £24.864 million. This followed the reduction to the 2010/11 capital programme agreed by Executive in the 2010/11 – Review of Capital Programme on 26 July 2010.

With regard to reserves, the Department's projected deficit reserve position at 31st March 2011 was £1,933,000. Detailed repayment plans were included within the report.

Budgeted efficiency savings for the department were £892,000 which included demand led of £200,000 to repay the deficit reserve. The current projection was to achieve all planned efficiencies.

Specific areas of financial risk related to loss of income due to the economic downturn, reduction in grant funding and the potential increase in fuel costs.

The Executive Member NOTED the financial position of the Department at Quarter Three and ENDORSED –

The repayment plan in respect of the Department's deficit reserves.

66. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD – QUARTER 3

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided information in respect of the performance of the

Environmental Services Department as at Quarter 3 of the 201/11 Financial Year.

The report provided information in the following areas:

- cleanliness;
- parks and open spaces;
- enforcement;
- events;
- customer feedback;
- awards;
- telephony; and
- local nature reserves.

The report also provided details of actions that would be taken to improve performance in certain areas.

The Executive Member NOTED the key findings of the report and SUPPORTED –

The improvement actions to improve performance in 2010/11.

67. BACK VERNON STREET – SECTION 278 SCHEME

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which sought approval for improvements and alterations to the public highway to facilitate a housing development on Vernon Street and to amend the Council's standard Section 278 Agreement to allow the work to be undertaken by a contractor appointed by the developer.

The report advised the Executive Member that planning permission had been granted in October, 2010 for the erection of eleven three bedroom properties on Vernon Street. Attached to the permission were conditions requiring the developer to widen and improve the condition of Back Vernon Street together with alterations to its junction with Davenport Street and Wadsley Street.

Details of the improvements and alterations were outlined in the report and a map showing the proposed layout was appended to the report. The works would be undertaken under close supervision of the Highway Authority.

The developer would meet all the Council's costs relating to the implementation of works.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

(i) The proposed improvements and alterations to the public highway to facilitate the development on land adjacent to Vernon Street, as detailed on drawing 317059-02 appended to the report; and

(ii) The amendment to the Council's standard Section 278 Agreement to allow the work to be undertaken by a contractor appointed by the developer.

68. STONESTEADS DRIVE, BOLTON – PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS (TRAFFIC ORDER 303679) - OBJECTIONS

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which commented on objections and support received in response to an advertised Traffic Regulation Order to introduce waiting restrictions on Stonesteads Drive, Stonesteads Way and Ramwells Brow.

The Executive Member was reminded that the proposals were put forward in response to concerns expressed by Ariva and GMPTE that access for buses into, along and away from Stonesteads Drive was regularly impeded by parked vehicles, particularly at school opening and closing times.

The report went on to provide details of the objections and support received. The main objectors were concerned at the loss of parking on Stonesteads Way and Ramwells Brow for some residents who did not have off the road parking. The main support was that the proposals would greatly improve access for buses.

The report advised that in response to the objections raised, it was proposed to defer proposals for Stonesteads Way and Ramwells Brow pending further observations. However, the report recommended approval of the originally advertised restrictions on Stonesteads Drive.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

(i) The originally advertised proposals for Waiting Restrictions on Stonesteads Drive; and

(ii) Deferral of the proposals in relation to Stonesteads Way and Ramwells Brow pending further observations.

69. DERBY STREET, BOLTON – AMENDMENTS TO BUS LANE (TRAFFIC ORDER 303680) - OBJECTIONS

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which commented on objections received in response to an advertised Traffic Regulation Order to amend the operative hours of the bus lane, and associated waiting/loading restrictions, and to remove a section of the bus lane.

The report reminded the Executive Member of the current operating times of the bus lane and outlined the proposed changes which would involve lengthening the hours of operation of the lane in order to standardise operating times throughout Greater Manchester and the removal of a short section of inbound bus lane between University Way and Moor Lane due to road safety issues.

The report commented on the objections received and gave a response to them.

Notwithstanding the objections, the report recommended implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order as originally advertised.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

The implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order on Derby Street, as originally advertised, and that the Director of Chief Executive's Department be authorised to make the Order.

70. ST HELENS ROAD, BOLTON – AMENDMENTS TO BUS LANE (TRAFFIC ORDER 303677) - OBJECTIONS

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which commented on objections received in response to an advertised Traffic Regulation Order to amend the operative hours of the bus lane and associated waiting/loading restrictions on St Helens Road.

The report reminded the Executive Member that the Traffic Regulation Order had been proposed in order to standardise the operational times of all bus lanes within Greater Manchester in order to give clarity to drivers on usage times and to provide consistency for the future regional Local Authority enforcement.

The report detailed the basis of the objections and commented on them. Notwithstanding the objections, the report recommended approval of the Order.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

The implementation of the Traffic Order on St Helens Road, as originally advertised.

71. GREATER MANCHESTER ROAD ACTIVITY PERMIT SCHEME

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided details of proposals by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities to introduce a joint permit scheme for the whole of Greater Manchester in relation to road and highway works.

By way of background information, the Executive Member was advised that in September 2009, the 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 the whole of Greater Manchester; and
- create 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, the creation of jobs, how fees would be charged, expected income and how the income would be distributed between the authorities. The benefits of the scheme in minimising disruption, improving coordination of works and providing value for money were also outlined. Details of a proposed fee structure for different categories of works were also provided in the AGMA report which was attached to the report at Appendix A.

The report advised that the AGMA Executive Board had noted the progress of the Greater Manchester Road Activities Permit Scheme at its meeting in January, 2011. In order to implement the scheme, each of the Greater Manchester authorities was now required to individually approve the joint application to the Secretary of State. Each District was also required to approve the proposed administration arrangements, as detailed in the AGMA report attached to the report at Appendix A.

The Executive Member AGREED the following proposals in relation to the GMRAPS, as follows:

(i) Notes and ratifies the proposals, the forecast financial implications and the preparatory work undertaken to date to enable the Council to apply for a Greater Manchester joint permit scheme (GMRAPS) under Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004;

(ii) Delegates consideration of the representations received in respect of the Scheme consultation and decisions regarding the final content of the GMRAPS document in the light of these representations to Manchester City Council (as Lead Authority for the Scheme Project) in consultation with the AGMA Network Management Group;

(iii) Approves, in principle, the general level of the proposed permit fees as set out in the AGMA report attached at Appendix A to the report now submitted;

(iv) Authorises the Director of Environmental Services to take any action required to enable Bolton Council to operate as a Permit Authority within its area and to implement GMRAPS;

(v) Authorises the Director of Environmental Services to work with Manchester City Council, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to implement the proposed joint arrangements required for GMRAPS, including the setting up of the Collaborative Service Centre.

(vi) Approves the application to the Secretary of State for the GMRAPS in the terms approved by Manchester City Council under (ii) above;

(vii) Agrees to operate the GMRAPS joint permit scheme in accordance with the scheme approved by the Secretary of State;

(viii) Authorises the entering into of an Agreement with the other Greater Manchester councils, the GMCA and TfGM in relation to joint working on such terms as may be agreed by the Chief Executives of the Greater Manchester councils, GMCA and TfGM; and

(ix) Appoints its Director of Corporate Resources as the person responsible for financial accounting in relation to the Scheme for the purposes of issuing the certificate required prior to prosecution for a permit offence confirming that a fixed penalty has not been received.

72. HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT - TAXI AND MINIBUS TENDER PROCESS

A report of the Director of Environmental Services was submitted which outlined various options available to the Council in respect of Home to School Transport using taxi and minibus provision, for 2011 onwards.

The report reminded the Executive Member of the current arrangements for the provision of home to school transport using an in house fleet of 20 minibuses and a mix of external private hire cars and minibuses. Following a competitive process in September, 2008, the Council had entered into a contract with each successful tenderer which expired at the end of the 2010 school year, with an option to extend for any additional 2 years by way of an annual extension. The majority of these contracts had subsequently been extended for until the end of the 2010/11 school term whilst some had only been extended for the Autumn 2010 term. This management of contracts had enabled significant savings to be made with further savings possible if the contracts were to be extended again for the 2011/12 school year.

In this regard, the report went on to advise that the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities was currently in the process of tendering for the provision of transport to meet the needs of local authorities and the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive using an electronic purchasing system. The AGMA contract would be available to the Council from its

commencement date in July, 2011. There was no requirement for the Council to use the contract from that date and would have the right to join annually throughout the 4 year term.

Further, the contracting authorities would have the right to procure services under the framework agreement from the commencement date or they may join as and when their current contractual arrangements expired.

The report went on to outline the following options which were available to the Council for the provision of home to school transport, as follows:

- extend the contracts which were extended to the end of the Autumn Term 2010 until the end of the 2010/11 school year and then procure home to school transport services under the AGMA framework with effect from September, 2011 or
- extend all existing contracts until the end of the 2011/12 school year and then procure transport services under the AGMA framework with effect from September, 2012, provided the Council was satisfied that the framework would provide value for money.

As the Council could not ascertain which of the options detailed above would deliver best value for money until it had consulted with the current service providers to determine whether they were in a position to deliver additional efficiency savings for during the 2011/2012 school year, it was therefore proposed that consultation be carried out simultaneously with the AGMA procurement process. No commitment to extend the existing contracts would be made to the current providers.

On completion of consultation and the AGMA procurement process the Council would complete a service review and report back to the Executive Member with the results.

The Executive Member AGREED –

- (i) To utilise Standing Order 5 relating to Contracts (Waiving Standing Orders) and authorise Manchester City Council as lead authority to tender on the Council's behalf and in accordance with Manchester City Council's Constitution, and, in particular, its Contract Procurement Rules, for the provision of transport using a DPS; and
- (ii) To authorise the Director of Environmental Services to extend contracts which were extended to the end of the Autumn Term 2010 until the end of the 2010/11 school year and to engage with all the current service providers to determine whether they would be in a position to deliver any additional efficiency savings for the 2011/2012 school year.
- (iii) That a report on the outcome of the consultation exercise be submitted to the Executive Member in due course.

73. HEATON CEMETERY EXTENSION – THIRD STAGE WORKS

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which sought approval to undertake the Stage 3 extension works at Heaton Cemetery.

The report reminded the Executive Member of the progress on the extension works to date and the associated timescales in relation to the project. Phases 1 and 2 involving levelling and earthworks and drainage and civil works had now been successfully completed.

In this regard, the report sought approval to commence the 3rd phase of work which involved landscaping the site and other miscellaneous works.

Contract documentation had been prepared and an estimate for the full cost of the landscape works was approximately £65k. Contractors were available to commence work in late February/early March 2011 and the work should take

approximately 4 weeks to complete, dependent on weather and ground conditions.

The landscape site works would be project managed by officers in the Landscape Development & Design Team. In addition to the landscape tree/shrub planting, other works would need to be undertaken to complete the project. These included grave plotting and trial digs, marking out of the car park, installation of car park cctv camera and street lighting column, power supply, water supply, signage, bins, benches, feature gates and site maintenance and security.

With regard to funding, approval had been given to the allocation of £956k for the scheme in 20010/11. Total spend was estimated at £610k. This left a 2010/11 budget carry forward of £346k plus £50k credit approval for 2011/12 making a total capital budget of £396k for the Stage 2 residual works and the Stage 3 landscape and other miscellaneous works.

The Executive Member for Environmental Services NOTED

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(i) The overall timescales and costs relating to the new cemetery build; and APPROVED -

(ii) The appointment of a contractor to undertake the 3rd stage landscape planting works to commence in late February/early March 2011; and

(iii) The further miscellaneous works and project funding proposals as set out in the report.

NOTES