

ROCHDALE SOUTH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, 10th November 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Zaman (in the Chair); Councillors Daalat Ali, Anstee, Brett, Philip Massey, Meredith, Sheerin, Angela Smith, Sullivan, Wraighte and Zaheer.

OFFICERS: F. Davies (Children's Directorate), J. Sohaili, J. Oliver, V. White (Neighbourhoods Directorate), F. Davies, M. Taylor and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Blundell and four members of the public.

72 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Shakil Ahmed, Hornby and Rashid.

73 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

74 MINUTES

The Committee considered the Minutes of its the previous meeting held 16th September 2021. In relation to minute 70 (Greater Manchester Police – Township Update) Members welcomed the input from the Greater Manchester Police officer who was present and requested that this become a standing item for future meetings of this Township Committee, as it provides the Members with a means of directly raising specific concerns they have with police officers. It would also allow the police the opportunity to report to the Committee on their ongoing initiatives, priorities and their performance against recognised key performance indicators.

Resolved:

1. That the Minutes of the meeting of Rochdale South Township Committee, held 16th September 2021 be approved, as a correct record.
2. That 'Greater Manchester Police – Township Update' become a standing agenda item for Rochdale South Township Committee meetings, with effect from the next scheduled meeting on 31st January 2022.

75 OPEN FORUM

New Barn Lane, Rochdale

The Committee received representations from Ms. N. Akhtar, on behalf of residents of Ashfield Road, Rochdale, who were objecting to the proposal to temporarily close the bridge that was located at New Barn Lane, Rochdale, to facilitate repairs and remedial works and a petition in this regard was presented for the Council's Head of Highways to consider. Whilst the

residents did not object to the repairs and associated remedial works being carried out they felt that closing the bridge would greatly worsen the traffic flow, on diversionary routes in the locality and they were asking if temporary traffic lights could be installed instead, which would allow the bridge to remain open and the traffic to continue to move.

Resolved:

The Committee requests that the Council's Head of Highways be asked to consider installing temporary traffic lights at the bridge on New Barn Lane, thereby allowing the necessary road works to proceed without traffic having to be diverted to surrounding roads and streets in the immediate locality.

76 HIGHWAYS LTP CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022 - 2024

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods, the purpose of which was for the Committee to note and approve the highways work programmes, for the Rochdale South Township area, that were proposed to take place during the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 financial years. Specific details relating to the Township's work programmes in this regard were appended to the Committee's report. The programmes included the two year local transport plan (LTP) funded capital programme.

Alternatives considered:

No alternatives were presented. The submitted programme had been developed according to Department for Transport guidance and in line with other Greater Manchester Authorities.

Resolved:

That the proposed highways work programme for Rochdale South Township, as detailed in the submitted report, for the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 financial years, be approved.

Reasons for the resolution:

The schemes that had been selected were put together based on the principles of asset management which use network condition data, engineer inspections, life cycle planning and cost efficiency to produce the most efficient highway improvement over the course of the programmes.

Using Asset management techniques for scheme selection ensures that the Council was in line with recommendations from the Department for Transport (DfT). This enabled the Council to continue to receive the full funding allocation from the DfT incentive fund scheme. Authorities that are deemed not to be carrying out efficient highway improvements can have funding reduced and in the case of Rochdale, the maximum reduction would be £410,000.

Eligible for Call-in: Yes.

77 NEED FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES 2022 - 2025

The Township Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Education/Director of Children's Services, consulting Members on the proposed allocation of primary school places 2022 - 2025.

The Committee were informed that the inflows of pupils arriving into the borough after the start of Reception intake, and in higher year groups, had been higher than ever since January 2021, leading to significant pressures in older primary school year groups. These 'in-year' school applications had 'plateaued' towards the end of the 2019/2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but had subsequently risen to be above previous levels.

Resolved:

That Cabinet be advised that the Rochdale South Township Committee supports the recommendations as detailed within the submitted report.

Eligible for Call-in: No

78 SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES 2022 - 2025

The Township Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services which examined the projected number of pupils that were expected to be attending secondary schools in the Borough from 2022 to 2025 and the provision of secondary schools. The Committee were advised that the new Edgar Wood Academy had opened for 2021's year 7 intake in Middleton. The second new mainstream Secondary school for Rochdale borough, that was to be run by the Star Academies Trust, was due to open in 2023 in Littleborough. The new Secondary SEN school, which will be run by the New Bridge Trust, was now scheduled to be open in 2023.

The submitted report covered details of the new schools and the capacity of school places in the borough's secondary school sector.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Eligible for Call-in: No.