

ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, 7th February 2018

PRESENT: Councillor O'Neill (in the Chair); Councillors Ali Ahmed, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shakil Ahmed, Daalat Ali, Sultan Ali, Cecile Biant, Surinder Biant, Brett, Brosnan, Cocks, Duckworth, Farnell, Gartside, Heakin, Holly, Hornby, Howard, Meredith, Nickson, Rashid, Sheerin, Wazir, Winkler, Zaheer and Zaman.

OFFICERS: V. White, A. Collins (Neighbourhoods Directorate) and P. Thompson (Resources Directorate).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public.

APOLOGIES

49 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sullivan.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

50 There were no declarations of interests.

URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

51 There were no urgent items of business for the Committee to consider.

ITEMS FOR EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

52 There were no private or confidential items for the Committee to consider.

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE - UPDATE

53 The Chair advised that there were no representatives from Greater Manchester Police in attendance at the meeting. However Members of the Committee had a number of issues that they wished to bring to the attention of the Police:

a. The Police's continued presence at Rochdale Township meetings be requested to discuss with members strategic policing issues that affect the Township as a whole. The Leader of the Council advised that he was due to meet Greater Manchester Police's regional commander, Chief Superintendent Evans, within a few days of this Township Committee meeting, and he undertook to raise the Township's concerns at the Police's recent attendance record with him at that meeting.

b. Members of the Township Committee expressed their concern at the high levels of car crime across the Township and were further concerned that the Police did not appear to be treating this with the seriousness they felt it warranted, unless the act of criminality resulted in an injury.

Decision:

(1) Representatives of Greater Manchester Police continue to be requested to attend future meetings of Rochdale Township Committee;

(2) Greater Manchester Police be advised of the Township Committee's concerns at the high levels of vehicle related crime and the Police's perceived response to these crimes.

OPEN FORUM

54 There were no issues raised in the Committee's Open Forum session.

MINUTES

55 Decision:

That the minutes of the meeting of Rochdale Township Committee, held 6th December 2017, be approved as a correct record.

ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP ACTION AND RESOURCES DELEGATED SUB-COMMITTEE

56 Decision:

That the minutes of the meeting of Rochdale Township Action and Resources Sub-Committee held, 11th January 2018, be noted.

HIGHWAYS INDICATIVE TWO YEAR WORK PROGRAMME - ROCHDALE TOWNSHIP

57 The Township Committee considered a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods, the purpose of which was to afford Members the opportunity to consider the 2018 - 2020 highways and structures capital programme, insofar as it affected Rochdale Township.

The Committee expressed their concerns at the way in which the highways maintenance contract across the Borough was being managed by Balfour Beatty, the contractor undertaking highways maintenance work on behalf of the Council. It was suggested that the Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to establish a scrutiny study group to examine this matter in more detail and, if necessary, make appropriate recommendations to the Cabinet thereon.

Alternatives considered:

The alternative to carrying out this programme would to maintain the assets (as detailed in the submitted report) on a 'worst first' basis. This approach was considered to be more expensive than carrying out preventative maintenance and was deemed, by the Department for Transport, as being inefficient and as such could lead to Rochdale Borough Council getting a reduction in funding from the Department for Transport.

Decision:

1. The Committee approves the 2018 - 2020 Highways and Structures Capital Programme insofar as it affects the area covered by Rochdale Township.
2. Where events that arise which are external to the Council and require a rapid response, or agreement in principle, the Township Committee authorises the Council's Head of Highways to vary the programme, insofar as it affects the area covered by the Rochdale Township, in

consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Housing and the Chair of Rochdale Township Committee.

3. The Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to establish a scrutiny study group to examine the operation of the Highways Maintenance Contract for the Rochdale Borough, especially in relation to the performance of Balfour Beatty Limited and, if necessary, make appropriate recommendations to the Cabinet thereon.

Reason for the decisions:

The programme which was detailed in the submitted report was put together based on network condition data, engineer site visits and guidance issued by the Department for Transport. The programme aimed to maximise the improvement to the network by carrying out the most efficient and cost effective engineering works to the asset. The programme had been produced to ensure maximum efficiency and cost benefit which should satisfy the relevant element of the Department for Transport's self-assessment questionnaire which would enable Rochdale Borough Council to receive the maximum budget allocation available from the Department for Transport.

Eligible for Call-in: No.