

THE EXECUTIVE

A meeting of the Executive was held on 10 July 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in Mandela Room, Town Hall, Middlesbrough.

PRESENT: Councillors Mayor D Budd (Chair), Councillors M Carr, C Rooney, D Rooney, J Rostron, M Thompson, N Walker and L Young.

PRESENT AS OBSERVERS: Councillors C Hobson and J Rathmell.

INVITEES: Councillor J Sharrocks.

OFFICIALS: J Bromiley, L Henman, A Pain, K Parkes, T Parkinson, B Roberts and H Watson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor J Brunton Dobson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

18/13 **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2018**

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 12 June 2018 were submitted and agreed as a correct record, subject to the following addition:

Page two, paragraph five to read:

"A group of kinship carers attended and addressed the meeting in support of the report. The Executive wished to thank those who attended for their respectful conduct."

18/14 **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE FOR PROPERTY MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2018**

The minutes of the Executive Sub-Committee for Property meeting held on 16 May 2018 were noted.

18/15 **A172 DIXONS BANK/STANTON WAY HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME: PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

The Executive Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure and the Executive Director of Growth and Place submitted a report, the purpose of which was to seek Executive Member approval for the proposed A172 Dixons Bank/Stainton Way Highway Improvement Scheme to proceed to the implementation stage.

Strengthening Middlesbrough's transport links was a key priority within the Mayor's Vision for Middlesbrough. Keeping traffic moving on the Borough's road network was essential to the delivery of the Council's ambitious plans to transform the local economy, as set out in the Middlesbrough Investment Prospectus published last year.

Traffic congestion on the A172 Marton Road Corridor and on the other main north-south routes serving Middlesbrough town centre was not a new phenomenon. Predicted traffic growth would place additional demands on the existing road network over the coming years.

The submitted report provided a full background and details of the proposed scheme in respect of the highway improvement works. The A172 Dixons Bank/Stainton Way ('Southern Cross') junction had been identified for implementation with a recommended delivery timescale of 2020. A plan of the proposed scheme was shown at Appendix 1 of the report.

Although there was no statutory requirement to undertake consultation, given the potential impact on the occupiers of the adjacent properties and on key transport stakeholders both

during construction and in the longer term, it was agreed that a public consultation exercise should be carried out. This consultation was undertaken in two phases, details of which were provided in the report. A plan shown at Appendix 2 highlighted the properties that had been consulted during both phases of the public consultation exercise.

The report indicated that a total of 87 responses were received by the deadline of 18 March 2018. 42 of these responses came from the 89 occupiers of the properties that received formal consultation letters (a 47% response rate), with the remaining 35 coming from further afield. Of the 42 responses received from the occupiers consulted, two were in favour of the proposed scheme, with 39 against.

The key issues raised through the consultation process were summarised as follows:

- Concerns regarding congestion and traffic growth;
- Environmental concerns (i.e. air quality, noise and vibration);
- Concerns regarding highway safety;
- Lack of justification for the proposed scheme;
- Perceived flaws in the methodology used to develop the proposed scheme and the wider package of highway improvements;
- Lack of consideration of alternative infrastructure improvements;
- The need to pause the consultation process pending the outcome of the Joint Strategic Transport Needs Assessment;
- Perceived shortcomings in the consultation process itself; and
- A perceived reduction in property values as a result of the proposed scheme.

The submitted report considered each of these issues in further detail.

OPTIONS

Other potential decisions and why these had not been recommended

- Decisive action needed to be taken to address the current issues of congestion at the junction of Dixons Bank and Stainton Way, and to mitigate the predicted impact of traffic growth on the operation of the wider road network in future years. 'Do Nothing' was, therefore, not an option.
- The section of A172 Dixons Bank and Stokesley Road between Stainton Way and the A174 Parkway (i.e. past Marton Shops) currently carried around 25,000 vehicles per average weekday, and there was little scope to accommodate any future increase in traffic flow without major alterations to the existing highway layout. The associated cost effectively ruled this out as a viable option.

ORDERED

1. **That the outcome of the public consultation exercise held for the A172 Dixons Bank/Stainton Way Highway Improvement Scheme be noted; and**
2. **That the implementation of the proposed scheme be approved.**

REASONS

The decision was supported by the following reason:

Implementation of the proposed scheme would improve the flow of traffic on both A172 Dixons Bank and Stainton Way, thereby reducing delays and improving journey times, particularly during the busiest periods of the day. Whilst there would potentially be a slight impact on the occupiers of a limited number of properties directly accessed from Dixons Bank, this needed to be balanced against the ongoing benefits that the scheme would bring to the users of the highway network in south Middlesbrough.

There were no items for consideration.

18/17 **CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

There were no items for consideration.

The decision(s) will come into force after five working days following the day the decision(s) was published unless the decision becomes subject to the call in procedures.