

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 11 March 2015.

**P R E S E N T**

Councillor Mrs K D Lauro (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs E Atkins, Mrs M Booth, R L Hosker and D Williams.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Janet Hill, Mrs C A Hart and S A Spencer.

Councillor D Williams declared a personal interest in item 7 – Volunteers in the Countryside Service as he was such a volunteer.

**02/15**      **MINUTES**    **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 10 December 2014 and 24 February 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**03/15**      **DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER**    Councillor D Collins, Cabinet member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure attended the meeting and gave an update on current issues within his portfolio, in particular progress with the Digital Derbyshire initiative, the invest to save highways works, work on the evaluation of the transport network, the A61 corridor growth bid, the Cycling Strategy, Chesterfield Canal funding and the approach being taken to pothole remedial works.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet member for the information presented.

**04/15**      **REVIEW OF HIGHWAYS INSPECTIONS AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES**    The final report was presented following the Committee's review of highways inspections and maintenance procedures. The outcome was a number of specific recommendations, namely that:-

1. The factors used to prioritise highways maintenance are clearly communicated to the general public and local Members.
2. In order to capture more accurate information about the nature and location of road defects, clear reporting guidance is made available to the public which includes information about what constitutes a defect requiring action.
3. The processes and levels of resource in the Highways Control Centre are reviewed as part of the current Control Centre project, particularly in relation to technical expertise to ensure that scheduling of reactive maintenance work is more effective and

efficient.

4. The SAMS implementation plan includes measures to communicate the rationale for the project to all members of staff in order to achieve “buy-in” and the adoption of consistent and more efficient working practices across the county.
5. Robust measures are developed to ensure that road gangs record, accurately and in real-time, the required information about each job using the mobile technology provided, and managers reinforce this requirement.
6. The Strategic Director updates the Committee (at mutually agreed times) on progress made against target times for the completion of reactive maintenance work.

**RESOLVED** that the report be accepted for presentation to Cabinet.

**05/15      PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON CHANGES TO LOCAL BUS SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

S Cannon made a presentation on the public engagement exercise that had been undertaken on proposed changes to local bus support and Community Transport. The key findings were highlighted and these would inform the Council’s future consideration of this matter.

**RESOLVED** that the information be received.

**06/15      VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE**

S Cresswell, Countryside Officer (Community Engagement) made a presentation on the involvement of volunteers in the work of the Countryside Service and his own role in developing the involvement of groups and individuals in the work of the Service.

**RESOLVED** that the information be received.

**07/15      BUDGET MONITORING**      **RESOLVED** to receive the latest budget monitoring reports as at period 9.

**08/15      WORK PROGRAMME**      **RESOLVED** (1) to note the report on the current position on the Committee’s work programme; and (2) that Members be encouraged to suggest areas of work that could be considered as suitable for review.