

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 15 July 2015.

P R E S E N T

Councillor K Gillott (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs E Atkins, Mrs M Booth, Mrs C Cox, Mrs C A Hart, R L Hosker, S A Spencer and D Williams.

In attendance – Councillor Mrs Janet A Hill.

14/15 MINUTES **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 May 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15/15 MIDLAND MAINLINE UPGRADE AND ELECRIFICATION

S Gibbens of Network Rail attended the meeting to discuss the announcement by the Secretary of State for Transport that the Midland Main Line and North Trans Pennine (Manchester-Leeds) electrification projects would be ‘paused’ while the new Network Rail Chairman, Sir Peter Hendy, reports back to him. Mr Gibbens outlined the background to the issue including the significant cost increases in the proposal which had been brought to the attention of the Rail Regulator in June 2014 and he confirmed that these costings were the ones referred to by the Secretary of State as the reason for the “pause”. He commented that the main benefits that would accrue would not result from the electrification but from the other engineering works that would take place. Works in Northampton and Derby would proceed to deal with existing bottlenecks and journey times would be reduced.

Members asked a number of questions about the background to the current position and the implications of the pause. The precise meaning of the “pause” could not be clarified. The effect on planned projects within Derbyshire were referred to and it was noted that there should be no delay on the Ilkeston station scheme. Possible phasing of the electrification works was raised by Members.

The Chair concluded by asking what the Council could do to push the case for electrification and any pressure that could be exerted. Mr Gibbens was thanked for his attendance and contribution.

16/15 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE PROVISION

S Cannon and D Oddy, Economy, Transport and Environment Department attended the meeting to update on the decision of Cabinet taken on 7 July to carry out a formal consultation on changes to the provision of Community Transport services. A copy of the relevant report had been circulated which detailed the proposals and the arrangements for the

public consultation to be undertaken. The outcome would be reported to Cabinet in the Autumn.

RESOLVED to note the proposals.

17/15 DISCUSSION WITH CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE Councillor D Collins

attended the meeting to give an update on current issues within his portfolio, referring in particular to the Community transport proposals, the Midland Main Line, cycling strategy, repair of pot holes and the review of gritting routes for next Winter.

18/15 REVIEW OF 20MPH SPEED LIMITS A report was presented on the progress made by the working group conducting the review of 20mph speed limits and the future work to be undertaken.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

19/15 REVIEW OF TOURISM The review of tourism would provide a strategic overview of how the Council supports tourism, in Derbyshire, and through its investigations the review will identify further opportunities to support the sector and boost the local economy.

The main objectives would be:

- To understand the scale of tourism in Derbyshire in terms of the contribution it makes to the county's economy and jobs market.
- To ascertain what Derbyshire County Council does currently to support the tourism sector and what lessons can be learnt from other local authorities.
- To identify opportunities for the Council to work (in partnership) with public, private and voluntary sector organisations to support tourism businesses, create jobs, and secure additional investment in the county.

RESOLVED to agree the scope of the review of tourism in Derbyshire; and appoint a working group to conduct the review.

20/15 REVIEW OF FUNDING CUTS ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

The review would be a strategic review during which the review working group would meet with organisations that deliver crime prevention and victim support services in Derbyshire to ascertain how funding cuts have impacted on their services. It was not the intention to review the performance of individual agencies. The working group would also invite written evidence from Districts and Borough Councils about noticeable impacts on services.

The main objectives of the review would be:

- To document the cumulative impact of government funding cuts on community safety services in Derbyshire and identify any resulting gaps in service provision.
- To identify opportunities for the Council to work with partners to counter the impact of funding cuts on crime prevention, community safety and victim support services.

RESOLVED to agree the scope of the review of the impact of funding cuts on community safety in Derbyshire and to appoint a working group to conduct the review.