

**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
20 JULY 2020**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR B ADAMS (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors S P Roe (Vice-Chairman), T R Ashton, Mrs W Bowkett, C J T H Brewis, Mrs J Brockway, R Grocock, Mrs J E Killey, A N Stokes and E W Strengiel

Councillors: Clio Perraton-Williams attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer), Karen Cassar (Assistant Director Highways), Karl Gibson (Senior Project Leader), Paul Rusted (Head of Highways Services) and Daniel Steel (Scrutiny Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Brookes and R A Renshaw.

It was reported that the Chief Executive under the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, had appointed Councillor Mrs J E Killey to the Committee, in place of Councillor R A Renshaw, for this meeting only.

2 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations made at this stage of the meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 March 2020, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

There were no announcements.

5 A631 CORRINGHAM ROAD AND THORNDIKE WAY, GAINSBOROUGH JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT (TRAFFIC SIGNALS)

The Committee received a report which provided an overview of the A631 Corringham Road and Thorndike Way, Gainsborough junction improvement (Traffic Signals). Officers stated that the views of the Committee were sought on the scheme appraisal and the award and entering into a contract before these were considered by the Executive Councillor R G Davies, Highways, Transport and IT and Executive Councillor M J Hill OBE, Leader of the Council, Resources and Communications. Officers added that this junction was now number one for accidents in the county.

Executive Support Councillor C L Perraton-Williams, Highways, Transport and IT. She stated, in her capacity as the local member, that she fully supported the proposals in the report as this was a dangerous junction.

On a motion by Councillor B Adams, seconded by Councillor S P Roe, it was –

RESOLVED (unanimous)

That the recommendations to the Executive Councillors be supported as follows:-

1. That the Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT approves the Scheme Appraisal and the Council progressing with the A631 Corringham Road and Thorndike Way, Gainsborough Junction Improvement Scheme (Traffic Signals).
2. That the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources and Communications) approves in principle the award of and entering into a contract for the construction of the Scheme.

6 HIGHWAYS SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER 4 -  
(JANUARY 2020 - MARCH 2020)

The Committee received a report in connection with the performance of Highway Services for quarter 4 (January 2020 – March 2020).

Members' comments included:

- The consistency of higher performance standards was welcomed.
- An explanation was sought about the client performance standards which seemed to be showing an increase in monetary value and whether this was caused by more serious cases being reported or to an increase in the value of the compensation being paid by the Council. Officers explained the reasons for the increase in compensation stating that it was a combination of both reasons. Many repairs were identified in advance and the repair work was carried out at a later date. Also, in that intervening period the repair might have further deteriorated which would have added to the cost.
- What was the Council doing to ensure that the quality of work completed by the utilities was to a satisfactory standard? Officers stated that the utilities were required to consult the Council on any of their planned work and that this was reported annually to the Committee. The Council was currently examining work

carried out by the utilities and details of this would be reported to a future meeting.

- The new email address for use by members to report highway matters was working well and was also welcomed by the District and Parish Councils. Officers stated that the appointment of new personnel with a customer services had also facilitated improved communications.
- Clarification was sought on how the different highway maintenance working gangs operated in the community. Officers explained how the maintenance gangs operated under the new highways contract and how duplication would be avoided.
- Officers, in response to a reported highway's problem in North Hykeham, stated that this issue had occurred in the early days of the new highways' contract and that the matter had now been resolved.

#### RESOLVED

That the report and comments made by Members be noted.

#### 7 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report in connection with its Work Programme.

Comments by Members included:-

- Following an enquiry, officers stated that the annual report on the Permit Scheme would be submitted to the Committee in January 2021.
- Councillor C J T H Brewis, the local Member, placed on record his appreciation to officers for their work in connection with the emergency closure of the Long Sutton Market. Officers agreed to pass on the member's remarks to the relevant officers.
- Councillor T A Ashton welcomed the engagement with rail companies and franchises at the meeting on 26 October 2020. He welcomed the proposed timetable changes which would allow trains to London to stop at Sleaford and Spalding in the morning and evening. He had produced a briefing paper on this matter which he wished to share with the Committee. Officers agreed to speak with Councillor Ashton after the meeting on this matter.

#### RESOLVED

That the comments be noted and that the Work Programme be updated accordingly.

**4**  
**HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**20 JULY 2020**

The meeting closed at 10.46 am