

## **PUBLIC**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES** held on 24 February 2021.

### **P R E S E N T**

Councillor S Bull (in the Chair)

Councillors K S Athwal, D Charles, L Grooby, J Innes, T Kemp and P Makin.

Also in attendance were T Gregory and N Bennett (Economy, Transport and Environment Department).

**1/21**        **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

**2/21**        **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** There were no public questions.

**3/21**        **DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE: STRATEGIC HIGHWAYS ISSUES – COUNCILLOR SIMON SPENCER** Councillor Simon Spencer, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Infrastructure attended the meeting to provide Members with an update on strategic highways issues.

Throughout the last eighteen months the Economy, Transport & Environment department had endured one of the most testing periods ever experienced with Toddbrook Reservoir, three flooding events impacting the county and the obvious impacts of Covid-19. Despite all this, the department had coped incredibly well, facing significant challenges and the Committee wished to thank all the staff involved for their response and resilience.

Councillor Spencer highlighted issues that would be delivered in 2021-22. In accordance with the Council's asset management strategy, the proposed programme for delivery in 2021-22 would include a large number of carriageway maintenance schemes. These were proposed in response to the impacts upon the network of the recent severe weather, particularly drains, gullies and potholes, together with preventative maintenance to mitigate future severe weather impacts upon the network along with the damage caused by the number of landslips that had resulted. Significant investment in local road safety schemes would be delivered, reinforcing the Council's commitment to enhancing road safety and aiming to reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on Derbyshire's roads. A large programme of further improvements to the County's cycle network and public transport infrastructure was also proposed together with advanced design on schemes for construction in future years.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Councillor Spencer for his attendance and in-depth report.

**4/21**      **DISCUSSION WITH THE DIRECTOR – ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICE PRIORITIES** Mr Gregory, Director of Economy, Transport & Environment attended the meeting to provide Members with the service priorities for the department and how it was intended to deliver the Future Highways Model (FHM) and Highways Capital Programme for 2021-22.

A report would be submitted to Cabinet on 11 March 2021 requesting approval for the next stage of the FHM and Mr Gregory gave a brief outline of the proposals and the resource implications. It was intended to create a new senior management structure and appointments would soon be made to the Director of Highways and Director of Environment & Transport.

Mr Gregory also provided an update on the Freeport bid and the challenges that were faced to enable economic recovery as a result of Covid-19.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Mr Gregory for his update.

**6/21**      **STRATEGIC APPROACH TO FOOTWAY MAINTENANCE** Neil Bennett, Highways Strategy Manager attended the meeting to inform Members of the strategic approach to footway maintenance. As reported previously, this was a major concern following the floods over the past eighteen months and a vast undertaking. Members of the Committee had various issues within their particular electoral divisions which were noted.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bennett for his very informative presentation.