

Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2018

Present:

Councillor Igbon – in the Chair

Councillors Azra Ali, Appleby, Chohan, Flanagan, Hassan, Hughes, Jeavons, Kilpatrick, Lyons, Noor, Strong and White

Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Apologies: Councillors Reid, Sadler and Wright

NESC/18/20 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2018 as a correct record.

To receive the minutes of the Road Safety Around Schools Task and Finish Group meeting of the 21 March 2018.

NESC/18/21 Waste and Recycling Service Change for Apartments

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Neighbourhoods that provided Members with an update on service changes to waste collections from the apartment sector to achieve collection and disposal savings targets.

The main points and themes within the report included:-

- The rationale for the changes to address the low rates of recycling on apartment buildings across the city;
- Information on the analysis of levels of recycling undertaken by Biffa;
- The work undertaken with Building Managers and Registered Providers in preparation for the change;
- Information on the decision to invest in additional recycling containers for the apartment sector;
- Information on the engagement undertaken with residents;
- A description of the next steps, including the procurement of bins; communications; the implementation plan; and monitoring and evaluation.

Members commented that whilst they acknowledged the reported improvements a further, more detailed report was required to enable the Committee to scrutinise this issue in detail.

Decision

The Committee defers consideration of this report and asks that the Chair, in consultation with the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods discuss the content of the report before it is submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

[Councillor Appleby declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as her partner is employed by Biffa.]

NESC/18/22 Highways Planned Maintenance programme for 2018/19 and 2019/20

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director Transport, Highways and Engineering that provided Members with an update on the progress made in delivering the 2017/18 highways maintenance investment programmes and outlined the proposed planned maintenance programmes for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The report also presented the proposed highways work that was to be considered by the Executive at their meeting of 30 May 2018. Members were invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:-

- The update on delivery of the year 1 investment programme;
- The highway capital maintenance proposals for years 2 and 3 of the investment programme;
- Information on the Governance and approvals process;
- Delivery proposals to ensure the best value options; and
- Information on how the quality of the work undertaken would be monitored.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:-

- Communication with Members and residents regarding planned highways work;
- The appropriateness of the use of micro asphalt, especially filling pot holes beforehand;
- Some wards appeared to be receiving more remedial work than others;
- Concerns were raised on the quality of the work undertaken by contractors, including the repairs to potholes, the cleansing of gullies and sweeping and that works needed to be proactively monitored to reduce the number of complaints from residents;
- Was there any priority given to those areas that were used by vulnerable residents and concerns were raised regarding the condition of the footpaths in the city centre;
- Concerns were raised regarding the timeliness of the reinstatement of road markings following maintenance work;
- Clarification was sought on the number of apprentices employed through this programme and if Social Value was used when procuring contractors; and
- Clarification was sought on the Service Level Agreement was for responding to complaints of pot holes.

The Head of City Wide Highways said that the deteriorating condition of the highways was a national issue and Manchester was leading the way in responding to this challenge. He acknowledged the comments raised about the use of micro asphalt and the appropriateness of where this was used. He said whilst there had been some issues, in the vast majority of areas where this material had been used it had been successful and where it had failed the contractor would return. He also said that they had used jet patching where appropriate. In response to the issue regarding the quality of works undertaken he said that additional Clerks of Works would be recruited that would allow for additional inspection of work.

The Strategic Director of Highways, Transport and Engineering said that the Management Team had been strengthened that would improve project and quality management and help with the inspection of works following completion.

The Head of City Wide Highways said that they worked closely with contractors so that works were coordinated in a safe manner, including the reinstatement of white line road markings. He said that Health and Safety was paramount and if contractors breached this they would no longer be used. He also said that communications with residents did need to be improved and they are seeking to address this.

The Head of City Wide Highways informed Members that a new gully cleaning maintenance regime was being developed to better deploy resources across the city. He said that the Service Level Agreement for inspection emergencies was 20 days however other requests for service may take longer, especially when you took into consideration the back log of work that existed.

The Head of City Wide Highways informed the Committee said that this was year two of a five year programme of works and the roads listed in the report for the next phase of works had been agreed following the annual survey of the highway and consideration of the key networks in the city. With regard to the number of apprenticeships and jobs secured for Manchester residents he said that he would share this information with the Members.

Members were informed that a substantive report would be submitted for consideration at their September meeting that described Highways Reactive Maintenance. Members were informed that the report would include information on pothole repairs and drainage maintenance. Members asked how many contractors had not been paid the retained 5% fee following the two year period following works.

Decisions

The Committee:

1. Notes the update on delivery of the year 1 investment programme;
2. Notes the highway capital maintenance proposals for years 2 and 3 of the investment programme; and
3. Endorses the recommendation that the Executive agree the proposed programme of highways works identified in Appendices 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 subject to the necessary capital approvals being in place.

NESC/18/23 Final report and recommendations of the Road Safety Around Schools Task and Finish Group

The Committee considered the report of the Road Safety Around Schools Task and Finish Group. The report contained the final recommendations of the Group and the Committee was invited to comment on the report and endorse the recommendations.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:-

- The time taken to implement the planned investment;
- A further detailed report was sought from the Executive Member for the Environment that provided information on:
 - How the £1.8m investment had been spent and information on the implementation plans;
 - Collision and accident data around schools was required;
 - How planning was used around schools to address irresponsible parking practices;
 - Enforcement activity, including the role of Greater Manchester Police; and
 - How behaviour change was to be influenced;

The Executive Member for the Environment said that she welcomed the work of the Task and Finish Group and that she would respond to the recommendations as agreed by the Group. She said that she would provide the report requested by the Committee. She described that work had begun with Transport for Greater Manchester and Schools to develop travel plans and to promote and share good practice between schools to influence behaviour change.

Decisions

The Committee:

1. Notes the report
2. Requests that a report be submitted to the Committee at an appropriate time that provided the information as requested by Members.

NESC/18/24 Overview Report

The report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit and responses to previous recommendations was submitted for comment. Members were also invited to agree the Committee's future work programme.

The Committee noted that it would be discussing the work programme for the forthcoming municipal year in further detail in a private session following the meeting, and that an updated work programme reflecting this discussion would be circulated as normal in the papers for the next meeting.

Decision

To note the report.